

Gregory A. Kompes, Editor

Issue 201

ISSN 1554-0804

November 13, 2008

This Week

In this Issue

- This Week
- Fabulist Flash Recommends
- 4 Paragraph Media Release
- Build Your Platform
- Call for Submissions
- Banned Books
- 18Q with Grace Tierney

Upcoming Events

November 1-30

[National Novel Writing Month](#)

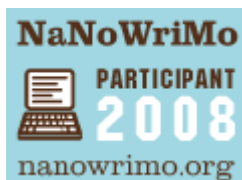
November 26

[Writer's Pen & Grill](#)

December 13

Oasis Writers

(Pahrump, NV) Gregory will present **Internet ACE: Online Self Promotion**.



Most of my week has been dedicated to Patchwork Path: Grandma's Choice. As the Production Director for this project, I've been getting the book ready for the printer. The cover is finished, the interior book design is completed, and the book is back in the hands of our editor for her final read of the galley proofs. Now that the book is out of my hand, it's on to book promotion.

Plus, I'm writing up a storm! What a thrill to cross over the 25K word

mark as part of my NaNoWriMo experience. As I write the new novel, I've noticed a few holes in the plot. Instead of taking the time to fix those problems, I'm making notes about them on my style sheet and continuing to push forward, not allowing myself to go back to early chapters and fix those problems. I'm determined to finish this draft by the end of the month. I'll fix the problems later. For me, this is an important tip to learn.

Working with 1-on-1 clients this week, I was asked lots of questions. This caused me to dust off and refresh a few notes, which are the core of this week's issue. I recommend Eva Shaw's DVD, Write Your Book in 20 Minutes, share my formula for the Four Paragraph Media Release, and offer a few tips to building your platform, plus there's an 18Q from Grace Tierney.

Keep Moving Forward!

~Gregory

Fabulist Flash Recommends

Write Your Book in 20 Minutes by Eva Shaw

While working with a 1-on-1 client this week, I taught him the Bubble Method, a brainstorming method I learned from Eva Shaw.

It was amazing that after learning the Bubble Method, my client actually brainstormed the entire outline of his book in about 20 minutes.

Dr. Shaw has a DVD that's fun and

informative that describes the entire Bubble Method process for \$19.95.

Learn more at tinyurl.com/6oxbxa

The Four Paragraph Media Release by Gregory A. Kompes

PP1. CITY, STATE, Month Day, Year: Who; What; Where; When; Why; How. Your first paragraph should stand on its own. Many editors will use your headline and first paragraph. So, don't save your "best" information for last, it might never be read.

PP2. Break down the main point in the Second paragraph. Make a relevant connection between your news and something currently happening in the world. Or, give a brief synopsis of your book.

- Using a Quote and/or Bullet Points adds interest.
- Bullet Points quickly convey information or ideas.

PP3. Include a relevant biography paragraph. Why you're qualified to write the

book, your home town, or other personal info that might be considered newsworthy.

PP4. Final Paragraph should be a "boiler plate" paragraph with details about your book (how and where to get it, cost, ISBN, website, etc.) Like the first paragraph, this one should stand on its own.

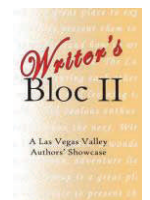
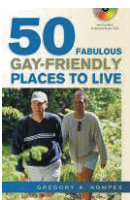
Format

- Keep your release to One Page
- Double Space (or at least 1.5)
- Leave plenty of margin space and white space
- Use easy to read fonts, limit the graphics, keep your release clean and to the point

Style

- Keep the text short and simple. Use clear, accessible, everyday language. Technical or highly academic descriptions sound boring or may confuse. Avoid abbreviations and acronyms as the journalist may not be familiar with your organization.
- Avoid long sentences. Complicated sentence construction is a problem when information is being read over the radio or television. Try to limit your sentences to 20-25 words.
- Write from the media outlet's point of view. Think about what will make your story relevant to their readers, listeners or viewers

Books by and with Gregory A. Kompes



All Titles Available at www.Kompes.com

Build Your Platform by Gregory A. Kompes

It's never too early or too late to build a platform because book promotion never ends!

