

Will You Make It As a Writer? Worksheet

This is the worksheet for March's seminar, which you can find in video, audio and transcript forms at: www.writershuddle.com/seminars/mar2014.

This seminar was inspired by Bill Borg's post:

[It may be lonely at the beginning](#)

You may want to read that before listening to / reading the seminar.

The Reality of Traditional Publishing

While the vast majority of publishers aren't crooks, the publishing industry is going through a time of rapid change. The old dream of "Get an agent, get a book deal, live happily ever after" no longer applies (if it ever did).

Many traditionally-published authors are now turning to self-publishing, which has become a much more respected form.

Holding On to Hope

Many people want to write but never get as far as putting words on paper. If you've written a short story, a novel, a few blog posts, or almost anything, you're ahead!

"Making it" as a writer doesn't have to mean writing a best-selling novel or earning a huge amount of money. Every writer needs to set their own definition of success.

Branching Out

While it's important to stay focused on your goals, it's also a good idea not to limit yourself *too* much. If you've always written in one form (e.g. short stories, poems, essays) then try something different.

Why Are Published Writers Discouraging?

Some authors can be quite negative (or at least not actively encouraging). This isn't about you! It could be because:

1. They're self-centred and wrapped up in their own career ambitions.
2. They're worried about being asked to edit your manuscript.
3. They don't want to "talk shop" all the time.
4. They've forgotten what it was like to be new.

How Can You Help Yourself Succeed?

Whatever sort of "success" you're aiming for:

1. Set clear goals and targets that you can reach.
2. Be open to new possibilities.
3. Keep a record of your achievements.
4. Get support from positive people (not necessarily writers).
5. Take a class or course.
6. Get feedback on your writing.
7. Establish a regular writing habit.

Exercise

Join the "No Zero Days" challenge (or if we're not running it currently, challenge yourself!) Find out about it here:

www.writershuddle.com/forums/challenges/no-zero-days-challenge

Discuss this seminar here:

www.writershuddle.com/forums/seminars/march-2014-will-you-make-it-as-a-writer