

Posts

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🕒 March 30, 2016 👤 🗨️ Leave a comment



How and when did you decide, or discover, that you were to be a writer?

When I was little, I would sit completely still and allow my mother to read to me for hours. Of her five children, I was the only one who would submit to this. At school I was always very good at reading and writing, but I didn't compose anything "creative" until college. I won some awards at Penn State, then went out to Loyola Marymount to study under one of my favorite writers, Chuck Rosenthal. His novels (*The Loop Trilogy*) about my hometown, Erie, PA, were a major inspiration to me.

What inspired you to write flash fiction?

My short pieces often emerge from longer projects. If I write something that seems funny or interesting, but is too digressive for what I'm working on, I'll set it aside and try to mold it into a flash later.

Describe your writing process

As a freelance writer, I'm usually doing journalism of some variety during the day. I like to work on creative projects after dinner. It seems to burn calories and aid digestion. I never outline. I just write until I figure out what I'm writing about. This results in a lot of stuff getting tossed, but who cares? Chuck Rosenthal gave me a great piece of writing advice: "Your words aren't precious."

What was the inspiration behind what was published on FewerThan500.com?

I was working on a travel memoir, writing about Venice, Italy. In Venice, I had become convinced that a murderer in a white suit was following me. This was a paranoid delusion, brought on by too many martinis at Harry's Bar and a recent viewing of *The Comfort of Strangers*, which stars Christopher Walken as a white-suited Venetian killer. So I'm writing about my imagined imminent demise in Venice, Italy, when I start to think about this time I really did almost croak in Venice, California. I knew this flashback didn't belong in the travel memoir, but I wrote it anyway, and it eventually became "Death in Venice."

What are you working on now?

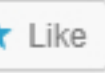
I'm still working on the aforementioned travel memoir. I've published a number of excerpts recently, and you can read them at [danmorey.weebly.com](#).

Read [Dan's story](#).

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