

The
Wow

e-newsletter

by Ken and Dahlynn McKowen

Principles

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The New Unpublished Writer

By James L. Butler

The goal of every aspiring writer is to get published. In order to accomplish this, the first thing an aspiring writer needs to do is keep writing, no matter what. Sounds easy, right? For many, it's not easy: I've read that nearly 90% of all books being written never are finished. It is pretty hard to sell something that is not finished . . . ever try to sell half a car?

Read the title again; is that you? It sure in the heck is me. I admit that I've been a "New Unpublished Writer (NUW)" for the last 30 years, but I am something of an expert at persistence. Not many writers would want to wait three decades to become a NUW, though, at least not per the commonly accepted definition of "published" in the writing industry (being paid for what you have written).

My goal today is to share with you what I have learned from my writing efforts. I want to help new aspiring writers avoid some of my mistakes or, at least, share what I have learned from them. I also hope that by sharing why I have continued to write all these years will inspire you to keep going and finish what you have started.

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*Happy
Easter!*



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We want to hear from you!
Contact Publishing Syndicate at
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The New Unpublished Writer

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There is one—and only one—reason *real* writers write; they love to do it no matter the outcome. Getting published and becoming rich and famous are desired perks, but not the driving force behind putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboards. I am not talking about the people who dream of going on the talk-show circuit to brag about their new bestseller without ever making the effort to pick up a pen. They are no different from the people who dream of being an NFL quarterback without ever trying to throw a football. What many do not understand is that creating something of their own is the reward, an internal satisfaction that will keep them going . . . even when, for us NUWs, the cold and cutting rejection letters pour in.

I can say for certain that this personal satisfaction is what has kept me writing for thirty years without a commercial success. Not to say I wouldn't like a commercial success big enough to get me on the aforementioned talk-show circuit; my life-long dream is to be the token intellectual in the last three minutes of the "Tonight Show," even if most people turn it off when the token intellectual comes out. And it might happen; my latest middle-grade novel manuscript has been requested for review by a top agency even as I write this! (Optimism or insanity? Only history will tell. Or you could ask my wife who will give you an immediate answer.)



Just what kind of person does it take to keep writing for 30 years without a big royalty check? Well, I'm stubborn because I'm part German, arrogant because I'm part British and always right because I'm an American. So there you have it. Nothing can stop you if you are stubborn, arrogant and always right. And since you will not have any friends, you will have lots of free time to keep writing.

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The New Unpublished Writer

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I often reflect on the profound changes technology has forced upon readers, writers and publishers as I—a kindly NUW—was forced to change with them. Some are good, some are bad and some turned out to be irrelevant in the long run. One can only imagine what changes are ahead for both writers and readers. Perhaps one day we will buy the latest John Grisham organic memory implant at the Wal-Best-K-Sears drive-through, insert the thumbnail-sized chip into the socket behind our right ear and find ourselves plunged into the virtual reality of a deep jungle insertion during the Indonesian Crusades. Until then, give this NUW a hardcover. A hardcover, I say!

A Few Tips for Persevering when Writing

- Do not share a whole lot with non-writers, no matter how close they are to you. The feedback will largely be discouraging.
- Join some aspiring writers' forums. There are lots of them full of people just like you and completely different from you who will gladly share your pain, frustration and successes. I like www.AbsoluteWrite.com myself. SPAWN is another good one (www.spawn.org).
- Get intimate with the *Writer's Market* website and material. This is the number one resource for writers who want to get published in my opinion (www.writersmarket.com).
- Mix it up a little. Take a break from a main project, like a book, and do a hobby newsletter article or something that will generate some positive feedback on your writing.
- Learn to “write in the cracks.” The cracks in your day are those pieces of time between all the things that you have to do. I still write the majority of my first drafts in a spiral notebook because I can pull it out anywhere, anytime and anyplace to write for a few minutes or a few hours. And many of my very best scenes have come from a 15-minute burst of inspiration during a coffee break at work.
- Write something just for yourself with no intention of publishing it or even sharing it. Make it something very personal. Writing can be extremely therapeutic when used to look inside your soul.
- Go back and read some of the old stuff you have written so you can see how much you have improved/changed over the years. It doesn't matter if it was published or not.

