



Penwheels Newsletter

Spring Issue 2018

For Escapees Writers, Published or Not

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Penwheels is a private group of Escapees members who enjoy writing and discussing the writing adventure.

The Penwheels Newsletter is digitally published quarterly.

[Archives Available](#)



Jaimie's Tips

Jaimie Bruzenak

["11 Faith-Based Paying Markets for Writers."](#) While this article features some lesser known religions, at the bottom are links to other markets for Christian and other paying faith-based markets.

What's a ["grease-slide" word](#)? I had no idea. This article in Writer's Weekly tells you how to keep your reader engaged and wanting to know more.

[Enter writing contests](#) for exposure - and maybe money! This article in Writers' Weekly tells you how to do it.

[Flash fiction writers](#): Vestal Review pays for fiction between 10-500 words. Flash fiction has a maximum of 500 words and a twist in the plot.

More Libraries

Colorado

I found another little library in Manitou Springs, CO.

George Bruzenak and our grandson, Bohdan (a.k.a. Spiderman) are checking out the books.



Maine

Semi-secluded garden with views out to the harbor in the rear of the Camden, Maine Public Library.

Close up of circular cement bench supported by "books" in the garden to the rear of the public library in Camden.





A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You

Ellen Behrens

Barbara O'Neal, author of more than forty books and inductee in the Romance Writers of America Hall of Fame, wrote, "It's impossible to write good fiction without millions of specific details, and every detail comes from within the writer."

Novelists who aren't writing about themselves, at least a little bit, probably aren't creating believable characters in their plots.

One reader sent me a note asking how much of Pea Body, the first book in my Rollin RV Mystery series, had really happened.

The book had mixed up the real with the imaginary so well she wanted some clarifications—the best compliment I could have gotten from a reader because it told me she'd fallen so far into the world of the book that she needed to sort things out when she was done.

Many people see my husband in Walt, and they see some of Betty in me. Betty, for example, is curious – as am I.

She's nosy. Me, too. But she's more social than I am and takes more risks.

Because her attitude and opinions are very close to mine, the narrative voice comes easily.

One reviewer said reading the book was like having a conversation with Betty. When readers care about your characters, they follow them anywhere.

Most new fiction writers are advised to write in first person because it's the easiest way to connect with your main character.

Telling the story as if you're sitting across the table from your readers or sitting around the campfire with them will help you relax enough to let the "character" emerge.

Another way of keeping characters close to you is to give them the same hobbies or interests. Betty and I share birdwatching.

She and Walt enjoy riding their bicycles, as my husband and I do. These commonalities make it easy for me to jump in and out of the fictional world I've created – while keeping it "real" for readers.

At the same time, don't make the characters so close to yourself or loved ones you'll hesitate to put them in tough situations.

Find ways to separate yourself from them so you'll be able to challenge them, put them in danger, and ultimately change them in the course of the novel.

What about using people you know as models for your characters? My mother lost sleep before I did a reading from my first novel in my hometown because she recognized similarities between some of the characters and people in town.

People don't usually recognize their fictional selves, but it's good to be safe: mix fictional qualities with real details. That snotty fashionista neighbor who gets under your skin? Re-cast her as a dapper but snotty middle-aged man. Sweet revenge!

Ellen Behrens and her husband have been full-time RVers since 2009. Learn about her books at www.ellenbooks.com. To be a part of her series of interviews with fellow RVing novelists, [eMail](mailto:ellen@ellenbooks.com).

From the Editor

Creative Ideas for Naming Your Fictional Characters

What's in a name? To be fair, quite a lot. Imagine if, in the original series of books, Ian Fleming had called James Bond's character Alfred Popperdinkle? How about Horacio Hornblower? Dick Trumpet? None of those names have quite the same ring, do they?

Naming a character is one of the most vital steps in composing fiction. It can also be one of the most difficult, especially when you consider the positive or negative connotations we subconsciously attach to certain combinations of letters.

The mechanics of these attachments vary from person to person, but some are pretty much universal. Who, for example, would name one of their characters Adolf or Hitler, unless they were trying to provoke a very specific range of emotions? The same can be said for Ghengis Khan, Osama Bin Laden, Jeffrey Dahmer, and any number of other historical villains come to mind.