Platform = your background + your message + your audience.

Take Advantage of Online Self Promotion

One of the best ways to build your audience and spread your

message is through online self promotion, blogging, and social networking. Most authors have more time than money and internet tools are relatively cheap to take advantage of and easy to learn.

Hire a Publicist

While expensive, publicists have the inside track on others who promote books and authors. For a top-notch campaign, check out Newman

Communications (www.newmancom.com). I had a 30 day campaign with Newman that got me about 30 radio interviews!

Be creative

Whether money is an issue or not, being a creative marketer helps the media and your audience take notice of you and your campaign.

Call for Submissions

Patchwork Path: Friendship Star, Choice Publishing Group is seeking stories and essays about friends and friendship.

Submission Deadline:
March 31, 2009.

Submission Guidelines:
<http://patchworkpath.com>

Nevada Arts Council Jackpot Grants for individual artists applying to fund projects occurring in Jan 1-March 31, 2009, a post-mark deadline.

Submission Deadline:
November 17, 2008

Submission Guidelines:
http://nevadaculture.org/docs/arts/programs/grantsprogram/jackpot_artist_grant.htm

Grapes of Wrath (1939) by John Steinbeck



Novel by John Steinbeck, published in 1939. Set during the Great Depression, it traces the migration of an Oklahoma Dust Bowl family to California and their subsequent hardships as migrant farm workers. It won a Pulitzer Prize in 1940. The work did much to publicize the injus-

tices of migrant labor. The narrative, interrupted by prose-poem interludes, chronicles the struggles of the Joad family's life on a failing Oklahoma farm, their difficult journey to California, and their disillusionment once they arrive there and fall prey to a parasitic economic system. The

insularity of the Joads--Ma's obsession with family togetherness, son Tom's self-centeredness, and daughter Rose of Sharon's materialism--ultimately gives way to a sense of universal community.

Grace Tierney Takes the 18Q

1. Did you choose the writing profession or did it choose you?

I chose it. Or at least, I did in the end. I spent six years studying computing at university and a decade working in that field before the pull of writing forced me to choose it for the sake of my own sanity.

2. What is your background? (education, work, etc.)

I've a BSc and MSc in Computer Applications (I.S. to American readers). I grew up in a house (in Dublin, Ireland) packed with books and my own house (in rural Ireland) is much the same today. My computer background helps with research, Web site maintenance, and self-publishing work. I'd like to think it helps me to organize and meet deadlines too, but my old boss probably wouldn't recognize that side of me! My earlier education focused on the arts side of things - I speak French, German and Irish in addition to English and I adored studying art and art history. Needless to say, English was my favorite class. I started writing in 2001.

3. When did you 'know' you were a writer?

When I sold my first short story to StoryHouse Coffee in

2002. It appeared on coffee tins across North America and the check is on my study wall today. I'd made earlier non-fiction sales, but somehow that 200 word piece of flash meant more.

4. How would you describe your style of writing?

Conversational, I write the way I speak, or the way characters speak in my head. I aim for humor as much as possible. There's enough sobriety in this world already.

5. What is your writing process?

I get great ideas when I'm walking. I scribble those into my writing notebook before I forget them and work them up into an outline on my computer later. For books that will at least be a one liner for each chapter. For stories I will often write the first draft straight-away when the idea is still on fire in my head. For articles I'll be more structured, thinking about illustrations, sidebars, a good hook and ending, researching quotations etc and then just filling in the gaps with the best writing I can muster. I'll sometimes just get a spark from reading a submission call. Those ones almost write themselves in one sitting and often result in publication.

6. What was your path to publication?

I hadn't a clue how to approach editors with queries at the start of my career, so I began with entering no-fee writing contests. I gathered a few clips that way, went to Skyros in Greece to study with Sue Townsend (bestselling English author of "The Diary of Adrian Mole") and discovered myself with a group of like-minded souls, many of them very talented, but most of whom lacked the confidence to submit their writing anywhere. I had more clips than most of them despite feeling like a novice. That, and hearing them laugh at my written one-liners, made me realize that I could really "do this". As for book publication - my two long-running columns (one for Netsurfer Digest and one for Writing Online) failed me in January 2006. Both publications closed down. It was a blow to my writing income, but more importantly it gave me time to finally tackle larger projects. I began with "Positive Thoughts for Writers" (a day by day source of advice and inspiration for novice and experienced writers on how to write better and how to succeed in this business) and now I'm releasing the Writing Contest Expert series of books of writing contest listings - the Fiction guide is out now with Poetry, Non-fiction, Contests for Younger Writers (which will be a free guide), and Stage & Screen in the works for 2008.



