

KWI: Kansas Writer's Ink

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KWIPS 2013

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Writing in Top-City by Romie Chavez

Every day I try to write. I've set goals for myself to complete a chapter each week and slowly I've been making headway on my second novel. Have I always stuck to my strict writing schedule? Absolutely not! Like most writers, I tend to get distracted about all the little things that need to be done around the house or stuff I've been putting off—like taxes (which I finally just completed!). Yet, I continue to force myself to write, even if it's only for an hour. The novel I'm working on is based off a Nanowrimo

story I did back in November 2011. Yes, I know, it's March 2013. But if I stick to my schedule, I'll be done in early April.

People that have read my first novel constantly bombard me with questions about when the next book is coming out and why it's taking so long, etc. Of course, I shrug it off with explanations of the writing process and other projects I'm working on, but they don't quite get it. I've grown as a writer, thanks in part to the wonderful writers that I've sur-

rounded myself with. I've learned a lot over the years and my writing clearly reflects that now. The creative process has not ceased, but the writing part has dwindled to a sluggish pace. On one hand, I think that is great that I'm not rushing to get it done—fewer mistakes. Yet another part of me wishes I would get my butt in gear. Only now that it's almost complete, I'm starting to feel a little melancholy.

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Angels At Sunset: A Review by Eleanor Liu

Tom Mach has written a compelling story about the struggle of women to gain the vote, as well as full citizenship for former slaves.

Along with the tale of their hardships, he weaves a fascinating spell of mystery and intrigue. Various locales are

depicted, among them Gettysburg, PA, Chicago, IL, Morrisville, NY, and Lawrence, KS, all naturally woven into the book.

Historical figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Elizabeth Cady Station, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Fre-

derick Douglas and others are introduced in very believable interactions with his fictional characters.

The use of conflicts, humor, flashbacks and memorable lines all make for a good read.

April Online Workshops by Angela Johnson

An Introduction to Weapons Technology for Writers

Date: April 1, 2013

Presenter: Adam C. Firestone. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html>.

Cop Characters: How to Make Them Click and What Makes Them Tick

Date: April 1, 2013

Presenter: Jaye Roycraft. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html>.

Writing Deep POV

Date: April 1–12, 2013

Presenter: Jules Bennett. FMI, e-mail neorwaonline@gmail.com or visit <http://www.neorwa.com/index.php/Workshops/Workshops>.

The Art of Blurb Writing

Date: April 1–15, 2013

Presenter: Beth Fred. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#APR4>.

“Swear to Tell the Truth”: How to Write Realistic Courtroom/Legal Scenes

Date: April 1–15, 2013

Presenter: Jody Lebel. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#APR3>.

Putting the Suspense in Romantic Suspense

Dates: April 1–22, 2013

Presenter: Dee Lloyd. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#APR>.

MS Word for Writers

Dates: April 1–26, 2013

Presenter: Catherine Chant. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#APR>.

Celtic Women through the Ages

Dates: April 1–30, 2013

Presenter: Jody Allen. FMI, <http://www.celtichearts.org/workshops>.

From Austen to Aliens—How to Create Classic Tough Chicks

Date: April 1–30, 2013

Presenter: Jacqui Jacoby. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#APR1>.

Increase Your Readership: How to Create and Run a Blog Tour

Date: April 1–30, 2013

Presenter: Keena Lykins. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#APR2>.

Outline Free Writing for Puzzlers and Pantsers

Dates: April 2–30, 2013

Presenter: Beth Henderson. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#APR>.

Social Media

Dates: April 2–30, 2013

Presenter: Cindy Caroll. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#APR>.

Crafting Memorable Dialogue

Date: April 8–24 2013

Presenter: Joni M. Fisher. FMI, <http://www.frwriters.org/events/online-workshops/>.

Understanding Men

Date: April 15–May 12, 2013

Presenter: Dr. Debra Holland. FMI, <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclasses.html>.

Writing Sex: Exploring the Elements of Erotic Same-sex Scenes in Short Stories and Novels (Note: Maximum Participation 25)

Date: April 24–May 1, 2013

Presenter: Radclyffe. FMI, www.passionateink.org/workshops.

The Dirty Little Secrets of Character Development

Date: April 1–May 31, 2013

Presenter: Keena Kincaid. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#APR5>.

To Agent or Not to Agent

Dates: April 1 - April 5, 2013

Presenter: Donna Alward, FMI <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops#april1>

Show and Tell: An Interactive Workshop

Dates: April 1 - April 26, 2013

Presenter: Shannon Donnelly, FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops#april1>

Close With and Destroy - The Fine Art of Close Quarters Battle

Dates: April 1 - April 26, 2013

Presenter: Todd Stone, Major, United States Army (Ret.), FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops#april1>

The Good, the Bad, and the Necessary: Critique Groups

Dates: April 1 - April 26, 2013

Presenter: Ally Broadfield, FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops#april1>

“The only reason for being a professional writer is that you just can’t help it.”
—Leo Rosten

A recent conversation with my writer’s group about our work sparked a discussion about the difficulties in getting to the end. It’s not that each of us doesn’t have some idea as to how our novels or short stories will end, it’s the completion aspect. The idea that once you type ‘The End’—that’s it! Your story is done. Don’t get me wrong, I’m excited that I’ve completed another novel, but it’s sad to see it

end. Sure there’s the editing and sending it off to be published, which are the most taxing part of the process due to everything that’s involved (constant rewrites, multiple drafts, rejection letters, etc.).