Other names contain references or allusions to words that have distinct, pre-existing meanings. For examples of this in practice, we need look no further than Charles Dickens, who delighted in naming some of his minor characters such things as Murdstone, Stryver and Slyme. Every time the reader sees the name, they are reminded of that particular character's dominant trait. bestowed.

[Read on ...](#)

News From Kindle Printing



Author Copies

For those authors who see the handwriting on the wall for paperback printing using CreateSpace, good news from *KDP.Amazon*.

The major drawback to switching from CreateSpace to KDP for paperback printing is the cost of the author's copies. Previously, KDP was charging retail for those copies instead of "cost."

Finally, KDP is offering author copies (of their own books) at a discounted price.

It is only a matter of time before authors are advised that CreateSpace is closed. I hope by then KDP has set it up electronically so authors just have to check a box.

"Author copies" are copies of your live paperback that can be purchased at printing cost. Make sure you have published all changes before ordering copies.

From the KDP website:

How to Order author Copies

Go to your KDP Bookshelf and select the paperback you would like to order.

Click on the **Order Author Copies** link in the ellipsis ("...") menu.

Enter the order quantity and select the Amazon marketplace closest to your shipping destination from the drop-down menu.

Click **Proceed to Checkout**.

You can order as many author copies as you want with a maximum of 999 units per order.

If you want to order more than 999 author copies at a time, you can place multiple separate orders.

Shipping charges are applied for each order.

Author copies are eligible for all paid standard and expedited shipping options available to Amazon customers (excluding Prime).

Pricing & discounts

When you order author copies through your KDP Account, you'll pay the **author price, not retail** for your own books.

The author price is the printing cost for your selected marketplace times the number of copies.

The trim size, interior type, page count determines this price and does not include shipping charges or taxes.

On *Amazon.com*, any applicable sales tax will be applied

"This price is the lowest price we can offer for your book; we are unable to offer additional discounts."

Note: KDP doesn't currently support paperback distribution to *Amazon.com.au*, *Amazon.com.br*, or *Amazon.nl*.

Kindle Create

Make your eBook look great with *Kindle Create*.

Kindle Create is a tool designed to automatically transform a completed manuscript into a beautiful Kindle eBook by:

- ⇒ Automatically finding chapter titles and creating a Kindle table of contents
- ⇒ Giving you visual themes designed to suit the genre of your eBook
- ⇒ Letting you preview your eBook so you can see what your readers will see—and make the changes you want

Kindle Create works with .doc and .docx files exported from any source, whether it be Microsoft Word, Apple Pages, Google Docs or other applications. It also supports creation of interactive textbooks from PDFs.

Note from Editor: I have tested *Kindle Create*. It does, indeed, make your eBook look great, if:

- ◆ No tables
- ◆ No Special Formatting
- ◆ No Special Characters except the en-dash, and there may be other exceptions.
- ◆ No text boxes
- ◆ No exotic fonts

IMHO, Kindle has taken the *kindlegen.exe* file we have been using and created an interface for it.

Linking eBooks and Print Editions on Amazon

Many authors and publishers using Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) to publish eBooks also have a paperback version published through KDP or CreateSpace. [Using any other printing company while selling only on Amazon is not a profit-optimized plan.]

Linking these formats to one another in the Amazon online catalog provides the ideal browsing experience for customers, so make sure your eBook and paperback book details match exactly. These details include:

- ◆ Title/subtitle
- ◆ Author/contributor
- ◆ Volume/edition
- ◆ Language

During the publishing process, KDP will attempt to match title, author name, and other title information to physical counterparts available in the Amazon catalog.

If you have a paperback and eBook of the same title, these will automatically link if the information matches exactly.

Allow 72 hours after publication, then contact [Amazon Help](#) if your editions are still not linked.

When contacting Amazon, provide the 10-digit ISBN number of the paperback and the ASIN of the eBook. Your *Amazon Author* page also can help with updating the eBook and print book links.

World of Publishing

Book Covers

The book cover—why should it be important to an author?

The psychology of human response has been dealt with in countless publications. Yet, authors, in general, still think that their creative product is all that is necessary to market it.

Marketing analysis has shown that unless the product stands out in the crowd, the chances of it “going viral,” so to speak, is rare.

Cost is certainly a factor when facing a \$250 bill from a qualified graphic designer.

