

# Niche Writing

As a kid, I'd steal away with my grandfather's copy of Reader's Digest and crawl into the space beneath the kitchen sink. There, I'd test my word power and peruse the jokes from Humor in Uniform. At the tender age of eight, I rarely laughed. Most of the jokes and shorts were far too complicated for a reader of my age group, but I read them anyway. I even managed to find common ground with a few of the contributors and laugh at some choice lines. Although I bumbled through a couple of the longer submissions, I persevered.

My point is, those contributors didn't worry about writing for someone of my age group. They didn't worry about which eyes might find their work in the pages of RD. They certainly never imagined their reader would be squirreled away under a sink. Simply, they wrote what they wanted to write and left it at that.

It's important to find your niche, your place in the sun. If you love to write fiction geared toward a YA audience, but you've been told your idea will never sell, write it. If your writing group has told you that the horror story you've been crafting for the last six months is too macabre for any publisher, write it. The range of accepted material varies from publisher to publisher. The only chance any writer has to publish his/her work is to land on the right desk at the right time. Don't let anyone change your mind about the foothold you've chosen or the climb you've decided to make. The cliff may look sheer to some, but if your grip is firm and your step is sure, you'll get there.

When I look back on my creative collection of past works, I realize why these pieces will never see the light of day. They're exquisitely terrible. No matter what desk they landed on, they most certainly would have been filed under "G." But that's okay. I've since published pieces that I thought nobody would ever want, pieces I thought were too dark for any publishing house. Each piece I've produced has been a learning experience, a chance to create something unique, and the opportunity to gain a new foothold and ascend to new heights. My journey has prepared me for the climb in the same way that yours has prepared you. Remember: Not everyone will like what you write, but that's okay! This is your journey and your chance to shine. Don't let someone else extinguish the candle you're holding for your unique work. In short: write the shit out of it.

[Janine Mercer](#)

EIC, Corvus Review

[www.corev.ink](http://www.corev.ink)