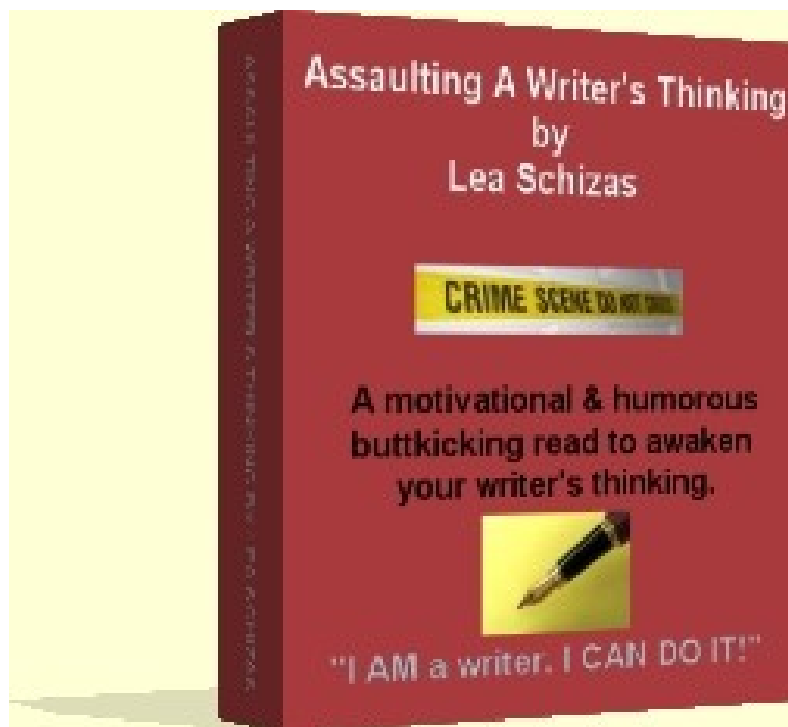


Assaulting A Writer's Thinking by Lea Schizas



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By

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The MuseItUp Club

<http://museitupclub.tripod.com>

"To be a writer means to know the hard road you face before you"

-Lea Schizas

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Lea Schizas

<http://leaschizeditor.tripod.com>

museitupeditor@yahoo.ca

DEDICATION

I want to thank every single person in my family who tries to tiptoe around me when I'm typing away like a madwoman, answering emails, setting up websites, writing my own stuff. I know it's hard to be quiet and I greatly appreciate it.

Now close the door behind you and leave me alone. Mom's busy.

Lea Schizas



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Note: This ebook is not intended to offend anyone but to actually wake up some writers who feel there is no one out there to listen to them or help them. I'm here...now...and until my email box disappears. – Lea Schizas

FOREWORD

One thing I hate is when I'm sitting by my laptop...

staring at my screen...

...hoping words will jump into my blocked writing brain...

...wishing everyone around me talking can be muted out.

Well, perfect settings to write are not always there so you need to deal with it, period!

This ebook is a motivational butt kicking adventure where I will add humor to realistic situations you, as a writer, may find yourself in. Along the way, I am sure you'll learn a thing or two to help tighten your writing and your career. If not, then I'll refund your money. Oh wait...this is a FREE ebook.

Lea Schizas

<http://leaschizeditor.tripod.com>

Introduction

Who Is Lea? Who Cares?

Before you begin reading I think it's fair to give you a bit of info on who I am and my goal with this ebook.

My name is Lea Schizas, mommy of five children and I began writing when I was still in my own mommy's womb, mistaking the umbilical cord as a neat writing instrument.

My 'real' writing career came about one day while in a bookstore. I picked up a Writer's Digest magazine, entered one of their contests, didn't win but something more important happened. I finally woke up from my 23-year self-induced coma of taking care of everyone else and began to write once again. Within two months I wrote my first screenplay followed with several writing goals I wanted to accomplish since my Muse juices were all blended into my system now.

This happened in 2000. The reason I am telling you this is to allow you a moment to reflect back when your own calling to write came about. Hold on to that feeling because throughout your writing career you will experience a rollercoaster of ups and downs, perhaps causing you at one point or another to feel the necessity to quit. It will be this reflection of the past that may help you continue as a writer.

Unless you are making money from your writing, don't quit your day job. Many do, unfortunately, believing once the book is over and done with the green dough will begin floating in. But how are you going to write that book if you're tossed out of your home, when the electricity is shut off, when your fingers near the frostbite stage after the heating has been switched off...okay, I'm a writer and love to embellish.

But I've moved away from the subject of this section...me! It's not as much as 'who' I am but more importantly why I am writing this ebook- because I care. When I first started my career I came along such writers who didn't share information, who looked at you as though you were going to steal their ideas, who were too afraid to offer you links they possessed in case you got the writing gig over them. I vowed I would never ever be like them. This ebook is offered out of love for the craft and for your writing career. I want to make sure you fully understand what it means to be a writer, to help exorcize some of the negative forces you will encounter.

