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It is perfectly okay to write garbage—as long as you edit brilliantly.

- C.J. Cherryh

*I am only one, but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*

- Edward Everett Hale

NICKY'S NARRATIVE



FROM THE EDITOR, NICKY PITMAN

For me, sometimes getting started is one of the most difficult tasks of my craft. As writers, we must continually start over and over. If I waited for pure inspiration to take hold, I might sit for a very long time in front of a blank computer screen. Writing prompts have been a useful tool for me to just get something on the page. They have allowed me to free myself of the destination and to simply enjoy the journey.



Often I use writing prompts simply as creative outlets in and of themselves. Sometimes I use them just to get my juices flowing — so that my brain can begin to think out of the box, so that my fingers will simply begin moving across the keyboard. Other times I use them as “creative foreplay” to jump start a particular piece I need or want to work on.

The main reason I use writing prompts,

however, is to keep up the *practice* of writing. I am keenly aware that I must continue to exercise my writer’s muscle, lest it atrophy.

Mind you, I typically write every-day. However, the thing about writing prompts is they get me to think in different ways, explore varied styles, and most definitely keep me from projecting (and worrying about) an outcome. Ultimately, I believe, this leads to more rewarding writing.

In previous newsletters I used to include a column entitled “Publisher’s Prompt”, where I would provide a prompt for those who cared to use it. I encouraged readers to send me their response to the prompt, but I never received any responses. So now I’m posting prompts on my blog (see address at end of this newsletter), and if you’d like to, visit the blog and respond and post. ‘Til then: write on!

YOU ARE YOUR OWN BEST MARKETING REP!

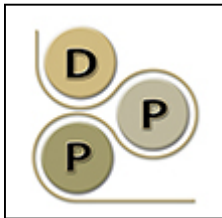
COMMITMENT (ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED DECEMBER 5, 2005)

As writers we make a commitment to ourselves- to make time to write, a place to write, and to what we will write. Eric Maisel asks, “Is commitment more about duty or love? Is it something one demands of oneself or does it flow naturally, given the right circumstances?”

For myself, I know that I am committed to what I love- which is writing. But there are days when inspiration is nowhere to be

found and motivation won’t kick in no matter how many times I try to jump-start my inner motivator. That’s where “duty” comes in.

It is my duty- to myself and, of course, to my job to write. Sometimes that simply means sitting down, putting fingers to keyboard, and writing...*anything*- even if it looks like, feels like, and sounds like, down-right doo-doo. This is because just



NewsBytes

*Any small step
taken toward reaching
a goal is better than
none at all.*

- Lamar Cole

*Certainly, travel is
more than the seeing of
sights; it is a change
that goes on, deep and
permanent, in the ideas
of living.*

- Miriam Beard

*Explore. Dream.
Discover.*

- Mark Twain

getting *something* on the page is better than putting *nothing* on the page. And typically, though not always, I usually find a little gem among the muck, or at least an idea for a gem.

The same can be said for self-promotion of my writing—though I can't say I *love* marketing myself, I do *love* the results. And I believe it is my *duty* to market my own work. Though I do write for myself a good deal of the time, it is not my desire to write in a vacuum.

"Marketing" sounds like a big word. It sounds busy. It sounds like a lot of work. It sounds like something somebody else



should be doing who has connections and knows how to hobnob. It sounds slick. And most of all, it sounds like something I don't want to do—ugh! Put myself out

there, scheme and sell myself? No way!

But maybe I have to think out of the box a bit. Maybe marketing isn't the big corporate monster I think it is. Maybe there are some strategies I can use that are, well, maybe a little more non-traditional than the typical marketing I am so accustomed to thinking about.

**Check the Blog for more on
Commitment...**

<http://digitalpulppublishing.blogspot.com/>

SITE-INGS

Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators: <http://www.scbwi.org/>

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, formed in 1971 by a group of Los Angeles based writers for children, is the only international organization to offer a variety of services to people who write, illustrate, or share a vital interest in children's literature. The SCBWI acts as a network for the exchange of knowledge between writers, illustrators, editors, publishers, agents, librarians educators, booksellers and others involved with literature for young people.

The Sun Magazine (in print)
<http://www.thesunmagazine.org>

Writing Guidelines: http://www.thesunmagazine.org/writer_guidelines.html

Unfortunately, you're not likely to find **The Sun** at your regular newsstand. Many distributors won't carry it because it's not "commercial" enough: they don't carry advertising; they regularly print pieces that

are too risky, too personal, too sad, too something. Sounds like a good rag to check out, don't you think?

Writerfind Jobs

http://www.writerfind.com/freelance_jobs/

This site offers global freelance and telecommuting jobs for writers.

Writers Events

<http://writersevents.com/>

This site offers a calendar for all writers and publishers. It posts daily, weekly, monthly or annual listings of promotional events, meetings, group activities, and speakers. Writers Events has been designed to be quick and easy to use by those looking for 'What's on in Writers' events online and by those wanting to promote their writers events online.

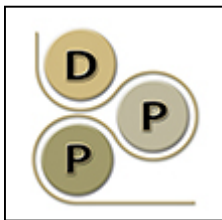
The Write Market

<http://www.writemarket.com>

This site features articles, contests, resources, ad links that may be of interest.



