

The Proof Angel Summary of

Resources for authors 2015

Writing tips from Billy Wilder

Billy Wilder was one of the most respected screenwriters and directors of the twentieth century. He won 6 Oscars. He talked a lot of common sense. Here are his [tips for writers](#).

Have you tried publishing an anthology?

Anthologies don't just collect your work into a satisfyingly thick book. There are all sorts of other benefits as well, as you have another product to promote. Read more about [creating anthologies](#) here.

So you think you have finished a novel...

There are still some people think that once you have typed "The End" the job of an author is done. I have stopped being surprised when people tell me their book only needs proofreading, because they have been through it themselves once already.

If any of you don't understand why a draft is not ready for proofreading after a single read through, I suggest you read [On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft](#) by Stephen King. It is easy to read and full of practical information about the real world faced by authors. For a quicker idea of what happens after the first draft, [try this post](#).

How to make your novel memorable

Does your novel lack that je ne sais quoi?

Do you want it to stick in the reader's mind?

Try this post on making your novel [more memorable](#). At least one of the 17 ways must help, surely?



The Proof Angel is the trading name of Sarah Perkins, freelance editor and proofreader.

The business side of being an author

Years ago, an author would find a publisher, and perhaps an agent, who would handle all the business activities. The author largely focused on the writing.

These days, that is beginning to sound as realistic as the idea of having a self tidying house. Even those with an agent and a publisher are expected to cover some of the non-writing activities now.

The Economist gives an insight into the [business side of being an author](#).

Making your characters believable

Sometimes when we create characters, we focus on certain aspects that interest us, or fit the story we have in mind.

That is all very well, but if each character is to be believable, there needs to be some kind of framework behind them.

This post reminds us of the [many influences on us in the real world](#), including factors like genetics, upbringing, caregivers, past wounds, environment, and peers. Fictional characters need to seem as though they have a similar range of influences to appear believable.

How to use trade marks and brand names

Trade marks and brand names crop up often in our daily lives these days. It follows that they will crop up in stories that are set in the real world.

If you don't pay attention to how you use them, you can create problems for yourself. Get a brief outline of how to [stay out of trouble here](#). Remember, if things get at all complicated, you should always get proper advice, just in case.

Useful resources for self publishers

Are you a self publisher? Have you considered the range of marketing resources available to you? This is a useful [check list of resources](#).

How to give constructive writing criticism that actually helps

There is an art to giving constructive criticism. Once you've narrowed down what needs to be said, it can be difficult to get the message over. Here are some [hints to help](#).

Creating satisfying scene endings

Knowing when to stop can be hard. Sometimes writers give the feeling that they have stopped because they are stuck for something else to say. There is no feeling that a conclusion has been reached. This problem doesn't just apply to the end of a book.

It can be difficult to end each scene. This post explains [6 ways to create satisfying scene endings throughout your story](#).

Be a successful writer!

Here is a collection of posts encouraging you to be a successful writer:

- [10 key questions that can determine your success as a writer.](#)
- [8 secrets that writer's won't tell you.](#)
- [The Yes Manifesto.](#)
- [Why You Shouldn't Be A Writer.](#)
- [Why You Should Be A Writer.](#)
- [The surprising truth about successful writers.](#)
- [Writing through the distractions of life.](#)

Social media for authors

Social media offers a good way for authors to promote their books. Are you confused about what to do, and where to do it? This will [point you in the right direction](#).

How to create interesting characters

If only it were as straightforward as reading a couple of blog posts & getting on with it! We all know life isn't like that, but you have to start somewhere, don't you? Here is a useful post in 2 parts:

- [Part 1](#)
- [Part 2](#)

Using Pinterest to promote your book

Pinterest is a wonderful invention. It is more flexible than keeping a scrapbook, and keeps down the clutter. And best of all, you can include other people's findings in your scrap books.

Once you get over that excitement, there are benefits for businesses. Like any other form of social media, Pinterest allows you to use the network it creates to reach your target audience. This post explains how authors can use [Pinterest for book promotion](#).

Three ways to introduce your characters in the first few lines

Beginning a piece of writing is always difficult. So is introducing a new character. Introducing new characters at the beginning is particularly hard. Find out [how to approach the problem here](#).

