

THE WRITER'S MANIFESTO

Stop Writing to Be Read & Adored

By Jeff Goins

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THE END

I'm a **writer**.

I could say that I love to write.
But really, I like to be read.

A lot.

For too long, my fragile ego
has depended on the affirmation of others.

I have tried in vain
to please my audience (both real and imagined)
and win them over.

This has plagued me for years.

So I'm giving up.

I'm falling back in love with writing.
With the actual craft.
And not the disease of fame.

I'm kicking my addiction to applause.
And learning to write for myself again.

This has been both therapeutic and challenging.

And I am finding that I am **not alone.**

Writers everywhere
are rediscovering their first love: writing.

Not tweets
or publishing contracts
or blog comments.

Just writing.

This manifesto is an outstretched hand to others who feel this same tension between creativity and congratulations.

If this resonates with you, **read on.**

A quick word of warning
before we continue...

Be prepared to be challenged.
And to be **generous**.

Because when this is over,
I am going to ask you to do something.

To start writing for the **right** reasons.

CALL TO ARMS

Writers don't write to get published.

They write for **another** reason.

This is the first and *only* lesson
every writer must learn.

Real writers don't write for recognition.

They don't do it for fame,
accolades,
or notoriety.

They do it because they cannot *not* write.

By their gifts
and under the authority
of a higher calling,

they are **compelled to create.**

To wonder.
To dream.
To express.

Real writers wake up every morning
with something to say.

Even if the words have yet to come.

They discipline themselves to start.
Forsaking every excuse and justification.

Questions of *how long* or *how much* are irrelevant.

What is imperative,
what cannot be overlooked
or neglected,
is that they **begin**.

Real writers
do not begin the day with aspirations
of seeing their words in print.

Nor do they dream of being stopped on the street
to be congratulated for their genius.

This is natural, of course.

This desire to be heard.
To be acknowledged as an artist.

But ultimately it corrupts the art,
the pure desire to create.

We must put these ideas
of fame and reward to death.

They have no place
in the creative process.

The true writer simply shows up.
Ready to do the work.

Whether the work is successful
or acknowledged
is not important.

Creating is our primary concern.

Real writers do not need inspiration
or an audience to begin.

They know, without question,
that their greatest adversary and ally
is themselves.

And that they are **not alone.**

Real writers recognize that there is a hidden force.

Acting upon them.
Guiding them.
And leading them.

The wisest writers call upon this force,
taking the time to learn how to wield it well.

They do this **every day**.

But this is not an excuse to wait.

It is a call to begin.
To honor the gift.
To show up.

Even without applause.

Again, the **whole point**
of this is simply...

Writers don't write to get published.
They write for the love of **writing**.

Because if they were not writing,
they wouldn't know *what* to do.

Of course, there is a great irony to all of this.

As we disabuse ourselves
of the desire to entertain,
we writers discover something.

That this fasting from acclaim
liberates us to create
remarkable works of art.

And people reward great art.

Here is the paradox:

As we care less about our audience's affections,
more people will be affected by our writing.

They will applaud it.
They will venerate it.

And congratulate those responsible.

Some day.

Until then, you and I are not excused from creating.

BEGINNING

It's time.

To dream boldly and imagine impossibilities.

To conjure up words and phrases
the world is waiting to hear.

To turn off email and stop checking blog stats.

To stop worrying.

And just write.

It's time to begin.

This is not up to you.

This whole process
of getting discovered
and becoming famous.

Of being revered for your wit and profundity.

It's not your call.

Your job is to show up.

We only have today.

That is all we are ever promised.

And today, we must write.

The real writer within you is waiting.

FINALE

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

This is *but one* manifesto.

There is another stirring somewhere inside of you.

It is up to *you* to write it.

I hope you will.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

To find out more about *The Writer's Manifesto* and how you can get involved in this community of writers, misfits, and creatives committed to the craft,

visit this page.

Or copy and paste this address in your browser:
Goinswriter.com/writers-manifesto/

SHARE THIS MANIFESTO

You are welcome to share this manifesto with anyone and everyone.

I only ask that you do not sell or change it in any way. Here are some ways to share:

Twitter | Facebook | Comments

For more ideas on how to share this manifesto and to offer feedback, visit [The Writer's Manifesto page](#).

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeff Goins is a writer, speaker, and idea guy.

He lives in Franklin, Tennessee with his wife, Ashley, and dog, Lyric, and eats just enough Mexican food to be dangerous.

Read more at Goinswriter.com/about.

Connect with him:

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You are not alone.