



California Writers Club **MARIN**

Creating Compelling Stories with Three-Dimensional Characters and Four-Corner Conflict

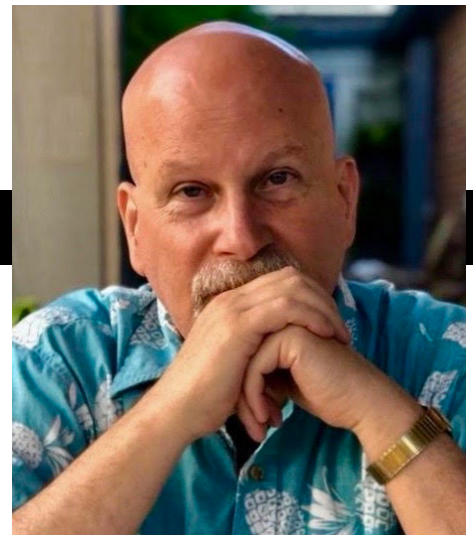
DAVID CORBETT

Sunday, April 26, 2020 • 2 pm

Social Distancing Special: Join Us Online

Desire drives action, action generates conflict, conflict creates suspense, and suspense keeps readers turning pages.

But desire and conflict operate on three distinct levels—external (real-world goals), internal (sense of self, meaning, purpose), and interpersonal (essential relationships). Building meaningful conflict means pitting your adversaries in struggles on all three levels—and interconnecting those three struggles to create narrative unity. And the more deliberate and focused the adversaries' attacks on each other's goals, relationships, and sense of self-worth, the greater the conflict and thus suspense. Who will prevail? How? Why? Extending this to secondary characters, we can create what is known as four-corner conflict, creating additional thematic, dramatic, and moral complexity.



DAVID CORBETT is the award-winning author of the writing guides *The Art of Character* ("A writer's bible" –Elizabeth Brundage) and *The Compass of Character*. He has published six novels, including *The Long-Lost Love Letters of Doc Holliday*, nominated for the Lefty Award for Best Historical Mystery, and scheduled for re-release in Spring 2020 by Suspense Press. His short fiction has been selected twice for *Best American Mystery Stories*, and his non-fiction has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Narrative*, *Bright Ideas*, and *Writer's Digest*, where he is a contributing editor. He has taught at the UCLA Writer's Program, Litreactor, and at writing conferences across North America. More at davidcorbett.com

The April 26 meeting is **FREE** for MEMBERS and NON-MEMBERS, but you must **RSVP** at cwcmarin.com/rsvp.



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