Managing the business of being a writer

In the old days, a writer could focus on writing. The processes of producing and marketing the book would be handled by the publisher. Even if you have a publisher

these days, you will need to handle at least some of the business aspects of being an author yourself. This collection of posts may help:

- Before you write to agents, plan for when you [get the call](#) in response.
- Some authors are [making the leap from traditional publishing to Indie](#), because self publishing may now be your best choice.
- And another: [consider self-publishing](#).
- [7 dirty little book publishing secrets that every writer needs to know](#).
- [How to write a book description](#)
- [How to deal with people judging you and your work?](#)
- [100 of the Best Websites for Writers](#).
- [How to be a prolific writer and hold down a day job at the same time!](#)
- [Stop waiting to be picked](#).

Different ways to publicise your work

Is your marketing campaign going through a difficult patch? Do you need a different type of advertising? This post has [71 different types of advertising](#) to try.

Proust's questionnaire: 35 questions every character should answer?

All your characters in a story need to be believable. As well as having a back story, they all need to have values, principles, likes and dislikes, like the rest of us.

Here is a [questionnaire from Proust](#) to check whether your character hangs together.

And if you are going to these lengths, remember that all this sort of thing needs to stay in the background. Don't use it to pad your story.

How to create a solid story structure

Here are some useful reminders about [keeping your story on track](#).

How long should your book be?

The answer to this question depends on the type of book. This post [goes into more detail](#). Just remember that size isn't everything. Never pad your writing out just because you think the result is too short.

The 5 best tools to help you write

Most of us have favourite tools and methods. Every now and again, it does no harm to review them. Sometimes our needs have changed, and we have plodded on with the tools we are used to, in spite of the fact that there is now something better out there. This list might help [to streamline your processes](#).

Are you a writer in a rut?

If you are, then there is a chance you are telling yourself one of these [horrible things that writers tell themselves](#). And if you are, then the post has some sensible ideas about how to pull yourself round.

A bit about fanfiction

For those who are unfamiliar with this concept, here are some of [the basics you need to know](#).

3 tips for book launch press releases

A press release can be an important tool in your marketing kit. Find out [how to make it more effective here](#).

Overcoming 16 obstacles to being a successful writer

If only it were as simple as making a list and ticking them off, then [this list would work marvels](#). Even so, it is useful sometimes to remind yourself of what is needed to get results.

Getting the right concept for your novel

Getting the concept for your novel right can be difficult. Here are some notes to [point you in the right direction](#).

Writing from several points of view

If you write from the point of view of several different characters, it can liven up the whole story. It can also make it confusing, and readers will give up, because they can't keep track of it all. This post has [some tips to keep you out of trouble](#).

What makes a good story?

We all know that it isn't possible to come up with a magic formula for writing, but that doesn't mean analysis isn't useful.

Sometimes things like [this infographic](#) can just push you far enough in the right direction to get over a problem.

Why your book is not selling

After all the effort you put into producing a book, it is very demoralising if it doesn't sell. There could be all sorts of reasons for this, but it is worth thinking about the obvious ones first. Try this [check list](#).

How to plot a perfect scene in 10 minutes

Are you feeling optimistic? Well here is a post that can help you to [plot a perfect scene in 10 minutes](#). Or to be more realistic, the post might help you get back on track if you are struggling.

A book-publishing timetable

How long does it take to write a book? That question is a bit like how long is a piece of string, only more complicated. Some first drafts practically write themselves. Others need planning and research before you can even start.

The length of the writing process also depends on how much time you can devote to the relevant activities. Remember that you also have a life, and your enthusiasm will wax and wane from time to time.

This infographic may help you to get your head round [setting a target](#).

Remember that you will also need to plan in time for editing, proofreading, designing, deciding on the publishing method, and getting the marketing effort under way.

Writing the front and back matter

Most writers are only really interested in writing the main part of the book. That is the interesting part, after all. Unfortunately, as with most other things in life, you need to attend to some less interesting things before you can publish.

This post on [writing front and back matter](#) for your self-published book could be a good starting point.

Is Kindle Unlimited a good thing for writers?

As if there weren't enough decisions to be made with self-publishing, more keep cropping up. Should you sign up for Kindle Unlimited? Here is [one writer's perspective](#).

Using music in your writing

Sometimes it is useful to adopt a new approach to your work. This series of posts examines how you can use music in your work:

- [pacing](#)
- [memories](#)
- [using music to layer characters](#)

Producing audio books

To reach the widest audience, you need to present your book in as many formats as possible. This post explains about [making an audio book](#) with Amazon ACX.