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The New Unpublished Writer

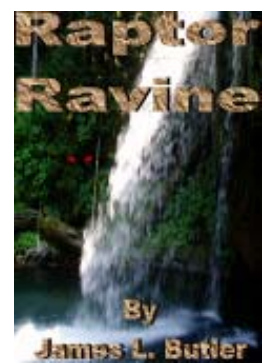
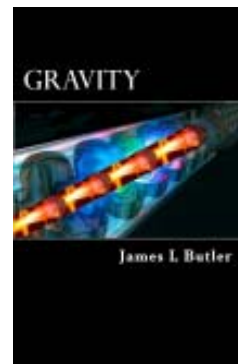
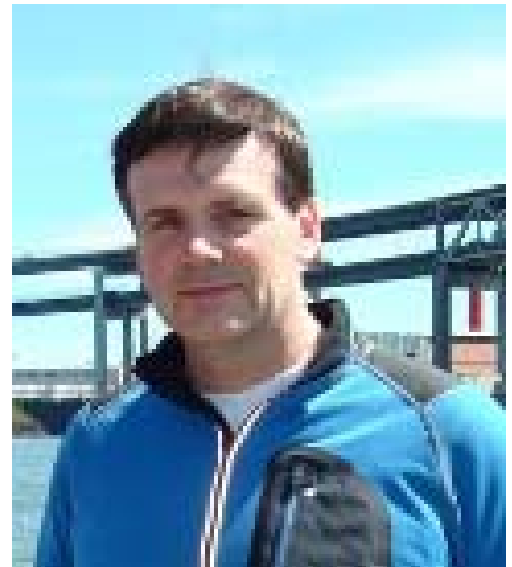
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- Never ever start a project with any thought about the potential income you might receive. Just focus on making it the best it can be and the rest will follow.
- Celebrate little victories like finishing a chapter, getting a response to a query (including rejections!), really loving something you have just written.
- If you have had something published, anything at all, even a short article in the swim club newsletter that people like, keep it, put it on your wall and read it often. I promise you that every time you read that article, you will find a little voice inside saying “See, I am a writer. I really am.”
- Most importantly, be honest with yourself about why you want to be/are a writer and set your goals accordingly.

About the Author James L. Butler



James L. Butler made his first attempt to write a book in sixth grade and has been writing novels for over twenty-five years, mostly science fiction for adult readers. While primarily interested in book length projects, James enjoys all types of writing from professional business articles to non-fiction short stories to newsletter contributions. He has had many articles published in hobby magazines, business publications and club newsletters. He won the “Alumni Student Writing Award” for a reference paper on professional sports while attending Walsh College and currently has two books available on Amazon.com in paperback and e-book formats: *Gravity*, a science fiction novel and *Raptor Ravine*, a children’s adventure novel set in the Oregon Coast forest (www.facebook.com/raptorravine). And James plans on having his hilarious real-life stories of being raised on a farm published in Publishing Syndicate’s new *Not Your Mother’s Book* anthology series!



Tell Your Story at ImaStory.com

Rolland Love, a *Wow Principles* e-newsletter family member, made us aware of his new company *ImaStory* (www.ImaStory.com).

The website-based company can be found at www.ImaStory.com. Here, people can write their life stories and share with others, for free. While I didn't submit a story, I did zip around the website;

during this "zipping," I realized I should have captured more of the wonderful stories my late grandmother told to me while so I to share them with my children and their children.

