

START TO FINISH:

DRESSING UP: TAKING CRITICISM, REVIEWS, AND REJECTION

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So this is the final article, the last piece of the puzzle that is your story. It's really more of an advice piece, but the value is no less than the other articles you've read so far. We're going to talk about taking criticism, getting reviews, and dealing with rejection. In addition, we'll talk about the time it takes, and what you want to do now that you're done. So let's go on talking about that last step of the process.

Taking Criticism, Getting Reviews, and Dealing With Rejection

At the finish of your book, you've named it, shared it, and bonded with it over massive amounts of editing. It's your best friend in some ways now, you've been through a lot together. You overcame criticism before, but now you need to think about what lies in store for the future. After all, you're going to edit that book and take it back out there for updated feedback. What happens if you get more criticism? You overcome it and do as they suggest? You ignore it and keep what you have? Well this is really up to you, because you are the one that wrote the book...not them. You can choose to take into consideration what their suggestions were, but if you're comfortable with your additions and changes, then you make the final decision to keep it or change it.

Getting Reviews is much the same way, just on a slightly more serious scale. You're actually putting this book in the hands of someone that does reviews specifically. You're looking to get an opinion that may affect how others view your book in the future. It's nervous work to be sure, but think of it as another form of criticism, they will read it and tell you what they liked and things like positives or negatives to the story. You might get a rating on the book, every review system is different but, you'll know what they think pretty easily. It's nothing to be afraid of, it just means you've either impressed them or you have some work you can put into it. Also, don't let one review get you down. Sure listen to the advice but, make the decision on your own to go to a second opinion.

Finally dealing with rejection. This is probably the hardest one to overcome. You've spent time-oh so much time and effort on this story. A lot of late nights probably went into the creation of this book, and you hear, "Not interested." That my friend is the sound of rejection and hits you right in the squishy parts. You've had this view

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Highlights:

- Harsh but honest
- The Time It Takes
- What Do You Want To Do Now?

of your book for so long, been building it up to get to this point, and you get this harsh answer. You may not even get any reason why.

This is where your dreams of how your book looks and sounds to other people makes the switch from your perspective to reality. It's harsh and honest, the voice that decides they don't like it simply because of whatever reason. It may be a crowd that does this. All I can encourage you to do in that instance is to find a group suited to your book's style. So shake it off and again, don't let it get you down. No matter what form of opposition or negative answer you get, use it as a learning experience. Don't let other people decide that you can't successfully do something...especially if they've never even gone through the rigorous process themselves.

Challenge them by making your book amazing and beloved by all who read it. You don't have to take anybody's trash talk, and you shouldn't give up just because someone doesn't like what you do.

Writing a book isn't a skill you pick up over time of practice, it's a talent based in the ability to let your imagination create, work hard at forming it into something understandable, nurture that something by sacrificing your own time, having patience when you're tapped out of ideas, allowing that idea to take shape as a story, and taking the constructive and destructive criticism apart to find the gems of advice hidden in both. Above all, it's the ability to not give up, no matter how many times you get kicked down. Not everybody has that talent, so not everybody understands the toil and effort that goes into bearing its weight. Anybody can write but, not just anybody can be a writer.

So Congratulations, you've gotten through everything and you've got a great story on your hands...what do you want to do with it?

The next series of articles are going to be about publishing and self-publishing so, if you want to go in this direction be sure to check out the next series. As always, I'll be posting on my blog and now on twitter as new articles come up.

Love to see you there,

Whitney