

The
Wow

e-newsletter

by Ken and Dahlynn McKowen

Principles

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www.PublishingSyndicate.com



Travel =
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Think about it—wouldn't it be great if you could travel anywhere in the world and write off most of your related costs as a business expense? Thousands of full- and part-time travel writers do this every year, and if you have a yen to show off your travel material, our new Freelance Travel Writers' (FTW) program can help!

In past newsletter issues, we've discussed travel writing as a business (June, July and August 2006 and March 2008). The easiest part of travel writing is the travel itself, but there is some work involved when it comes to the research and gathering of materials, and interviews if applicable. For some, the writing of the articles may come easy, especially after you settle into your own style. But here's the kicker: for most, the toughest part about being a travel writer is SELLING your articles. The selling process is both time-consuming and expensive. Sans the costs of postage and mailing lists, and the time spent behind all those telephone calls and e-mails, the most frustrating thing of all are the rejection notices. Wouldn't it be nice if someone else presented your best travel stories and photographs to hundreds of newspaper and magazine travel editors on your behalf?

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That's where our FTW program comes in: for a very nominal monthly fee, you can post your travel stories and photos on PlacesToDiscover.com and reap the benefits of our ongoing marketing of the website to hundreds of travel media outlets. Through our ongoing correspondence, we encourage editors looking for travel articles to check our website for completed work they can purchase directly from the author, and they're more than welcome to contact the posted travel writers for possible assignments.



Unlike similar websites that will post your stories—and take 40 percent or more of whatever you are paid per story—working through PlacesToDiscover.com lets you negotiate directly with the editor and you keep everything the publication pays. Sell a single article and you've likely paid for a year of postings on our site. Again, your only cost is the nominal monthly posting fee.

Why are we willing to put other travel writers' stories on our website and have travel publication editors purchase their stories instead of our work? When we started PlacesToDiscover.com, we knew that we couldn't possibly travel to every place in the world, even though it would be fun to do so. In order to make more great travel stories available to publications, thus attracting more editors to our website, we decided that we should share our marketing program with other travel writers. By doing so, everyone benefits; with more stories to choose from, more editors will click to PlacesToDiscover.com for their travel story searches. The more editors viewing our site means more travel stories reviewed and sold, including ours.

Can we guarantee that your stories will be purchased just because we encourage editors to see what PlacesToDiscover.com has to offer? No. There's only one guarantee we all have in life, something we'd prefer to postpone as long as possible because we still have lots of this world to discover and write about!

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We have major manuscripts due in about 30 days to one of our publishers for two new travel books (Fall 2009 release). As soon as our manuscripts are completed, we will be dedicating nearly 100 percent of our time in further developing PlacesToDiscover.com. We have hundreds of promotional postcards and e-mails ready to go and we will be adding new stories and photos to the website. We hope that many of those new travel stories will be from YOU!

For more information on the new FTW program, go to www.PlacesToDiscover.com. You'll see a link at the header entitled "Sell Your Travel Stories." Simply click that link and you'll be on your way! Happy travels...and writing!



Writer's Digest

78th Annual Writing Competition

Deadline: May 15, 2009

Once again, Writer's Digest is holding their annual writing competition. With \$30,000 in cash and prizes, the grand prize winner will receive \$3,000 and a trip to NYC to meet with editors and publishers! The categories--10 in all--are listed on their website (link below). Besides a winner and several runners up in each category, Writer's Digest honors the top 100 finishers in each category as well. Entry fees begin at \$20

per submission, and if you're one of those who enters competitions, this is a deal!

Last year, several of our Publishing Syndicate/Wow Principles e-newsletter subscribers entered, and one in particular--Jennifer Martin--placed 26th in the Television/Movie Script category for her movie script "The Hunatics Club" (to learn more, visit Jen's website at www.hunawarrior.com). And we even squeezed in at #100 for our movie script, "H.B.Trader," a pro-death penalty story based on the life of the last hangman of Folsom Prison. While we didn't place in the top grouping, we were thrilled with the results; there were nearly 500 entries in this one category alone. What are you waiting for? Go to www.writersdigest.com to learn more!

WRITING PROMPT: In 500 words or less, write a story about your first kiss! If your story wins, you'll receive our latest, 50-page e-book *Wow Principles #2: Creating Nonfiction Book Proposals that Wows Publishers!*, and we'll post the winner and honorable mentions in next month's newsletter. Submit your story to Writer@PublishingSyndicate.com no later than February 11, 2009. Kisse, kisse!



HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF!

New Website Look for A CUP OF COMFORT



Cup of Comfort has an entirely new website! HOORAY! It's been a long time in coming and we have to report, it is much more user friendly and easy to navigate. You can even receive blog updates from CC's author extraordinaire Colleen Sell. A talented writer and gracious friend, Colleen is a leader in creating wonderful books that comfort and inspire her readers. Be sure to check it out! www.CupofComfort.com

Grieving Heart: **Deadline: February 1, 2009**

For Fathers: **Deadline: March 1, 2009**

www.CupofComfort.com

Chicken Soup for the Soul

www.ChickenSoup.com

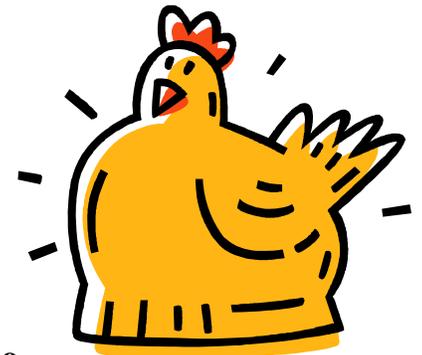
Tough Times, Tough People: **Deadline: February 28, 2009**

Learning From Our Cats: **Deadline: March 31, 2009**

Learning From Our Dogs: **Deadline: March 31, 2009**

A Book of Miracles: **Deadline: March 31, 2009**

In Harm's Way--Honoring Our Military: **Deadline: March 31, 2009**



Chicken Soup has a slew of books that need stories, all with June 30, 2009 deadlines. Check out their website to learn about these titles:

www.ChickenSoup.com.

Go for it! Get published! 