To be a Writer – Your Best Guide is Inside

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A company on the web advertised looking for speakers. I applied.

They requested information, and provided an address. I snail-mailed my DVD, and then emailed my information. The DVD is returned marked 'address unknown', and I get an email back suggesting that I need to take their seminar to become one of their speakers.

They may be a legitimate company, and certainly I may not fit what they seek. But somehow it reminds me of the 'shadow' writing world in L.A. That is, the mass of folks making money off of people who desperately want to be writers.

You have to be careful with that. Like modern day snake oil salesmen, these gurus want you to take their class, buy their book. And oh so many will read and critique your script, for a fee. They promise to make it better — with no guarantees on actually selling it.

There are great teachers out there, and great sources of information, inspiration, and just plain common sense. There are also, sadly, those who prey off of the hopes and fears of others.

How does a writer cope?

Take responsibility for your art. That means ownership of where you are now and where you want to be. Make decisions both with common sense and with that innate 'gut' or 'heart' feeling.

Education is crucial. It is your responsibility to perfect your craft — and that's important whether you are writing bestsellers or cashing 7 figure checks — or working on your very first screenplay. Find the tools that work for you — in local colleges or schools, seminars, books. Keep in mind that what best serves you may not work for someone else.

And remember: nothing can replace writing itself.

If you really want to be a writer — or an actor, or a director, or whatever your dream is — then *write*.

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