



Work Envy

By Diana M. Amadeo

I just received an anonymous nasty note from a presumed fellow writer. It was precipitated by a local newspaper article detailing an impending release of my latest book.

At first the note made me sad. This writer assumed I was a “kept woman” whose husband’s financial support had allowed me a life of leisure of which I could contemplate writing out of boredom. This person obviously didn’t know me at all or my decades’ long careers outside the home in nursing and, later, newspaper editing. I had done all of this while raising three children, fighting illness, attempting freelance writing, etc. The angry writer went on for two paragraphs about me being privileged and dishonest since my husband truly, “brings home the bacon” (her/his quotes) while most writers hope they can pay their monthly rent. The message ended with, “Be honest, Diana, and acknowledge those that made this career happen for you.”

If that writer had read the entire newspaper article, he/she would have seen the acknowledgment of my supportive family and readers and my reference that no writer goes it alone. Keeping in mind that this note was nasty and extremely personal, there seemed to be a hint of work envy. I truly hoped this green-eyed monster writer—whoever she/he was—came to realize that any other person’s success is not his/her failure. Envy is unbecoming in any profession.

Unlike the nasty note writer, I have been too busy in my profession to pen letters to other writers. Not that I haven’t silently been envious. Over the years, I have tried to put my energy into my family, outside work and my struggling freelance work. You see, there was no overnight success for me.

I have written quietly for three decades. Books, short stories, essays and articles are silently penned in my wooded New Hampshire hideaway. Inspiration has many sources, my favorite being the wonders of everyday life. Published and unpublished words revolve around my family’s many travels, daily activities, joys, trauma, victories and defeat. Research was exhaustive, even when detailing the seemingly mundane. Creativity and imagination are said to be gifts, but to get stories just right on paper is a feat of blood, sweat and tears. I have made a lot of mistakes; many of them are in print. As the years go on and I meet more serious writers and learn their stories, I realize how alike we are. There are many famous writers, but there is a greater number of struggling literary artists who savor their humble unknowingness.

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Like other invisible writers, I have learned that success in marketing varies widely from year to year. So, as the anonymous writer, I am disciplined to save during the feast to survive later famine. Authors learn that patience must evolve from virtue into necessity. Through marketing hits and misses, one perseveres in relative obscurity. The brooding, pained, misunderstood angst of the craft is wholeheartedly embraced. To write is to suffer. Ego melts into the background, foregoes acknowledgement and experiences ambiguity in order to obtain the perfect story. That's all a good writer wants—the perfect story.

Or is it?

Enter a prestigious writing award. Regular royalty checks. The head swells, one walks a little taller. Soon a nondescript SUV is replaced by a bright “ticket me” red Audi TT with “Author” vanity plates. A metamorphosis from “Writing Hermit” to “Author of Substance” begins. The little sport car signifies transition. Success! Respect and recognition! I am a literary master!



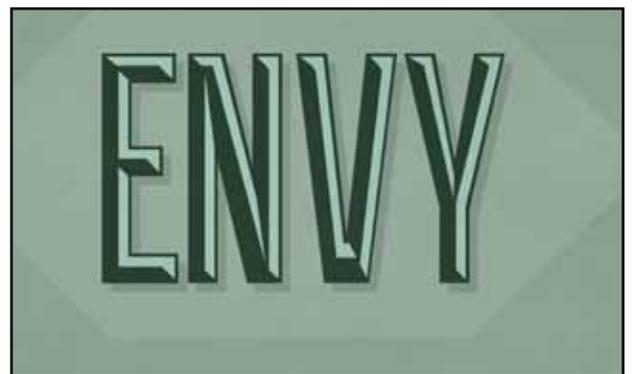
But soon, it's back to reality. Despite periodic success, most of us are invisible writers. The humbleness of frequent rejection tempers pride. During those exceptionally dark, bleak times, when my pearls of wisdom and words of passion are passed over and I lament, “Why bother to write?” I think of the many invisible authors throughout the ages. Why do we put ourselves through this? Why give up all that could be, to put hours, days, months and years of research into something that may never see print?

