

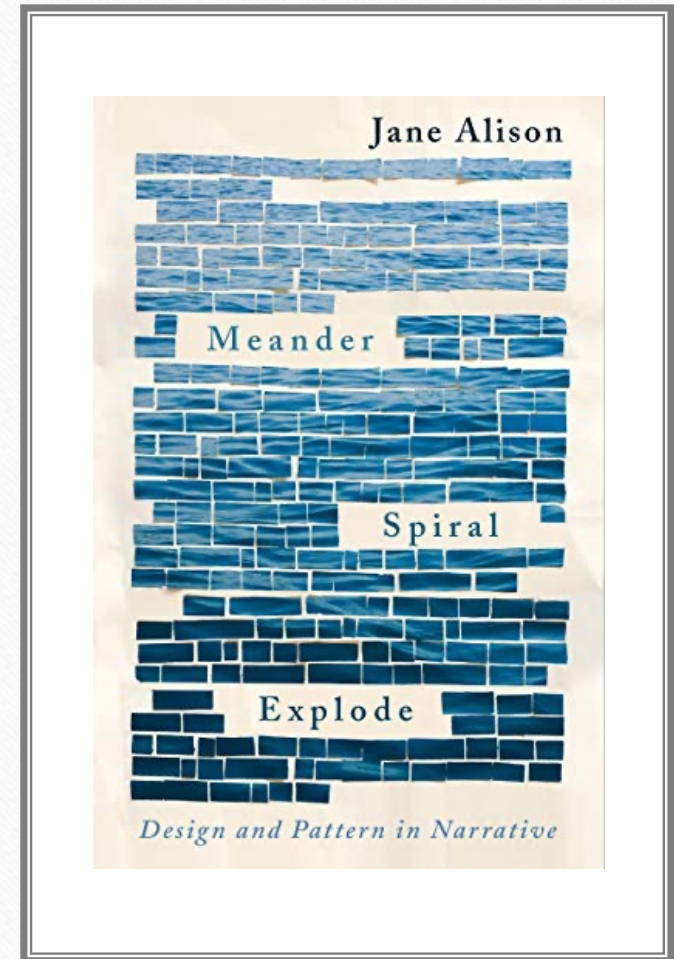
# Not Another Male Orgasm: Using the Shapes of *Meander*, *Spiral*, *Explode* in CNF

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## Writing Prompts

Randon Billings Noble

AWP 2022







## Writing prompt: flights

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Do you fly? If so, do you take pictures from the plane? Find some aerial shots – your own or someone else’s – and think about how the patterns you see (houses, rivers, crops, etc.) could work as a structure for an essay. Then think about what content might fit those structures. (27)





## Writing prompt: wavelets

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Think of a time in your life when you had a very set pattern to your routine. Write down that routine and then see if there are any potential layers of meaning within (like the dry/wet/dry pattern in “Where I’m Calling From”). How might you structure a segmented essay about this time period using your routine and the patterns of meaning within? (97)





## Writing prompt: meander (1)

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Where and how do you like to meander? When you travel? In the woods? In a city? In a museum? In a souk? In a Target? Write down a few meanders and see what they have in common, what they show you about the way you like to spend your (meandering) time. (117)





## Writing prompt: meander (2)

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Read over a current work in progress — perhaps one that feels tight. Where can you digress? Try inserting a digression after each paragraph, using a word in that paragraph's last sentence as your jumping off point. You can either stay within the realm of your essay or veer off into tangents. Later: keep what you like, cut what you don't. (118)

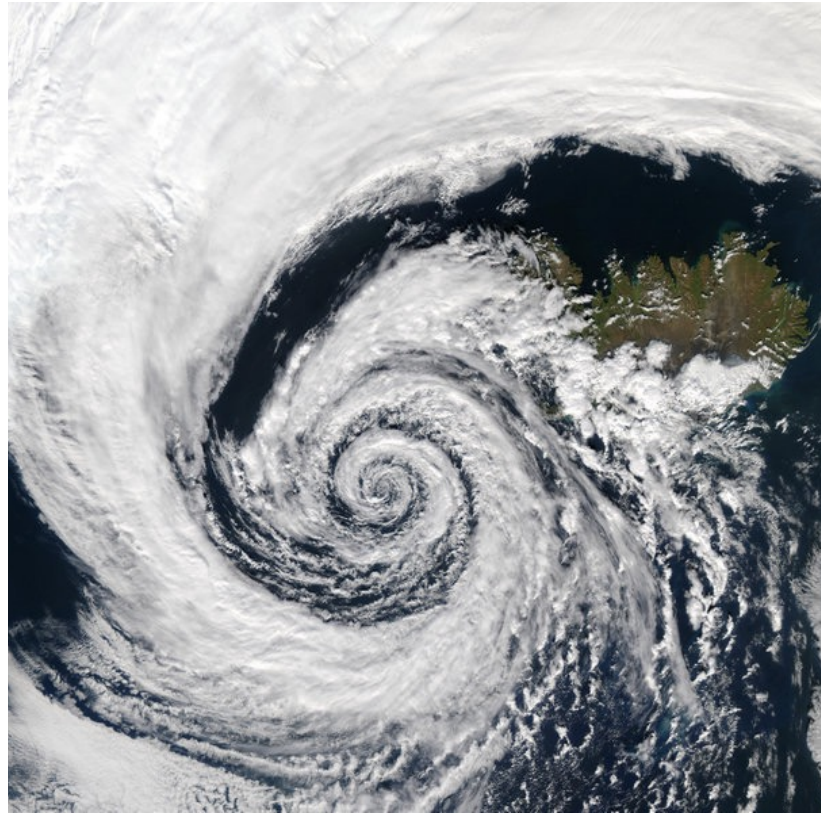


# Further river-y reading:

- “Rivering” by Dinty W. Moore in *The Far Edges of the Fourth Genre: An Anthology of Explorations in Creative Nonfiction*
- “The Meandering River: An Overview of the Subgenres of Creative Nonfiction”  
[http://www.suewilliamsilverman.com/\\_the\\_meandering\\_river\\_an\\_overview\\_of\\_the\\_subgenres\\_of\\_creative\\_nonfiction\\_12178.htm](http://www.suewilliamsilverman.com/_the_meandering_river_an_overview_of_the_subgenres_of_creative_nonfiction_12178.htm)
- “In Defense of ‘Themelessness’” by Randon Billings Noble  
<https://brevitymag.com/craft-essays/in-defense-of-themelessness/>







## Writing prompt: spirals

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What is a thought that obsesses you?  
Write the thought – and then how you  
try to think yourself away from it.  
Write the thought again – and think  
yourself away from it a different way.  
Keep going and see what kind of  
spiral essay might emerge from these  
thoughts and digressions. (143)



You can find these writing prompts at  
[randonbillingsnoble.com/readings-events/](https://randonbillingsnoble.com/readings-events/)

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