Vince’s dog pounced on a nearby frog and chased it all around the digging site. He hated when Dora did that because it messed up his work schedule and all the progress he made. He had to hide findings from her.

Dora usually got tired around mid afternoon. When the heat of the day was thickess. Everything about this job was patience. Patience with cleaning tools. Patience when cleaning findings. Patience when dealing with animals and other humans. It was all patience.

So Vince would write while his dog messed up things around the area. They spent time with each other but most of the day he was writing or cleaning or interacting with something else. He loved scruffing up its tanned fur.

It felt good to do that.

Writing required patience also. Patience for the story to arrive. Patience with a character doing what it wanted to and not what you wanted it to. That’s what made following an outline fun bringing a character back to your plan.

He never understood freewriters. Stephen King described it in one interview as throwing a marine in water for the first time and watching them drown and then resuscitating them back to life and throwing them back in. Then doing this to nine of their best friends at the same time.

Vince was more like a ranger and shocked people when they got out of line. Tom Clancy was a different writer than a both Vince and King. His job was to