A writer's body chemistry is different than non-writers. Within a writer's blood is plasma, white and red cells, platelets and heightened blood chemistry for details. A true writer can't help themselves from composing on napkins at the dinner table or scratching words on the dust of the car dashboard. We are word addicts, fact analysts, visionary dreamers who perform sleight of hand corrections on the most polished manuscripts. We write and write and write compulsively.

Work envy? Please. True writers are too busy for envy.

The nasty note writer didn't ask for advice, but here it is anyway: For authentic serious writers, getting published is a challenge. Be prepared to be offered pittance for your words because of the bad economy. Oh, and yes, those celebrity books just didn't show the expected profit. Funny, there just isn't money in the coffers for you.

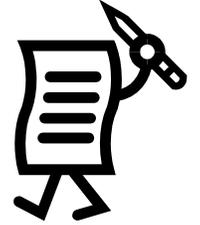
Despite this, serious authentic writers don't give up. They are wise to not quit their day jobs and use



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their sleeping hours to bang away at the keyboard. Despite rejections, they persist. Serious authentic writers write, write, write then study the market, submit and wait. Serious authentic writers have many manuscripts going at once.

Serious authentic writers don't give up their souls to this writing/publishing game. Publishing will come with perseverance. A true writer doesn't waste their time writing nasty letters to authors they envy.



It only gives their successful counterparts more material to submit.



Diana

Multi-award winning author Diana M. Amadeo sports a bit of pride in having 500 publications with her byline in books, anthologies, magazines, newspapers and online. Yet, she humbly, persistently, tweaks and rewrites her thousand or so rejections with eternal hope that they may yet see the light of day.

Thanks to Diana for the terrific article! You, too, can have a writing-themed story possibly featured in this newsletter.

Payment is \$25. Submit your completed article (please, no pitches; completed work only) to Dahlynn@PublishingSyndicate.com. PS takes only non-exclusive rights for the newsletter and any promotion of the newsletter.

A Legend Passes Away

OK, it's time to indulge Dahlynn:

“Don Featherstone, the creator of the pink flamingo lawn ornament, passed away this month. He wasn't a writer, but his artistic worked has spanned generations. The *LA Times* has a great article on him...the last paragraph would make a wonderful trivia question!”

<http://www.latimes.com/local/obituaries/la-me-0624-donald-featherstone-20150624-story.html>

Our favorite Dang Yankee (aka Mike McHugh) also wrote an entertaining ode/blog post about Featherstone: <http://thedangyankee.com/2015/06/25/rhapsody-in-pink/>



Self-Published e-Book Awards

HURRY!

Deadline: August 3, 2015

Following just in from *Writer's Digest*:

“Writer’s Digest” hosts its 3rd Annual Self-Published e-Book Awards, a competition that spotlights today’s self-published works and honors self-published authors. Whether you’re a professional writer, a part-time freelancer or a self-starting student, here’s your chance to enter WD’s newest competition, exclusively for self-published e-books. More info: <http://bit.ly/1JvbMus>



Prizes

One Grand Prize winner will receive:

- \$5,000 in cash and \$200 worth of *Writer's Digest* books
- Feature article about you and your book for the May/June 2016 issue of *Writer's Digest*
- Winner’s name on the cover of *Writer's Digest* magazine (subscriber issues)
- A paid trip to the ever-popular *Writer's Digest* Conference!
- 30-minute platform and marketing consultation with Chuck Sambuchino, author of *Create Your Writer Platform*
- One year subscription (new or renewal) to *Writer's Digest* magazine

One First Prize winner in each category will receive:

- \$1,000 in cash and \$100 worth of *Writer's Digest* books
- Promotion in the May/June 2016 issue of *Writer's Digest*
- One year subscription (new or renewal) to *Writer's Digest* magazine



Categories

Mainstream/Literary Fiction | Genre Fiction | Nonfiction | Inspirational | Life Stories
Children’s Picture books | Middle-Grade/Young Adult | Poetry

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