

A Day in the Life of an Un-Published Writer Wrap-Up

by Tami Brothers

This month I had hoped to introduce you to Julie; a wife of ten years, mother of three young girls, and an executive assistant for a prominent car dealership in the Atlanta area. When the deadline for her article approached and she had not yet e-mailed me, I called to see how things were going.

I was disappointed, if not a little frustrated, to learn she was dropping her membership to GRW and RWA. Because of her husband's issues about the kind of example she was setting for her daughters in both her writing choices and the time she spends away from the girls, she decided to put her writing aside until they were quite a bit older.

I extended my regrets at losing her and wished her the best with her choice.

Now, I don't have a daughter, but I know plenty of writers who do and would take offense to Julie's reasons for putting aside her writing. They would be the first to remind our members that writing in the romance genre is not only rewarding in the sense that it gives them a feeling of accomplishment in something they created, it is also an honorable profession they should be proud to be a part of. The sad fact is that the industry loses a number of wonderful writers because they cave under the misguided impressions of a few critics.

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Okay, enough of the lecturing. Because we lost Julie's story, I contacted the other members participating in this yearlong look into A Day in the Life of a GRW Member and have decided to give you a short update on each them. Here goes.

Lynn admits that she's really started opening up to her new friends and enjoying her experience in the chapter. Since joining GRW in December 2006, she has completed her third manuscript (two of them were written before she joined) and is busy working on the revisions brought to her attention by her critique partners. She is excited to report that her paranormal manuscript finaled in The First Bite contest. She is also waiting on pins and needles to hear back from an agent who asked to see a full manuscript, which was the second one she completed.

Annette had a setback when her husband had a minor heart attack two months ago. This incident got the two of them thinking and both are considering retiring from their jobs. Annette is off for the summer from her 'day job' as a high school math teacher and is taking that time to work on her writing. She hopes to complete her first manuscript by the middle of July.

Stephanie has actually cut back on the hours she's spending at the law firm and is even considering a short vacation. She thinks she can take a couple of days away from her still very hectic schedule and she and her husband are hoping to go somewhere romantic. Maybe the Bahamas. Although she isn't writing anything targeted for publications, she is keeping a daily journal.

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Debbie still hasn't heard about the manuscript she sent to Kensington. She asked that we keep our fingers crossed for her! She's focused her attention back to the Shop Girl series her critique partners liked so much and has volunteered to write a monthly article for GRW's monthly newsletter, The Galley. She loved Karen White's workshop on using setting as a primary character and is busy making the changes Karen highlighted at the May meeting into her current manuscript. She's just as excited to hear Rita Herron's workshop, "When to Show, When to Tell," scheduled for this month. Her critique partner, Lynn, had mentioned she was also having some issues with this in her current manuscript.

Carol surprised herself when she sold a short story to True Confessions magazine. She's busy being a single mom, trying to keep her kids out of trouble and put food on the table. She's still washing dishes at a local restaurant to make ends meet, and was frustrated with her writing because it took so long to get to that finished product. She never thought about the possibility of shorter fiction when she began writing; but with this sale, has decided to look further into the short story business.

Well, there you have it. Five completely different people going in five totally different directions with their writing lives. Can you see yourself in any of their stories?