

The Writer's Workshop



from Diana Scimone
www.peapodpublishing.com
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Welcome to the latest issue of **The Writer's Workshop**, an e-letter designed to help you write your book.

In issues #1-7, we covered the seven steps you'll need to follow in order to take your book from dream to reality. Those back issues will soon be available as part of my new e-book called (what else?) **How to Write a Book**. It contains all seven steps, plus lots more information and inspiration. Starting March 1, you can download it with a few clicks of your mouse at www.peapodpublishing.com.

1. How to Write a Book: Valuable resources

In this issue of **The Writer's Workshop**, I want to share with you my file of online resources that will make your life as a writer easier. Most of these are free.

General resources for writers

www.WeMakeWriters.com

www.Writing-World.com

www.quintcareers.com/writing/index.html

www.WritingSuperstore.com

www.AbsoluteWrite.com

www.bookmarket.com/files.html.

www.humorwriters.org

www.randomhouse.com/wotd/index.pperl?action=dly_alpha_arc&fn=word (answers pesky grammar and spelling questions)

www.WritingForDollars.com

<http://AmazonBestSellerSecrets.com/AbsoluteWrite> (how to sell your book on Amazon)

www.writersmarket.com

[Anatomy of a query letter](#)

Publishers

www.bookmarket.com List of publishers by category, or click on:

[Business Book Editors](#)

[Children's Book Editors](#)

[Cookbook Editors](#)

[Health Book Editors](#)
[Independent Book Publishers](#)
[New Fiction Editors](#)
[Reference/Humor Book Editors](#)
[Religious/Inspirational Book Editors](#)
[Sports Book Editors](#)

www.bookmarket.com/101pub.html (top 101 independent book publishers)
www.bookmarket.com/pubassn.html (book publishing associations)
www.aboonbooks.com/whoswho/summary.php (who's who of independent children's book publishers)
www.aboonbooks.com/forums/ (Children's Book Publishing Grapevine Forum)

Copyrights, contracts, and legal info

www.authorsguild.org (contracts, legal info, copyright info, even health insurance)
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050707/ap_on_en_ot/writers_scammed
www.sfwaweb.org/beware (how to avoid writing scams)
www.sfwaweb.org/beware/printondemand.html (what to look for in print-on-demand)
www.burymann.com/biz.html (Business of Writing section has links to contracts, copyright and PR resources)
www.authorslawyer.com

Organizations

[Academy of American Poets](#)
[American Christian Fiction Writers](#)
[American Society of Journalists and Authors](#)
[The Authors Guild](#)
[Florida Writers Association](#)
[Mystery Writers of America](#)
[PEN American Center](#)
[PEN Center USA West](#)
[Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators](#)
[Writers Information Network](#)

Magazines and e-newsletters

[Poynter's Pointers](#) (helpful e-letter from Dan Poynter)
www.worldwidefreelance.com (Worldwide Freelance Writer Newsletter)
www.writermag.com (The Writer Magazine)
www.writersdigest.com (Writer's Digest)
www.writersweekly.com (Writer's Weekly)
www.travelwriters.com (Click on the "writers" tab, and sign up for a free e-letter for travel writers.)
www.getitwriteonline.com (Grammar help)
subscribe@writingfordollars.com (tips, tricks and ideas for selling what you write)
www.publishersmarketplace.com/lunch/subscribe.html (Publisher's Lunch daily e-letter)
[Scribbles](#) (e-letter for Orlando, Florida, area writers; click "subscribe" on menu bar)
Book Marketing Matters (send blank email to brianjud@comcast.net?subject=subscribe)

www.peapodpublishing.com (Click on “Writer’s Workshop” to subscribe to monthly e-letter.)

Children’s writing

www.writeforkids.com (Lots of resources. Subscribe to their excellent e-letter for children’s book writers.)

[The Children’s Book Council](#) (FAQ on how to publish, list of all member children’s publishers, contacts, and what they’re looking for)

[Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators](#)

2. Tip of the Month: Make an appointment with yourself

You start out Monday morning with enthusiastic plans to work on your book. Yup, this is the week you’re going to do it! When Friday afternoon rolls around, however, another week has gone by and you haven’t touched your book.

That pattern will continue—unless you do something to break it. Here’s how: Right now, grab your calendar and make an appointment with yourself. Don’t wait until next Monday to schedule it; do it right now. Choose a one-hour slot sometime during the next week, and write it on your calendar. Just one hour. Don’t be too lofty and set aside an entire day; if you can successfully complete one hour, you can increase it next time.

Now be prepared, because you will get opportunities to miss that appointment. People will call. The cat will need attention. You’ll think of a hundred more pressing issues—so be determined to keep that appointment. When Friday afternoon rolls around, you’ll be happy you did—and you’ll be that much closer to completing your book. (While you’re celebrating your accomplishments, be sure to set your appointment for the following week.)

3. Inspiration: Timing

My timing was off. A friend gave me a beautiful calendar for Christmas, and by the time I hung it up, it was already February. I flipped past the beautiful calligraphy on the January page and turned to find these words for February: “There is a time for every purpose under Heaven.”

I’ve read those words from Ecclesiastes 3:1 a hundred times, but never “got it” that every purpose has a time assigned to it. Impatience is one of my virtues; when I get an idea, I want to do it now. But sometimes God gives us ideas way ahead of their birth date so that they have plenty of time to grow to maturity before they’re born.

I’ve found, however, that most writers have the opposite problem. They don’t have a problem with waiting; many are perfectly content to wait for their dreams to be born. Year after year after year, they wait, and wait, and wait. They can just as easily miss God’s timing for their purpose.

There is a purpose for your book, and there is a time for that purpose, too. I don’t want to miss it by jumping the gun, and I sure don’t want to miss it by waiting around for something to happen. How about you? (This might be a good time to make that appointment with yourself.)

4. The Last Word

Do you need additional help writing your book? Diana offers personalized coaching to writers all over the world. If you've always wanted to write a book, but didn't know how, a 90-minute coaching session by phone or in person will give you the tools and direction you need. Diana's practical and encouraging style will help you finally write the book you've dreamed of writing. To set up a coaching session, or to schedule writer's workshops or book signings: diana@peapodpublishing.com.

The first seven issues of **The Writer's Workshop** will soon be available at www.peapodpublishing.com as an e-book called (what else?), **How to Write a Book**. Check it out starting March 1.

Coming up:

Sat., Feb. 25, Writer's Workshop—Children's Books, Florida Writer's

Association, Orlando, Florida. For more information, [click here](#).

Fri.-Sat., Mar. 10-11, teaching for-credit class at Geneva College Center for Urban Biblical Ministry, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Writer's Workshop is edited by Diana Scimone, president of Peapod Publishing, Inc. Diana is a writer, editor, journalist, children's book author, and writer's coach. Her writing has taken her to nearly 40 countries, including Sudan, China, India, Kenya, Singapore, Korea, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere. Diana is the author of **Adventures With PawPaw**, a series of children's books about a little dog who travels to a different country in each book, introducing young children to other countries and cultures (www.adventureswithpawpaw.com).

Diana is also founder and president of **PawPaw's Pals, Inc.**, an international relief agency helping children in disaster and crisis situations around the world. Donate to PawPaw's Pals at www.pawpawspals.org PawPaw's Pals is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

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