The more I think about it, the slower the process seems to be. Of course, people are probably thinking—just get it done already Romie! But I’ve spent so

much time getting to know the story and enjoying the characters that it is hard to say goodbye. Once its totally finished and sent out for publication, I can sit back and hope that readers appreciate what I’ve done. And yes, there are always opportunities to revisit that world through sequels, short stories, and novellas, but having to say goodbye never gets easier. Do all writers feel this way? Probably not!

Legacy Publishing Vs. Digital Self-Publishing: An Author’s Choice

by Billie-Renee Knight

Like most aspiring authors these days I face a dilemma regarding how best to publish my writing. While I have always had dreams of publishing my novels in the traditional manner, the closer I come to achieving my dream the harder I hear it is to actually achieve success that way. The advent of ePublishing and the growth of vanity presses have taken a toll on traditional publishing houses. According to the Association of American Publishers’ July 2012 Bookstats report (available at <http://publishers.org/press/74/>) eBooks ranked #1 in sales during the 2011 sales year and are expected to remain strong in the ensuing sales year. On the other hand the same report indicates the sale of books published by traditional publishers and sold in brick-and-mortar stores maintained similar statistics as 2010, especially in the young adult category. And this means what? Hard

copy book sales are not declining overall in the face of intense competition from the eBook market. So what is an aspiring author to do?

I know what this OCD aspiring author has done – research, research, research. It is important to keep in touch with what is happening in the publishing world. I also read blogs by authors I respect and whose works I read regularly. I follow authors and publishing companies on Twitter, attend industry events when possible, and subscribe to appropriate publications such as Writers’ Digest. These avenues have given me enough fodder for one of my favorite decision-making tools – a list of pros and cons in regards to ePublishing my work rather than submitting to a traditional publishing house.

E-Publishing has several significant advantages, not the least of which is convenience. Numerous venues exist for an author interested in ePublishing from do-it-yourself sites like Amazon’s Direct

to Kindle publishing and Barnes & Nobles’ ePubit to pay to publish sites like Bookbaby and CreateSpace. Many authors find great success in these venues. One of the greatest advantages of this type of publishing is the return on your money. Self-publishing can net an author anywhere from 40% to 100% of sales depending on the site itself. Better yet, these percentages will never have to be shared with agents or publishing companies and as an author you will see them more quickly than if you were dealing with a traditional publisher. In fact, self-publishing is guaranteed and there will never be the fear of rejection slips flooding your mail box.

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www.kswritersinc.com
www.kswriters.wordpress.com

Kudos

KWI's own Vice President, Mark Bouton, was featured as the author of the week at a website dedicated to writers, readers, agents, and editors at <http://romancingtheheartinterviews.blogspot.com>. He will also be speaking at the next KWI meeting on Saturday, April 27th, 2013, at 1:00pm. Mark will be discussing How to Write Query Letters and Novel Synopses.

Financial information

Beginning Balance: \$3,177.36

Expenses: \$108.66

Ending Balance \$3,068.70

Next Meeting

No March meeting. Annual retreat at Hotel Savoy in Kansas City.

Meeting on April 27th, 2013 @10:00 – 1:00pm. Mark Bouton will present on Query Letters and Novel Synopses.

Writer's Quote

"I never wanted to be a literary writer. I just wanted to be an entertainer. All I wanted was to give what a lot of writers had given me: a good time on a bad day."

-M.C. Beaton

The Author's Choice... CONT. FROM PAGE 3

Another advantage is timeliness. Getting from manuscript to print with a traditional publishing house could take anywhere from six months to three years. Self-publishing work as an eBook is as instantaneous as uploading the manuscript to the appropriate site. Better yet, the ease of updating, fixing errors and re-publishing is just as simple. Instant access to publication can have the additional advantage of allowing an author to submit work that is hot now rather than trying to anticipate what will be the "in" thing in six to 36 months.

On the flip side, however, there are some distinct disadvantages to self-publishing in the eWorld. As a self-published author you are responsible for all expenses incurred in the production and publication of your work. If your manuscript requires more editing than

you are able to handle, you will have to pay someone to edit it for you. This seems to be an issue in today's ePublishing world where authors rush to get their work out there without taking appropriate time to edit. The ease of ePublishing leads to the temptation to publish too soon. While most publishing houses maintain their own graphic arts and public relations departments, as a self-published author you are responsible for these areas yourself, which means more money up front. The area that frightens me the most as an aspiring author is the marketing issues. Fortunately many resources are available to help authors find their way through this potentially Herculean task.

Self-publishing an eBook seems, on many levels, an easier proposition than working the traditional publishing route. While it involves more work on the part of the author beyond the creation of the manuscript itself, it

gives the author higher odds of publication. Return on the effort will be directly proportional to the amount of work an author devotes to the overall project. However, there remains a stigma attached to self-publishing, or perhaps it is the pervasive feeling within the publishing world that to be a "real" author you have to have gone through the old-fashioned traditional system in order to earn your stripes and the validation many authors crave. So in the end I believe the choice of ePublishing versus traditional publishing depends on the needs and wants of the author.

What decision have I made for my own manuscript? I have weighed the pros and cons and chosen to pursue publication with a small press now actively seeking manuscripts from new authors. I love the creative process of writing, but I truly fear my ability to handle the marketing side of the business. I know if the traditional path doesn't work for me, I can always choose the self-publish in the future.