

Anti-New Year's Resolutions for Writers

Dara Girard

JUST FOR TODAY I will not write. I will not think about writing, dream about writing, read about writing or talk about writing. I will watch TV, water the plants, dance naked about the living room or organize my groceries by color and sell by date so I don't have to write. I will whine about writing not done today and cringe at the thought of the writing I will face tomorrow.

JUST FOR TODAY I will be frustrated. I will cry at the sight of another rejection, throw a tantrum at a low contest score, and scream at bad reviews or critiques. I will agonize about how my work will be received then go shopping for whatever makes me feel happy. I will hate the writing process and become depressed about the industry statistics and the growing level of aliteracy.

JUST FOR TODAY I will wish for things to be different. I will visualize a better body, a seven-figure contract and international fame. I will try to change everything about my writing career and be annoyed when things stay the same.

JUST FOR TODAY I will envy successful, published writers. I will wallow in self-pity and think I have no hope of success. I will be miserable that their achievements aren't mine. I will see writing as a gift given to the lucky few.

JUST FOR TODAY I will be petty. I will begrudge those with good news and secretly delight at those with bad. I will gossip about others and complain about my disappointments.

JUST FOR TODAY I will eat whatever I bloody well please. I'll live on Pepsi, cigarettes and bon bons. I will stay on my couch and exercise my right to do nothing. I'll blame the world for my sorrows and wait for the Muse to give me a brilliant idea that will turn me into a best-selling novelist. I will let no one take that dream from me.

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