

## Too Many Authors?

Dara Girard

Something I heard a fellow author say gave me the perfect idea for this post. He said,

“There are too many damn authors.”

This was said with bitterness and grave annoyance. He went on to say, “There are too many books filling the shelves and yet you encourage people to write even though there are more people who write books than read them. Those who can’t stay in the game don’t deserve to be on the field and a book like yours (he’s referring to my book: *The Writer Behind the Words: Steps to Success in the Writing Life*) only does damage because it makes people think they can succeed when it really is only a matter of luck.”

Okay, I admit I was insulted. First, my years—not months--*years* of suffering through the rejection of my novels until I finally received “The Call” didn’t feel like “luck” to me. It was bloody hard work to start a new story every time I was told “Thanks, but no thanks” or even “Perhaps you should take a course to improve your craft” (ouch I was an English minor after all. I had studied writing. This editor just didn’t like my work.)

Second, I’m not deluding anyone. You only have to stay in publishing a little while to realize the hard work involved.

But I understood the author’s complaint. Most of it came from fear. Fear that there are not enough readers for all the writers out there. Here’s a load off your mind. There are.

Every book that was *meant* to be written *has been written* and every book that *needs* to be written *will be written*. What do I mean by *need*? If you have a story percolating in your mind and you have to get it on paper, do so. You were put on this earth to tell the story. I don’t care if it’s just a modern day version of the *Tortoise and the Hare* set in Istanbul. Write it down because it will be just the book someone is looking for.

Doom and gloom is nothing new. Remember this quote “ Our earth is degenerate in these latter days; there are signs that the world is speedily coming to an end; bribery and corruption are common; children no longer obey their parents; every man wants to write a book; indeed, the end of the world is approaching.” An Assyrian Inscription 1500 BC

Nothing has changed. People are still screaming about the end of the world. As writers we are basically involved in one giant conversation about life and living that will never end. This conversation can include many voices because the scope and depth of it is vast.

There are those who can encapsulate certain aspects of life brilliantly like Shakespeare or Moliere, authors whose voices ring louder than others such as present bestselling authors like Danielle Steel and Dean Koontz, but there are still smaller voices that need to be heard, and different angles of life that need to be explored.

I am not trying to paint a rosy picture of the writing life. I'm certainly not one to blithely say "Just think positive and all your hearts desire will come true." Bleh... However, I do believe how you view the world will reflect what you get out of it.

If you're determined to see younger or newer authors as competitors ready to take your place, life will be pretty miserable. If you think that every successful author has stolen a reader from you, you can bask in your limited vision. And if you think that there are too many books out there overwhelming readers you're going to miss the boat.

What's my solution? Relax and write your book, knowing that it will be part of a grand conversation that has *millions* of listeners.

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