Are you a published author?

Take the award winning

Eighteen Questions!

www.EighteenQuestions.com

Grace Tierney Takes the 18Q

7. What is your favorite self-marketing idea?

I like author bios. When I first started writing I read them on every article and searched for the markets they'd published in as potential markets for myself. I hate writing my own (what writer doesn't?), but I reckon if a reader has read to the end of your article, they've enjoyed it. If they've enjoyed it, then it's time to plug your other work! I always write the best articles I can, and then I hope that their quality will drive readers to my other work. I'm also planning to use my skills as a jewelry-maker (I started aged nine) to generate unique prizes for my promotional contests, hence marrying two passions of mine.

8. What are the biggest surprises you've encountered as a writer?

How approachable editors are. How simple edits can raise a piece of writing from mundane to sparkling (try strong verbs, no passive voice, and no adverbs for a start...). How a piece of writing you've forgotten on the Web can generate a great opportunity for you later - I've landed friends, jobs, and my first speaking engagement that way. My latest book (the first in the Contest Expert Series) "The Writing Contest Expert's Guide to Fiction Contests" was a direct response to

queries from writers finding my old columns from the now defunct Writer Online e-zine. I wrote a column about writing contests there for five years and it seems a shame to let my expertise go to waste when writers are constantly looking for new issues of the column - hence the book series!

9. How do you inspire yourself? What are your sources of creativity?

As I said earlier, walking seems to free my mind to generate ideas. I enjoy a huge variety of creative crafts (jewelry-making, cooking, gardening, wine-making, card-making, crochet) and that keeps the spark going too, and my kids are a constant source of humour and inspiration. They're young enough to have a novel perspective on the entire universe. I try to emulate them.

10. What is your proudest writer moment?

Selling the first copy of my book "Positive Thoughts for Writers." It's a topic close to my heart but the editing, publishing and promotion of it were a rewarding but steep learning curve for me, so I felt justly proud.

11. What's the best advice you were given about writing?



My editor Lawrence Nyveen at the now defunct Netsurfer Digest gave all new team-members a copy of his "bootcamp" - a simple document with rules of syntax, grammar and style for the publication. I'd never seen anything like it before and I still use it to do the initial proof-read on my work.

12. What is your most embarrassing writer moment?

I'm not sure I have one. I find it hard to be embarrassed unless I'm face-to-face with someone and I usually work for editors and readers that I never meet. I've yet to reveal any of my writing to my mother though, so I guess I'm embarrassed about that. My most embarrassing moment ever was when, as a school-girl, I fainted in front of a class full of 11 year olds. Apparently my friend stood up and screamed "Grace is DEAD!" I still meet people who remember that, sigh.

Are you a published author?

Take the award winning

Eighteen Questions!

www.EighteenQuestions.com

Grace Tierney Takes the 18Q

13. What business challenges have you faced as a writer?

I find my writing income is far from steady throughout the year. Some months are terrific and others are drier than a pub on Good Friday (the one day a year when pubs close in Ireland). Smoothing that curve is a real challenge. I'd also love to be better at marketing and promotion but I'm working on it. It doesn't come naturally to generally modest Irishwomen to brag about our work, we were reared to think it rude.

14. What is your writer life philosophy?

If you don't submit it, you'll never get someone to read it, much less get paid for it. Sometimes you have to stop editing and revising and just send the thing. Don't miss deadlines, a reputation for that will kill your career. Use the Web, it's your best ally. But don't say anything on it you could regret later, as it will haunt you.

15. When you're not writing what do you do for fun?

I don't get much "me time" as I've two pre-schoolers. But I love gardening (I grow organic fruit and veg and herbs), reading (of course), walking (particularly on our local beaches or in Connemara when possible), and any craft that

takes my fancy - there's just something very soothing about making something with my hands. I hand-sewed my first patchwork quilt this year for my daughter's cot.