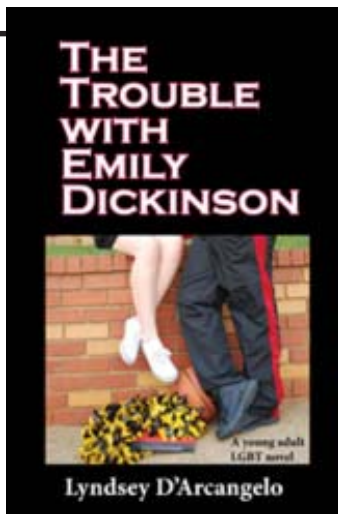
"Every life is a reservoir of stories. *ImaStory* can help you write your own memoir or guide you through interviews," Rolland explained. "*ImaStory* can help you capture your life's written journey, and your story will be saved for future generations."

While *ImaStory* eagerly invites users of all ages to create their family story legacy, they are focusing on getting young people involved. "I'm working to get more children to interview and write the life stories of their parents and grandparents. If you are aware of any teachers who might want to help, please pass along the idea.

ImaStory is fun, free, easy to use and has a specific Lesson Plan for educators and a question guideline for students. The plan provides a tool for schools, churches, not-for-profits and other organizations for creating not only life stories, but also a friendlier and more productive community environment," said Rolland. "And as a side idea, the stories created by these groups can be printed and the books sold to friends and families as fundraisers."

For more information, visit www.ImaStory.com or Rolland Love at rolland@imastory.com.

— Dahlynn



Check Out our Newest Release!

Publishing Syndicate is proud to announce the release of a young adult LGBT book: *The Trouble with Emily Dickinson*. Authored by Lyndsey D'Arcangelo, who is also the creator of the *My Story is Out* anthology currently under production (see page 6), this book is the first in a series of books targeted at the growing LGBT market. *The Education of Queenie McBride* will be the next book in the series and is scheduled for release in August 2012.

Download *The Trouble with Emily Dickinson* for **free** at Smashwords! The secret code to use at checkout is **XL22D**. Enjoy!

STORIES NEEDED!

Updated 3/29/12

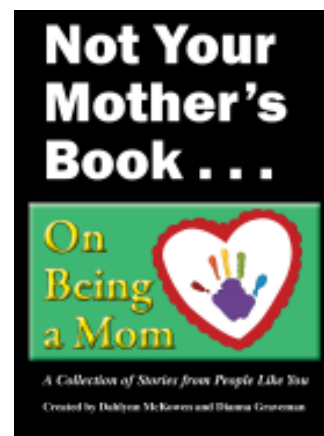


Not Your Mother's Book & OMG! My Reality!

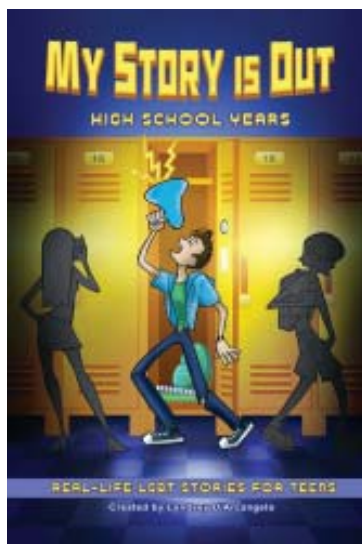
Submit your stories for two anthology series: *Not Your Mother's Book* and *OMG! My Reality!* Nearly 40 NYMB titles are listed on our website, along with details about each book.

In April's issue of the *Wow Principles*, we will explain the *OMG! My Reality!* in more detail, and how young writers, up to age 25, can get

involved with this great anthology. In the meantime, young writers can visit our website, read the submission guidelines and submit their real-life stories now. Please share with the young writers in your life.



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My Story is Out: High School Years

*The nation's newest anthology series
for the LGBT community!*

Created by Lyndsey D'Arcangelo

Attention LGBT teens and college-aged kids! Lyndsey needs stories for her book, so please pass along this information. Contributors who make the book will be paid royalties! www.MyStoryIsOut.com.

Dream
of
ThingsSM

Dream of Things has a great line-up of anthology books. On their website, be sure to click on the "Workshop" tab for a listing of titles. Good luck!

www.DreamofThings.com

Go for it! Get published! 