Keith Maillard Table of Contents

Use in combination with the program script

This table of contents works best as a guide for people who have listened to the CD and want to find favorite parts. Teachers may want to print it out and make notes on it as they listen to the program, choosing tracks for classroom use.

Classroom content: The Keith Maillard program is primarily appropriate for older students. Funny, irreverent, intuitive, and insightful, Keith Maillard delivers sophisticated, easily-accessed and immediately-usable advice about writing. This man is a Writing Teacher. Often-sexy passages about complicated characters. He sets much of his fiction in a fictional West Virginia steelmill town - modeled on Wheeling - at various time periods, starting in the 1800s.

* Passages that are recommended for older elementary students are starred.

Kev: Italics: Author reading her work

W: Advice or conversation about writing

F/H: Fictionalizing history: turning actual events into fiction or poetry

CM: Childhood memories

AM: Adult memories CH: Cultural heritage

IWV: Identity as a West Virginian

CNW: Connection with the natural world: attachment to land and animals

CCF: Connection with community and/or family

J: Justice as a theme

* Appropriate for elementary. Otherwise, not.

- 1. (1:43) Keith Maillard introduction ... contains the "Language is dirty. It's been in people's mouths" passages. W, IWV
- 2. ((1:18) Exerpts from reviews > descriptions of Raysburg, Maillard's fictional northern panhandle steel mill town: "my half-mystical, half-real town." W F/H CH
- 3. ((2:16) "In Gloria, his novel published in 2000, Keith tells the story from the point of view of a teenage girl" > How he researched it. W
- 4. (2:05) Reading from Gloria: Gloria puts on makeup, in detail. W
- 5. (3:02) More funny conversation about how he gathered details to create a convincing teenage girl: the "How to Be a Girl" books, the conversations with his wife and other women on the internet, etc. W
- 6. (1:37) How Keith crated Susie, a majorette W
- 7. (5:50) A reading from Light in the Company of Women, set at the turn of the 19th century, the first (chronologically) of the Raysburg stories, with after-comment about Maillard's love of the Ohio River. F/H CH IWV
- 8. (2:04) Reading from Hazard Zones, in which a guy who grew up in Raysburg comes back for his mother's funeral and remembers his alcoholic stepfather. CCF, F/H
- 9. (2:01) From Dementia Americana, his poetry book: "Loony Steve Allen presided over the night..." > Keith tells about himself as a teenager, about the minute he decided to be a writer ... CM, CH, W

- 10. (1:50) Poem: his memories from a time in the 1960s, hitchhiking around. "Let all times exist, each in his own perfection..." CH, AM, W, J
- 11. (1:39) "You play music ... Do you see writing as music?" His resonse: astute observations about writing > "That paragraph doesn't sing." W, AM
- * 12. (:53) Poem: The bug in the window W, CNW
- 13. (:29) Keith's academic degrees: none. His experiences: lots AM
- 14. (1:28) How he wrote Dementia Americana: inspired by the Gulp War > poem. "Oh America. I wanted to braid all your roads ..." W, J, AM, CH
- 15. (1:07) Introduction to Maillard's first novel, Alex Driving South. Sets up reading that follows: Maillard says he has hopped freight, but never with a girl. W
- 16. (3:15) Reading: A teenager boy and girl hop a train to the next town: An extraordinary word-music collaboration. This track is the part leading up to the minute of hopping the freight train. CH, F/H, AM
- 17. (2:43) Freight train-hop, Part 2: Starts just as they hop the train > music going faster CH, F/H, AM
- 18. (2:40) Part 3 of train ride: music very fast. "They were going so fast, he couldn't look out anymore..." CH, F/H, AM
- 19. (1:05) Conversation about writing sex. W
- 20. (1:27) He re-wrote the opening of Alex Driving South, his first book, 26 times. W, AM
- 21. (1:36) "Could you have written about West Virginia if you'd continued to live here?" His response. > segues into the fact that writing is an alter ego, another world you can escape into any time. You're never bored. AM, IWV, W
- 22. (:15) Introduction to portrait of John Isaac, father of Elain Isaac, the girl on the freight train.
- 23. (1:50) Reading: "Poor John Isaac, crazy and mean and dangerous..." A first-rate word portrait. CH, CCF, F/H
- 24. (1:56) Keith says he was elected to be a writer in his family. "He's just like Uncle Henry." AM, W
- 25. (1:50) Vietnam: Maillard is a Canadian citizen now. He left the USA during the Vienam War, but he was not evading the draft. "I don't know anybody who manages to feel good about Vietnam." **AM, CH**
- 26. (3:10) From Gloria: the Kotter family goes to church CCF, CH
- 27. (1:15) The little voice Gloria hears in her head: more about creating characters W
- * 28. (1:17) Advice to writers, a rich dose, directed primarily at teenagers. * W Could be used with older teenagers, perhaps in combo with "The bug in the window" poem.
- 29. (1:26) Where do you write? Conversation about various places people write well > Segue: you're writing wherever you are, whatever you're doing. W
- 30. (1:27) Revision: grade A description of his process W

- 31. (:49) Sometimes, nothing works, then you go do something else. W
- 32. (1:00) "You're speaking to literally tens of thousands of West Virginians ..." IWV
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