16. Who do you like to read?

People laugh at me because I read everything, even the ingredients on toothpaste. Having said that, I enjoy Christopher Brookmyre (Scottish black humor), Diana Gabaldon (escapist historic romance), Irish and UK chicklit (Katie Fforde and Marian Keyes are particularly good), and ever since reading the "Patagonian Express" I've enjoyed travel-writing. I used to read thrillers, crime-stories, and adventures tales by the bucket-load but struggle to find plots too hard for me to guess these days. But I really will try any type of writing - check out my Web site at www.gracetierney.com for the list of books I've reviewed and you'll get a flavor of that eclecticism.

17. What's your advice for new writers?

Don't give up. The more you write, the better you will get. The more you read, the better you will get. There comes a point when you start analyzing the books or articles you read and start thinking "I see how

they did that" or "I could write that better" - that's your target. Also, prepare to be surprised by how nice other writers are - ask for help, join forums, get a critique partner or group, subscribe to writing e-zines - immerse yourself in writing. But most of all, if you don't submit your work, you will never sell it.

18. What are you currently working on?

I've just landed a regular column again (for my local paper) but my jobs until the end of this year are promotion of the Writing Contest Expert series, my first ever stab at a NaNoWriMo novel (chick-lit), and writing "The Writing Contest Expert's Guide to Poetry Contests". Anybody who'd like to list their contest or hear when the rest of the series is released, check out my Web site to join my mailing list - I even run the odd contest there for readers and writers.

Bibliography

The Writing Contest Expert's Guide to Fiction Contests

Positive Thoughts for Writers

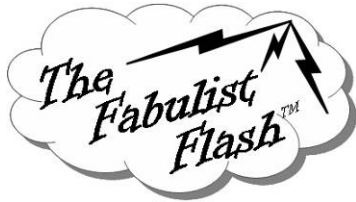


FABULIST FLASH PUBLISHING

PO Box 570368
Las Vegas, NV 89157

702-870-8314

editor@fabulistflash.com



Information and Inspiration

www.FabulistFlash.com

Have you missed an issue of The Fabulist Flash? Visit The Fabulist Flash Archives.

To subscribe to The Fabulist Flash Newsletter, visit <http://www.FabulistFlash.com> and type your email into the box at the top of the page.

The Fabulist Flash, Fabulist Flash Recommends, Writerpreneur, LAMOO Books, See Them Before They Die, and the Eighteen Questions (18Q) are trademarks of Fabulist Flash Publishing.

Privacy Policy: The Fabulist Flash is sent to opt-in subscribers only. The Fabulist Flash email subscriber list is **never** sold, lent, or otherwise shared with anyone.

Fabulist Flash articles and reviews by Gregory A. Kompes may be reprinted with the following resource box:

Gregory A. Kompes provides information and inspiration in The Fabulist Flash, a weekly newsletter for writers. <http://www.FabulistFlash.com>.

About the Editor



Gregory A. Kompes is the author of the bestselling *50 Fabulous Gay-Friendly Places to Live*, and the Writer's Series that includes *Endorsement Quest*, *So, You Wanna be a Writer*, *Should You Write an Ebook*, and *Creating Your Online Media Kit*. He is also a

contributing author to *Chopped Liver for the Gentle Spirit*, *Chopped Liver for the Kindred Spirit*, *The Complete Writer's Journal*, and *Writer's Bloc*. Gregory is editor of *The Fabulist Flash*, an informative newsletter for writers, the *Patchwork Path* series, and *Eighteen Questions*, a Q&A series that collects and shares the experiences of published authors, chosen a Writer's Digest "101 Best Website for Writers" in 2007 and 2008. The author speaks frequently at conferences and teaches online

courses on Internet Marketing and co-host's the monthly Writer's Pen & Grill in Las Vegas, NV.

Gregory holds a *Bachelor of Arts* in English Literature from Columbia University, New York, a certificate in Online Teaching and Learning, and a *Masters of Science in Education* from California State University, East Bay.