

# Writing a Blurb

Not sure what should go into a blurb?

Want to check that yours is as good as it can be?

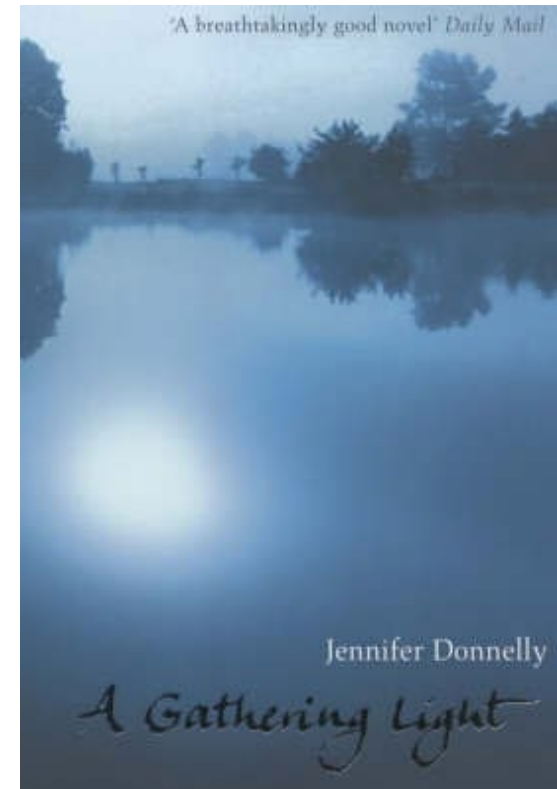
**READ ON!**

**Task: Write a blurb for Kiss the Dust.**

*Sixteen-year-old Mattie Gokey has big dreams but little hope of seeing them come true. Desperate for money, she takes a job at the Glenmore, where hotel guest Grace Brown entrusts her with the task of burning a secret bundle of letters. But when Grace's drowned body is fished from the lake, Mattie discovers that the letters could reveal the grim truth behind a murder.*

*Set in 1906 against the backdrop of the murder that inspired Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*, Jennifer Donnelly's astonishing debut novel effortlessly weaves romance, history, and a murder mystery into something moving, and real, and wholly original.*

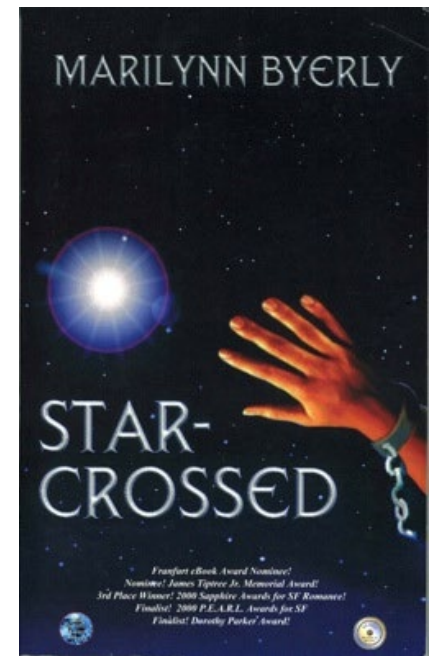
What similarities  
are there in the  
following blurbs?



***Trapped on Arden, Earthman Tristan Mallory discovers that men are sex slaves forced into harems. He has no intention of belonging to anyone, not even beautiful fellow scientist Mara d'Jorel.***

***Mara despises the harem system and has refused to participate, but her heart won't allow anyone else to own Tristan, and owning him will turn his growing love into hate. To give Tristan the freedom her world denies, she must risk everything-- her reputation, her family, and even her freedom and life. But her greatest risk is losing Tristan's love to another woman.***

***Tristan's friend Kellen Votrain is acquired as a bed slave by vicious Cadaran d'Hasta, head of Arden's Internal Security, who has used the lives and deaths of thousands of men to gain her power. Intelligent and amoral, she'll do anything to destroy him and Tristan and any woman weak enough to love them.***



**What are the differences?**

# Rules for Writing Blurbs

- ✓ **Provide key information:** main characters, setting, time
- ✓ **Provide a clue** about the exciting nature of the novel
- ✓ Use **descriptive language**
- ✓ **Leave it on a cliff hanger**, with the reader asking questions and wanting to find out more

**EXTENSION:** Could you discuss the moral aspect of your story? Eg “But when Grace's drowned body is fished from the lake, Mattie discovers that the letters could reveal the grim truth behind a murder.” This tells us that the main character will face a moral dilemma.