

Excerpt from

YOU Can Get Here
From *Anywhere*

– *How ANYONE can make
a living in the writing industry*

*By J. Blair Brown
Published Freelance Writer*

Excerpt from Chapter Two:

Being Sure

Setting Goals

Making Sacrifices

Subtitled: *They all said, “You’re doing WHAT?!”*

Don't Look Back

Once you make the decision to become a writer, start writing. I don't mean to minimize it, but **YOU MUST WRITE SOMETHING DAILY**, whether a poem, journal, article or a riddle. The point is to write. *Now*.

If you are serious about writing, you've got to get into the *habit* of writing, even when you really don't want to. Let me rephrase that: You've got to get into the habit of writing **ESPECIALLY** when you really don't want to.

Writing as a career is a business like all other businesses: You'll need to do it whether you want to or not.

Think about the neighborhood plumber. He unclogs those pipes whether he's in the mood or not, **because that's his *business***. He knows the family doesn't eat unless he's on the job. Writing as a profession is the same—particularly when you're first starting out. It's a lonely gig. You're a no-name, one-in-a-million dreamer with limited or no resources and no one to validate your skills.

In other words, until you get that gig on Oprah, your peers will not take you seriously.

For sure writing can be intimidating when you first dive into the writer's pool, but be determined to move forward. Whatever your impetus, keep your mind on it. For me it was the knowledge that I was never going to climb a ladder to success where I was employed at that time. I realized that what I wanted for me and what others wanted for me weren't the same things.

My personal goal was to make a living by writing from home. Today I'm doing that, and more. But it took real patience to learn the "business" of writing, making contacts, networking...all the things you need to become successful in the industry.

Your impetus might be your dream of writing a non-fiction novel, or becoming the next Web copywriting guru, or writing poems for greeting cards. Cool! Whatever makes you happy; whatever makes you a success to YOU...is the most important part of this whole process. What is YOUR meaning of success? Whether it's making \$100,000 in your first year (which is possible), to writing a column for a community newsletter (at \$25 per issue), go hard!

It's Not About YOU

This is a consumer driven business, much like mechanics and just as important. But don't kid yourself: it's NOT about YOU! A *real* writer knows the most important person isn't the writer; it's the audience. A *real* writer writes for the reader. So here are five points to ponder before we go any further:

1. Never underestimate the power of words. It's the "words" that make up the Declaration of Independence, Emancipation Proclamation and the Holy Bible.
2. Don't neglect the *purpose* of your writing. Stay true to both your message *and* your audience. If you're writing for four-year olds, keep four-year olds in mind throughout the process. If you're writing a novel based on the Revolutionary war, don't try to impress the reader with your knowledge of 19th century French-made petticoats (for pity sakes!).

3. Write what you *know* to be true. Otherwise you're not a writer, but a liar and a person who lacks integrity (and you don't want *that* on your resume).
4. Don't cheat at it. If you're not lying naked before your readers (emotionally speaking) you're not writing. Dig deep into the fibers of your being and regurgitate on paper! (I mean that in a good way.) In other words...let it out!
5. Never publish anything you think isn't good enough to be read at least twice. It's a waste of your energy and your readers' time, which they can't get back.

It's a powerful thing to be able to tell a story "just so," to lead your readers precisely where you want them to go, to provoke anger, to reduce a strong soul to tears, to make someone smile. It's a gift not to be taken for granted.

Enough already: Let's just do the thing!

To purchase my eBook "*You Can Get Here from Anywhere – How anyone can make a living in the writing industry*," in January 2010, feel free to send an email to Judith@THEjblairbrown.com and I will let you know when it becomes available.

Otherwise, check back to my website in January 2010 and click on the link to download my eBook directly to your computer.