

Ivan E. Coyote



Photo: [St Mary's Story Telling Festival](#)

Born and raised in the Yukon, [Ivan E. Coyote](#) is an accomplished author, poet and story teller. I first heard her several years ago on CBC and was immediately captivated by the her unique narrative voice.

In 2006, Ivan's first novel [Bow Grip](#) came out. It won the Relit fiction award and was named a Stonewall honor book by the American Library Association. Her recent collection of short stories, *The Slow Fix* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2008), is reviewed by [Judith Fitzgerald](#) in *The Globe and Mail*. This volume was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award.

Hearing her speak recently, I took her professional recommendations to heart. Some of her tips I would never have thought of, and the nuts and bolts advice was a great help as I embarked on my year of focused writing at [The Writers' Studio](#). Giving public readings is a requirement for writers in the program.

At a recent [Surrey International Writers' Conference](#), Ivan Coyote also discussed the writerly problem of getting down to work, offering some excellent strategies to help combat the tendency to procrastinate. I'd been thinking of doing [Nanowrimo](#), and when she told us that she'd managed to finish a novel that way, I signed up for the experience. As Ivan had promised, the discipline of assigning oneself a daily word count proved valuable.