Here is one solution:

[SelfPubBookCovers.com](#)

They describe themselves as the world’s leading marketplace for high-quality, affordable-priced pre-made book covers.

You cannot make changes to the cover images (copyrighted), but you can customize the Author’s Name, Title, and Tag Line.

You can move the Title, Name, and Tag Line around the page.

The images used are purchased from photo stock, but you can have one of their designers start from scratch for an original look.

The surprise is that each cover is unique. Once it is sold, it is removed from the catalog.

Price ranges from \$70-\$140.

Increase Book Sales

Find a local charity about which you are passionate.

It helps if you also volunteer with that organization because you gain credibility with the staff and donors.

No faking allowed. If you are not sincere, then either find another charity, or don’t try this idea. Stay local so you can connect with the charitable community on a personal level.

Decide on a specific donation method, keep accurate records, and follow through.

Choose either a percentage of profits, or a fixed amount per sale, and commit to that figure. The amount should be manageable for your finances but enough to be appreciated by your charity.

Set up cross-promotions and co-sponsored events.

Charity events also expand your customer base to staff, volunteers, and donors who may not otherwise hear about your book.

[Read more . . .](#)

Infringement Alert

The [Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America](#) has issued an alert on copyright infringement by the Internet Archive. Other professional writers’ groups taking notice include the UK’s Society of Authors, which has posted an alert on its website, and the USA’s Authors Guild and National Writers Union, which have alerted their members.

More on this subject in the next issue.



Writer's Marketplace

Technically Speaking: How To Break Into Technology Writing

It's no surprise that technology writing is a huge market for freelance writers. With technology all around us in our daily lives, cutting out a niche for yourself can prove to be very profitable. If you believe you take on the task of technology writing, it might be a little confusing as to where to start. After all, there's so much of it out there!

Here are some marketing options if you want to enter the world of technology writing:

- ◆ Technical Writing
- ◆ Tutorials
- ◆ News
- ◆ Reviews
- ◆ Trade Magazines

If you have your head in the digital space more than you do the real one, you might find yourself able to cut a niche for yourself in technology writing for one of these fields.

[Read on . . .](#)



Magazines

Human Interest Markets

Submit your stories or pitches to some of these markets; or, simply search for the keywords 'submission guidelines' and 'human interest' through your favorite neighborhood search engine.

True West Magazine

According to their guidelines, they look for features about "a singular person, place or event that reveals a broader aspect of frontier culture." Pays \$0.25 per word, plus \$20 for each permission-granted photo

The Penny Hoarder

The *Penny Hoarder* publishes human-interest features with a money-making angle. Pays \$75 for a published post of up to 800 words.

Alaska Airlines Magazine

Alaska Airlines Magazine is the official in-flight publication of Alaska Airlines. They pay \$150 to \$250 for 200–600 word pieces for their Journal section. As described in their guidelines, "*Journal* is a collection of short pieces that range from business personality profiles to new museum exhibits in cities served by Alaska Airlines."

Spirituality & Health Magazine

Spirituality & Health Magazine pays for shorter pieces for columns *Inner Life*, *Practice*, *Enlightened Diet*, *Healthy Body*, *Relationships and Biosphere* and pay a maximum of \$200, including book excerpts.

They also accept longer features (1,500 to 3,500 words) and pay a maximum of \$500.

The Chronicle of the Horse

The Chronicle of the Horse covers horse-tales and equestrian news; pays \$150 to \$400 for a feature article, and \$165 to \$220 for straighter news pieces. Query first.

The Bark Magazine

The *Bark Magazine* looks for a combination of human and animal interest stories. Shorter features of up to 600 words are also accepted. Query the editors first and include your projected word count. Rates discussed after acceptance of pitch.

Eating Well Magazine

Eating Well is a magazine for the health-conscious reader looking for features and stories about food.

Their pay rates are listed at up to \$1 per word.

American Angler Magazine

American Angler Magazine considers features (human interest included, but information-based features, too).

Pays \$200 to \$400 for shorter features of 800 to 1,200 words, and \$450 to \$600 for longer features of 2,000 to 2,300 words,

American Horticultural Society

The official magazine of the AHS is looking for "human-plant" interest features and essays of 1,500 to 2,500 words. Pays \$300 to \$600 for feature articles.

Write as if there is no tomorrow, love as if life is eternal!

