

Welcome to the Easy Writing Newsletter, a weekly blast of inspiration to help you and your writing - creatively and financially.

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Greetings

Writers aren't always very practically minded, have you noticed that?

I can spend hours thinking about character relationships, motivation and plots, working it all through, making sense of stories etc.

But when it comes to simple things like fixing a fence and putting up tiles I'm completely hopeless.

I approach it all the wrong way I guess. When it comes to practical problems I think in artistic terms.

I'm no engineer, not by a long stretch.

Take today. I've got to fix a drainage channel outside the house to stop the rain getting in - but I really have no idea where to start.

Okay, I've already dug a trench. I've got some pipes and a few bits of guttering but - the problem is I just don't GET it. I just don't see the solution in my mind.

Because, through habit, I use intuition instead of common sense to get results. It may get the job done - sort of - but it wouldn't be the way a builder would do it!

But hey, how can I change the habit of a lifetime? I'm an artist, that's my defence!

How about you?

As always, contact me for any reason at:
rob@easywaytowrite.com

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Fancy writing a horror novel with the full help of a best selling author? Go here to check out details:
<http://easywaytowrite.com/horrornovel.html>

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Writing for a Living: The Only Logical Choice

Fan Fiction.

Once a person becomes a reader they tend to stay one. The hard part is getting people comfortable with reading, especially the young.

One of the best things about JK Rowling was the unprecedented ground swell of interest in reading she generated in 9 to 15 year olds. It's almost a shame her books were made into movies.

Getting more people into the reading habit is important. And sometimes the only way to do that is to get them to read 'easy stuff' first, like 'spin-off' books about characters they already know and love.

As in Buffy, Angel, Charmed, Star Trek and Star Wars books, plus a whole host of others.

I get many emails from young people asking if it's okay to write this kind of 'fan' fiction.

Well, of course, any kind of writing is good, no matter where you start or end up.

But beware. Writing this kind of 'spin-off' fiction for TV and movie books is not quite as simple as you'd think.

The publishers of these books have very strict guidelines that, if you want to try your hand, you can request from them.

They will normally send you very detailed reports on the particular 'universe' you wish to write for. They will also stress that your story must be completely consistent with that 'universe.'

There are lots of rules in this game.

For instance, you can only kill off characters you personally create. And with any submission, you must normally specify the EXACT time when your story takes place - at which point in the series - so that their editors can check whether your story 'fits.'

Usually you are not allowed to bend any of the rules laid out for characters, or insert any type of activity, place or influences that would not make perfect sense to a fan of the series.

It's the way these things are done.

I've known writers who have come close to despair after the dozen or so re-writes requested by

various editors, agents and publishers in this genre.

A friend of mine once spent months writing a Star Trek Next Generation script.

A huge fan of the series, he came up with what he thought was a brilliant concept that would blow everyone away. He wrote and wrote, rewrote, editing to perfection and eventually sent off his ms, convinced of its genius.

Almost one year later he received it back, tattered and torn. It had a pencil scrawl on it that said simply, 'This could never happen.'

Needless to say the writer decided that never again would he 'waste' so much time on a project, no matter how much fun it was!

The message is, if you think you have an idea for movie or TV series follow up, get the guidelines, read them thoroughly, and stick to them like superglue.

Better still, change the characters, setting and plot and write it as an original piece.

It'll probably be easier in the long run!

robparnell 2004

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Inspiration - Which Rock Is That Under?

I once heard a quote from a literary writer.

As far as he was concerned, there was a five-step formula for writing a Booker Prize novel.

To paraphrase:

1. Take three or more characters
2. Place them in a location that assures their total isolation from the rest of the world
3. Create a threatening situation whereby all the characters would be forced to face their own mortality
4. Construct a plot that highlights sex, relationships, death, despair and redemption (in that order)
5. Fill the text with lots of metaphor,

analogies and references to other literary works

Now, I'm not sure if this is true but it struck me this is also a formula for writing almost any kind of compelling book!

Try coming up with your own scenario as an exercise. You never know where it might take you.

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Did you know The Easy Way to Write has its own Foundation designed to help writers achieve their ambitions? Take a look here:

<http://easywaytowrite.com/foundation.html>

Many thanks for being a subscriber to the Easy Way to Write. I very much appreciate your support.

Till next time,

Keep well and happy
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