

The Search for a Title

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I actually know someone who creates a title first – one he just loves – and then writes his story.

For me, the title may come early. It may be a thing of beauty, one of those that rolls off your tongue, intrigues and beckons.

Or I might finish the work and still be searching for a title. “It’s First Flinch,” I’ll say if pushed. “Until we come up with something better.”

What’s in a name, afterall? It’s the welcome mat to your story. It’s the tag line, the signpost. Subtly or otherwise, it’s a clue to your tale. It will attract its audience.

I’ve taken to finding words – not sentences, but a word or three – that applies to my story. Winter, law, truth. Then I can sit with a thesaurus, a dictionary, and a reference on quotes, and start digging. I keep finding better words, better thoughts, until something finally clicks.

There is no magic formula, for me. It’s more a question of an ‘AH HA!’ moment, where in a flash you know you have something. And sometimes that flash is tiny. You know this is okay, but you yearn for something better.

And sometimes the deadline hits. You send it off with your best effort, and let it go.

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