My name is Lea Schizas, and I'd like to be one of the writers who will help you through your writing career.

CHAPTER ONE

I Am Who I Am - A Writer

Let's begin with a simple question: Why do you write?

Knowing the answer to this will help you fight the negative forces that are surely to come, such as:

“Oh, you're a writer? Like, are you famous? You get a lot of money for writing? Where can I buy your book? Oh, you're self-published. POD? Is that like a book club or a big publishing house? No? Oh, I get it. You're *trying* to be a writer.”

Sound aggravatingly familiar? If not, soon enough you will get one of these comments pop at you at any time so knowing why you write will ease your response...and your nerves.

“I write because I love to write and would love to earn my living as a writer. I do not have high hopes of becoming the next Stephen King or Nora Roberts but the possibility of making it is there and I will try my hardest to achieve it.” *This* is the response I give. It tells the curious person in-between the lines that when I *do* make it I *will* remember your sarcasm and doubt in me and won't answer the door when you 'come knocking' disguised as my best friend.

Do you write thinking your first novel being penned right now will make you rich? Oh my! You do, don't you! Look at me, well, pretend, now shake your head left and right when I ask this again: Do you write thinking your first novel penned right now will make you filthy rich? That's what I thought.

Having high expectations is grand, we all have them. These are called dreams and dreams are meant to be achieved with hard work. BUT, being realistic will help you detour the disappointments with each rejection letter coming in, with each critique suggesting more and more changes to your manuscript, with reviews going to the opposite side of 'good'.

Perhaps you just may be one of the lucky ones who *will* make it big with your first novel, and it's happened to a few select writers. However, truly believing it and wishing it are two different things. Believing it will cause you heartache in the end if it doesn't happen. Wishing it will cause you to work a bit harder. That is the difference between believing and wishing.

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Some writers write for personal therapeutic reasons. They have no grandeur of being published. Are they considered writers?

Some writers write for their immediate family, concocting chapbooks filled with recipes or poetry. Are they considered writers?

What defines a writer? I am sure many of you have your own opinion but seeing how this is my ebook I will give you my opinion for you to agree or disagree with me. Either way, I welcome your input by emailing me at: museitupeditor@yahoo.ca and I'll make sure to include your comments in one of my future ebooks.

To me there are only two types of writers:

The above I mentioned and the ones who seek publication along with the fame and wealth are 'true writers'. (Note: wealth and fame are the toppings to the cake. They don't always come but if you do your homework and promote and market yourself you will be surprised one day with a nice big fat royalty check.)

The ones who write, shove their manuscript in their desk drawer, complain they are not cut out to be a writer, find every excuse in the book not to write, brag and brag yet never produce anything...these are 'wannabe writers'. To be honest, perhaps they should be considered writers with the creative excuses they come up with.

Two simple classifications in my book.

Getting published is not the only factor to brand you a 'writer'. If you have the passion and the strive to get that manuscript finished and subbed to the hundreds and hundreds of publishing houses out there, then you are a writer and achieving publication is simply an added award to your name.

This whole book will contain two important words every writer MUST possess:

DETERMINATION & PERSEVERANCE

So be warned, they'll be popping out at you when you least expect them.

"Asking questions helps you in the long run. Shying away from questions stagnates your process." - Lea Schizas

CHAPTER TWO

I've Searched But I Can't Find Ideas

Were you looking in any particular drawer for a story idea? No? Hmmm...

The funny thing is you're probably waiting for me to crack a joke right now but that won't happen because ideas can be found anywhere and everywhere, even in drawers.

Don't believe me? Well, here goes:

- 1- What's in that drawer? Have you been watching someone at work, at home, at your friend's home, unlocking and placing something inside then immediately locking it again? Why? Do they have a drawer disorder?
- 2- Who does the drawer belong to? Did you discover a locked drawer in the attic of the new house you just bought? Curious as to what's inside? Scared to find out?
- 3- Are you searching for something in particular? Was there rumor floating around that grandma has taken you off the will? Hmm...curious to find out if that's true or not?
- 4- What if you opened up the drawer and there was a note addressed to your spouse? Would you open it? What would it contain?
- 5- What if you opened up the drawer and there was a tiny person in there, and I mean REAL tiny. Where did they come from? What do they want? Why the heck is he/she in your drawer to begin with? Who put them there?

As you can see, from one simple drawer you can allow your imagination to go overboard and have fun with it. You need to open up to new possible and far out story situations at times to find one on a more serious note. For example:

Number 1-3 above each can have an element of mystery to them. That drawer could hold the key to an investigation. Or perhaps the detective is the one hiding some evidence in there to protect someone. What about poor old grandma? Did you discover a plot that someone was preparing to off grandma and point the finger at you?

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