



"One thing to remember when using this open is to move away from the idea and get on with the story."

Issue 9, Volume 1

September 2010

Live Your Writing Dream

Starting with an Idea

I am Somadeva.

I was once a man, a poet, a teller of tales, but I am long dead now. I lived in the eleventh century of the Common Era in northern India. Then we could only dream of that fabulous device, the udan-khatola, the ship that flies between worlds. Then, the sky-dwelling Vidyadharas were myth, occupying a reality different from our own. And the only wings I had with which to make my journeys were those of my imagination....

Who or what am I now, in this age when flying between worlds is commonplace? Who brought me into being, here in this small, cramped space, with its smooth metallic surfaces, and the round window revealing an endless field of stars?

From "Somadeva: A Sky River Sutra" by Vandana Singh

Another example:

I never believed that evil existed in the world, until...

A story can begin with a philosophical question or idea. This is different from an internal thought as the idea or question presents an enlightened perspective in some way.

The story that uses this kind of opening is using the story theme and offering it to

the reader in the opening sentences. By the end of the story the question may or may not be answered by the protagonist or narrator, but the reader is aware of the question or idea throughout the story, even if it is not mentioned until the end.

And the end of the story is important. The writer could complete the loop and come back around to the opening philosophical question or idea, leaving the reader with the opening thought in mind.

Another example:

When did my life begin? Odd that you ask that question.

Using this story opening might work best with first person point of view (POV) or with third person limited, also called deep POV. In some respects, it's almost like the POV character is talking to the reader, engaging them with an idea and telling the reader the story behind the opening line.

One thing to remember when using this opening is to move away from the idea or question and get on with the story. The story should be build around, over, and under the idea, but

the idea should come second to the story and the characters. The reader will remember the question or idea posed in the opening, so the writer doesn't need to hit him or her over the head with it. Just come back around to your idea or question at the end of the story, either showing the answer through the character or leaving it open for the reader.

Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

From *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

My blog is updated every week. Check it out! Visit: LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com

Writing Serial Novels

Starts Starting October 4, 2010

Discovering Your Writing Process

Starts November 2010

Writing the YA Paranormal

Starts December 2010

For more information for the above workshops and to register, go to:

<http://www.savvyauthors.com/workshops.cfm>

For a complete list of upcoming workshops and events, go to:

<http://liveyourwritingdream.com/>

and click on Workshops for coaching and writing coming events.

~

Please feel free to forward this newsletter (in its entirety) to others.

Best Wishes,
June



Live Your Writing Dream

Outside the Comfort Zone

If you have been reading my blog, you know the journey I'm undertaking. (If you haven't read the last three posts you can find the URL at the end of this article.) So why should anyone venture outside his or her comfort zone? It's cozy and safe in here, right? You can stay here and be happy, right?

Well, not exactly....

Inside our comfort zones is the place to re-coop or to relax. Like a vacation, of sorts. But living our lives here? I don't think so.

Staying in your comfort zone:

- Limits your opportunities
- Limits your triumphs
- Limits your thinking and creativity

Life should not be about your limits; it should be about expansion, change, movement.

If you want to challenge yourself. If you want to grow and develop as a person. (Well, we ask this of our characters, so why not of ourselves?) If you want to LIVE YOUR DREAM. You MUST be willing to venture outside of your comfort zone.

To have a more interesting life and for personal and professional growth, you have to take some risks. Push yourself – do something outside your routine. Try something you've never done before. Do something that scares you.

I'm not suggesting that you leap far outside your zone and never look back. That might work for a handful of people, but probably not for most of us. What I'm suggesting is BABY STEPS.

Yeap! Small steps so that the Outside Zone becomes a safe and comfortable-like place, but not too safe or too comfortable. (When a place begins to feel too safe, it might be a sign to take the next step. And once outside, doesn't mean you never can return to the safety of your Zone.) Instead of today telling your boss that you're quitting your job and becoming a full time writer, what smaller steps might you take to get to where you want to be, to get to LIVING YOUR DREAM?

I'm in no way saying to not take a leap, if that is your style and it's something you must do. In fact, I ADMIRE you!

So, for the rest of us, back to baby steps. (I'm assuming here you know what DREAM you want in your life. If not, do some brainstorming, some thinking, about what holds passion for you.)

Find some way to challenge yourself every day. This can be very small. Maybe you'll do this every week instead of every day. Remember: this is your plan – so make it YOURS.

MAYBE:

Take a day off from work and spend it writing, reading, and researching.
Talk to a new person every day or every week.

Read outside your favorite genre(s).
Write outside your favorite genre. Pick a genre you've never written in before.

Write some place you've never written before.
Practice your listening skills. Listen to someone talking without saying anything in return, except to acknowledge that you are listening.

Make a date with yourself and do something special – either something totally new or something you've not done in a long time.

You get the idea. GO FORTH!

Blog URL:

<http://LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com/>

Live Your Writing Dream
Issue 9, Volume 1

P. June Diehl
Writing Coach

PJuneDiehl@LiveYourWritingDream.com
www.LiveYourWritingDream.com
Blog: LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com

Live Your Writing Dream
PO Box 1672
Fredericksburg VA 22402
540-898-7504

© 2010 by P. June Diehl

Feel free to share this newsletter, in its entirety, with others. If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe, go to:

<http://www.liveyourwritingdream.com/subscribe.html>