

August 14, 7-9 pm, Napa Valley Writers Presents
Settings that Work

Napa Valley Writers will host novelist and website and book cover designer, **John Byrne Barry**. There is no correct answer to how much setting to include in your novel, but John's learning is to use as little as possible. The best and most memorable setting is not just pretty or gritty, it's also doing other "jobs" such as echoing themes and advancing the story. Settings help the reader visualize the scene, but if that's all it's doing, it's a missed opportunity. At this talk, John will go over eight of the jobs a setting can do. Defining or revealing characters is one of the more common and useful jobs that a setting does.

John is the author of two "page-turners with a conscience"—*Wasted: Murder in the Recycle Berkeley Yard* and *Bones in the Wash: Politics is Tough, Family is Tougher*, which won the 2015 Best Book award from the Bay Area Independent Publishers Association. His third novel, coming this year, is an assisted-suicide family thriller, tentatively titled *Why I Killed My Father*.

Visit his website: <https://johnbyrnebarry.wordpress.com/>

Michael Wycombe will be August's member reader.