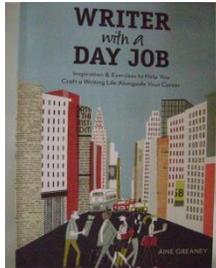


# Writer with a Day Job

By Aine Greaney



I'm a writer with a day job. Actually, I'm a writer with a day job and a half (lawyering and teaching). I find it difficult to write with all the other distractions that pop up, so I was looking forward to reading this book.

In the first chapter, which is about setting goals, I thought I'd hear the same tired information again. However, one question hit me: "What do you really want out of a writer's life?" The goal shouldn't always be on publication (although mine always is), since some people write for pure enjoyment, others to write their life history for their family, and so on.

The other gem in Chapter 1 is this: the word "but" has no place in our vocabulary when we're setting goals. It's a limiting word that tells us what we can't do or why we can't do something. We have to think in terms of possibilities instead.

The rest of the book has some tips for meshing your job and your writing life together. Some are to help be a morning writer, some to be an evening writer, some to help be a daytime writer. The bottom line is that everyone has a few minutes each day to jot something down; you just have to find it and make it work for you.

There are also cautions about using your employer's equipment, and creating characters that are close to family members, friends, and colleagues. I found these sections to be interesting and full of good advice.

I think some of the most valuable content is at the end of the book. There is an in-depth discussion about editing and revising. Ms. Greaney outlines several types of writers' groups, both face-to-face and online, and the kinds of writers they benefit. She includes the sometimes forgotten warning about posting content online—an editor that wants to acquire first American rights may pass on your work if it's already been published, i.e., you've posted it on the Internet.

After some of the chapters, there are also writing tutorials, to help with writing basics and maybe jumpstart your creativity. I found them to be mildly helpful, mostly because I wasn't looking for a "how-to-write" book, but a "how-to-write when careers try to get in the way" book. Therefore, to me, the exercises were a small bonus.

This book wasn't quite what I expected, but it did offer content that I found valuable. If you're struggling with the juggling, you will find several suggestions on how to fit your job into your writing life.