**Get a load of
these sites!**



NewsBytes

The DPPstore

www.dppstore.com

Reinventing Reading

To read

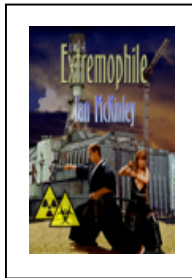
Passion!

By Patrick Stafford

In its entirety, please
visit our Blog at:

www.digitalpulppublishing.blogspot.com

DPPSTORE FEATURE



EXTREMOPHILE

By Ian McKinley

Extremophile takes the reader into a plausible near-future where beautiful people pursue an elixir of youth. The hero, Bruce

Roberts, sets out to find a supply of bugs (extremophiles), from which the formula is derived. While traveling the world he and his companions must fend off those wishing to control or destroy the elixir. This rollercoaster, round-the-world quest focuses

on both the external dangers and the internal sexual tensions.

Ian McKinley holds a Ph. D. in chemistry from Glasgow University. He has a professional background in nuclear waste management. A Scot who has lived in Switzerland for 20 years, he has been involved in a diversity of work related to nuclear waste management, including archeology, geology, microbiology, engineering and public communication. He has co-authored three technical books, as well as hundreds of articles in a variety of publications. Extremophile is his first novel.

AUTHOR, AUTHOR!

FEATURING PATRICK STAFFORD: **PASSION!**

Many words are often used to describe the creative process. Perspiration, inspiration, hard work and misery are a few! Frustration, drudgery and obsession also come to mind. But for me personally, no word better encompasses the whole process than the word passion.

Passion is a process unto itself. It entails developing, having and feeling the strong desire and unquenchable thirst for accomplishing something—for setting a goal and believing in it with every fiber of your being. And pursuing it until completion. No matter how arduous the journey,

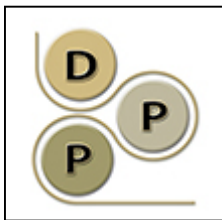
how difficult the challenge or how many obstacles are encountered along the way, if one is truly passionate in his beliefs and passionately determined to succeed, he will.

Patrick Stafford's book, Asian Darkness, a collection of 100 poems about the Vietnam Conflict is available in eBook format at the DPPstore, www.dppstore.com

Stafford's essay, Passion!, originally appeared in the DPP Newsletter, November 21, 2005. To read the essay in its entirety, please visit the DigitalPulp Blog.

PLACE YOUR AD HERE !

For more information please email:
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We invite you to visit our Blogs:

www.digitalpulppublishing.blogspot.com

&

www.dppebookstore.blogspot.com

*It is a very sad
thing that nowadays
there is so little use-
less information.*

Oscar Wilde

DPP News to Note

The Newsletter

This is the First Edition of News Bytes. We have changed from our old format and title (The Authors' Advocate). We certainly hope you enjoy the changes we have made (including the PDF format), and want to encourage you to send in any suggestions you have for continual improvements. Also, if you have any ideas for articles, columns, and any other information you believe would enhance this bi-weekly periodical, send them our way: nicpit@digitalpulppublishing.com.

Project Gutenberg

The DPPstore has teamed up Project Gutenberg to bring FREE eBooks to our customers. We are using the simple text files to create .PDF and .LIT format eBooks of classic works in order to offer free content to our readers. Kudos to Michael Hart, the founder of Project Gutenberg and a big whopping' YIPPEE to FREE eBooks!

Our Websites

The fabulously new and improved DPP Press website is UP! Check it out: www.dppress.com

The DigitalPulp Publishing site will be up and coming soon—offering a new look, more information, and better ways to navigate the site: www.digitalpulppublishing.com

We are continually making changes to make the DPPstore site more informative, fun to browse, and user-friendly, so keep checkin' out the store: www.dppstore.com

FUN FACTS

Book Blitz Month: (Jan. 1-31) Focuses attention on improving authors' relationships with the media in order to create a best-selling book. Free book PR evaluation available. For info: Barbara Gaughen, Media 21, 7456 Evergreen Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93117. Ph: (805) 968-8567. FAX: (805) 968-5747. Email: bgaughenmu@aol.com Web: www.goodmorningworld.org

National Clean Up Your Computer Month: (Jan. 1-31) Dedicated to the education of computer users with simple tips and methods to increase the efficiency of their systems. For info: Denise Hall, 24797 State St., PO Box 658, Elberta, AL. Ph: (251) 986-6650, FAX: (251)

986-6652 Email: denise@specterweb.com
Web: www.specterweb.com

Author Birthdays:

J.D. Salinger, January 1, 1919
Isaac Asimov, January 2, 1920
E.L. Doctorow, January 6, 1931
Jack London, January 12, 1876
Andy Rooney, January 14, 1919
Ernest Gaines, January 15, 1933
A.A. Milne, January 18, 1882
Pooh Day, January 18
Edgar Allan Poe January 19, 1809



POOH DAY

January 18

Edith Wharton, January 24, 1862
Zane Grey, January 31, 1872