



## INTERVIEW RON CARLSON

**DIFFICULT ART & SCIENCE** The writer joining the dots about having "three inner voices" in a novel, "one that tries to do things big enough to feel like what might happen. The last thinking for centuries. Because people do not do it as a collaboration." **Page 17**

# the Writer

The essential resource for writers since 1977

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**CREATE** a Web site that grabs an editor's attention. **Page 17**

**TIPS** How to find experts on any topic. **Page 45**

## How to launch YOUR NOVEL

**STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE** to getting it under way and knowing your readers with a strong, reliable **Page 10**

### HOW

**LEARN** to put details, emotions and symbols to work in your story **Page 10**



**MEET THE WRITER** **ANNE PERRY**

on creating sympathetic characters **Page 10**

### WELL-KNOWN

**TIPS** to give up a blind topic **Page 17**

### COMMENTS

Two takes on writing a biography of your own **Page 17**

**TIPS** on getting the most out of writing in collaboration **Page 17**

### PLUS

**FIND A PLACE TO WRITE** by Anne Caldwell  
How you think **Page 17**

**How to find a place to write** by Anne Caldwell  
How you think **Page 17**

# Easy ways to protect your computer data

**AS WRITERS, OUR** creative lives—and often our livelihoods—reside on our PCs and Macs. But most of us lack the time, knowledge and confidence to protect ourselves from threats and to prevent disastrous data loss. Here are a few tips to keep your computer from crashing, thanks to Jeremy Kaplan, executive editor of *PC Magazine*, and Wade Callison, vice president of program management for Sereniti, Inc.

**Viruses and worms** can bring your computer to a standstill, and Macs are in just as much jeopardy as Windows-based PCs. New threats appear daily, so you need to run a reputable program that supplies automatic updates—e.g., McAfee or Symantec. If you think your computer's infected, try a free online scan with McAfee FreeScan, Symantec Security Check or Trend Micro's HouseCall.

**Spyware** invades your computer, installs programs without your knowledge, steals your information, and

compromises your security and privacy. **Adware**, while not malevolent, is a maddening feature of some legitimate free software. Both can bring your computer to its knees. Visit the Anti-Spyware Software Review Web site to learn about product recommendations.

Do you enjoy accessing the Internet on your wireless laptop at Starbucks or Barnes & Noble? Beware! That Wi-Fi Internet connection is not secure; anyone with a little know-how can access files in your "shared" folders and see what you're surfing on a nonencrypted Web page. Double your defenses with both hardware and software **firewall** solutions. Compare products and learn more at the Home PC Firewall Guide Web site. And, unless your router is securely configured, the same holds true for your wireless home network. Run the Windows XP Wireless Network Setup Wizard or Mac Network Setup Assistant to secure it. Finally, test your Internet vulnerability

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **Anti-Spyware Software Review**  
<http://anti-spyware-review.toptenreviews.com>
- **Gibson Research Corporation**  
[www.grc.com](http://www.grc.com)
- **Home PC Firewall Guide**  
[www.firewallguide.com](http://www.firewallguide.com)
- **Iolo Technologies**  
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- **Symantec**  
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- **Trend Micro**  
[www.trendmicro.com](http://www.trendmicro.com)



for free with Gibson Research Corporation's ShieldsUP! or Iolo Technologies' System Mechanic.

To really simplify the process, try an all-in-one backup/router/secure computing/subscription product like NetTrooper by Sereniti, Inc.

—Susan T. Lennon