

The Authors Corner

by Dutch Rhudy

Welcome to The Authors Corner.

Finding and working with a new developmental editor is going much slower than I thought it would. The fellow I started working with last month wanted only the outline segment for the two chapters of his immediate focus.

I obliged his request, and because he did not know what was coming up, he made changes so completely away from the main theme and plot, I could not use any of his edits. Nearly the whole month was wasted meeting with editors in person, or sending e-mails back and forth.

One highly esteemed professional editor who agreed to meet with me in person nearly floored me with his comments. Because what he told me is so profound, and proven most accurate, I will not mention any names. His advice? "Quit wasting your money on editors!"

Before the entire world of editors and publishers appear on my doorstep, ready to tar and feather, or quarter me to feed to the vultures. I had better explain the rest of what he said. "At present, you should not strive toward perfection."

The major question and topic of our discussion was: Who are we writing for? To please ourselves, to please our readers, or to please a bunch of stuff-shirt critics? If you write to please yourself and your readers, you are on the right track.

A writer needs to loosen up and not worry so much about what the grammar police will squawk about. Edit your work until it is the best you can make it, then get it proofed. It does not have to be perfect. In fact, too much perfection can kill the story.

Writers are too hard on themselves, striving for perfection before critics will even look at them. If you have a story to tell that people want to read, go ahead, self-publish and move on to your next story. You will improve more with each story you write.

He's not saying to publish garbage, your work must be presentable. Nobody is perfect, and the closer your faults align with those of your readers, the better the chance of your work going viral. The key is to connect with your readers, on their level. These are the authors who are climbing the best sellers lists.

If your work matters enough, your e-book sales will climb, creating a demand for printed editions. Before going to print is when you should give your work a new coat of polish. But again, do not go overboard and make it too perfect. If a traditional publisher picks up your work because it is now a sought after book, they will apply the final high-gloss shine.

Respectfully submitted
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