1) “I wish …”

Stop it. *Just stop it.*

You want to write? Do it. You want to try your hand at another “type” of writing? Do it. You want to change genres? Do it. You want to make your own films, create a transmedia project or launch an indie publishing empire? **DO IT.**

You get the gist. Life is too short (*cliché alert*). You might die tomorrow (*and again!*). You probably won’t, so why add another 24 hours to NOT doing what you want to your life?

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"**NOTHING WILL WORK UNLESS YOU DO.**"

— *Maya Angelou*

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2) “But ...”

Yeah, yeah I know. It’s complicated. So maybe you’ve got kids, or a backbreaking day job, or existing writing deadlines, or a spouse that reckons writing is for losers, or maybe all of these things. Whatever. Show me someone who DOESN’T have complications and problems in their lives and I’ll show you the (wo)man in the moon (mega cliché alert). Fact is, where there is a will there’s a way (*super cliché KLAXON!*). But seriously – *that’s* the word that comes after “but” ... so let’s try that again, shall we?

**BUT SERIously,** you’re going to do this! By hook or by crook! (*CLICHÉ MELTDOWN!!!*)

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"SUCCESS IS MOST OFTEN ACHIEVED BY THOSE WHO DON’T KNOW THAT FAILURE IS INEVITABLE."

– Coco Chanel

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3) “There’s only so many hours in a day ...”

True. But it’s not quantity, it’s QUALITY. Fact is, this will take however long it takes. What’s the rush? You want to make changes, you just have to knuckle down and do it – and you have to make the adjustments to your life in order to get them done. That’s just the way of it.

There is no short cut. There is no magic pill. There is no formula. So, BREAK IT DOWN. Go back to what it is you want to do:

⇒ Say it’s write a YA novel. That’s about 60,000 words. Let’s say you can only manage 200 words a day as a conservative estimate. In just 300 days, you will have a first draft manuscript. Say you can manage 500 words a day though; that means you could have a manuscript in just 120 days. Amazing!

⇒ Say it’s write a feature length screenplay. That’s 90 pages. With just 2 pages a day, you will have a first draft screenplay on paper in 45 days. 5 pages a day, you’ll have a first draft done in 18 days. Write 10 pages a day? You’ll have a first draft done in just 9 days.

Whatever it is you want to do, break it down. It all adds up. You can turn this around and get it done. Why wouldn’t you?

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4) “I don’t think I’m good enough ... ”

I wondered when we’d get to this.

Fact is, it’s not up to you to decide whether you’re “good enough”. YOUR job is to come up with a great concept, identify your target audience and basically write the shit out of your idea. That’s what writers do.

Forget about notions of how “good” you are. Maybe you’re uber-talented; maybe you’re not. Maybe you’re somewhere in-between. Maybe your peers will say you’re amazing or you’ll win awards; maybe you won’t. But all that is irrelevant really. You’re a writer. SO WRITE.

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“The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. Because the brick walls are there to stop the people who don’t want it badly enough.”

-Randy Pausch

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5) “I don’t know how/ where to start …”

So find out.

The internet and social media means there’s more ways to find the information you need than ever before. To start you off, check out the B2W Resources page, it will take you to other great stuff too:

www.bang2write.com/resources

"EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS WRITABLE ABOUT IF YOU HAVE THE OUTGOING GUTS TO DO IT, AND THE IMAGINATION TO IMPROVISE. THE WORST ENEMY TO CREATIVITY IS SELF-DOUBT."

–Sylvia Plath

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6) “Nobody knows about me and/or my project ...”

Dudes. It’s called SOCIAL MEDIA. It’s free and can connect you to anyone in the world in the push of a button. You can live in the middle of nowhere and STILL get to the people who matter to you.

There’s no “right” way to **do** social media by the way ... Just a plethora of WRONG ways. So don’t be the spammer, the whinger or the flamer. Instead, write great content that people can’t WAIT to share, to help you get your message out there: be funny; be helpful; ask questions; write guest posts; be supportive; whatever! *Do whatever it takes.*

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"IF YOU HAVE NO CRITICS YOU’LL LIKELY HAVE NO SUCCESS."

-Malcolm X

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7) “I don’t want to work for free.”

There’s lots of great things about working in the creative industries, but money is not one of them. We all hear stories about X writer who scored a deal worth $$$$ but in reality, most of us are scraping by and paid FAR less than we’re worth on an everyday basis. That’s just the way it is. You can fight that and lose, holding out for the mega deal that may never come, or you can realise it’s up to you to make things happen and make various sacrifices, which may well include working for free at times. And guess what: in doing so, you’re forging relationships – and whilst some of those people you may well want to push into the sea, others will become your BEST FRIENDS who will stick by you, thick or thin. So I guess your time wasn’t *really* free!!

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"I’VE FAILED OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN MY LIFE AND THAT IS WHY I SUCCEED."

–Michael Jordan

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8) “I feel like I’m running out of time.”

Lots of writers feel they are not progressing “fast enough” and rush their work, sure they are missing out somehow if they don’t get a work finished by a certain point. By rushing, they will create all kinds of minefields for themselves, meaning more rewriting than necessary; they will become bereft when told they need to go back to page 1. This is because too often this self-imposed deadline is entirely arbitrary. They’re unintentionally tripping over themselves in their eagerness to add to their portfolio. Think of that fable of the hare and tortoise – slow and steady wins the race. Part of that “slow and steady” means putting in the foundation work at concept level (whatever that means) to ensure you get your project done. Don’t tell yourself you’re wasting your time; this is necessary work ... which ironically means you will end up finishing, instead of being trapped in Development Hell.

9) “I’m worried people will think I’m stupid.”

People talk of “the industry” or “the media”. Fact is, there’s no such thing. Instead: it’s all about relationships. The more people you meet and communicate with and try and help get what THEY want? The more likely you will get what YOU want. Just don’t expect it to happen straight away; play the long game. Oh: and don’t be weird or a pain in the arse. Good things come to those who wait: CLICHÉ APOCALYPSE!!!!!
10) “I feel guilty.”

The big one. Look, I get it. You can feel like a monster, devoting time to your projects and “ignoring” your loved ones, especially if you have kids. But think of it this way instead: if they love you, not only will they understand, you can reciprocate by supporting their dreams (whatever they happen to be). Just don’t take The Mick. Writing can be a solitary and selfish endeavour; don’t get so obsessed with the fictional you forget the real world ... If for no other reason than you need real life material to write about! ;)

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"SUCCESS ISN’T A RESULT OF SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION. YOU MUST SET YOURSELF ON FIRE."

–Arnold H. Glasgow

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