

# Time is a cruel mistress.

As a writer, you know it's important to set aside time to write. If you're an avid writer, putting in an average of 6k words a day, you know that micromanaging your time is a necessity for your productivity. For some, setting aside time to write can be a chore in itself because we all \*feel\* as if we don't have time to do even the most basic of tasks due to our abominable schedules. Some people are correct, they have no time to write. Their lives are a chaotic mishmash of events demanding every solitary moment of their day, if a solitary moment is even something these types can find. But not everyone suffers at the hands of the clock. Some of us can actually make time, pull it out of thin air, because we know our strengths and limitations. We have an idea and, come hell or high tide, we're going to get it out.

Now, for those of you scratching your head and trying to figure out how it's possible to get blood from a turnip (that is, those of you who think you've no time for your writing), not to fret. Finding time is as easy as looking at your schedule and forcibly shoving time to write into said schedule. If you're a writer, or call yourself a writer, you \*have\* to find time to scribble. That's just how the biscuit crumbles.

Below are some handy tips to help you fit writing into your life, just in case writing isn't your life. In which case, we have nothing in common. I digress.

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\*Take out your trusty schedule. Or Trapper Keeper. Or iPhone (which is more likely.) Evaluate your day.

It's easy to \*say\* we have no time in our day to write, but the schedule never lies. If you don't have a schedule and are complaining you have no time to write, this is your first mistake. Managing time in which you can be productive is essential. Look at your week and find gaps where you think you might be the most productive. For some of us, this time is in the morning, at 5 a.m., with a mug of black coffee. For others, it is right after the kids go to bed. Some people even go to bed at 9:30 p.m. and get up again at midnight because they're most productive at this time.

\*The full timer, otherwise known as the gainfully employed.

If you work a full time job, you have time during your day to write. It's called a lunch break. Get creative on your iPhone or jot down some ideas on a note pad. Carrying a small note book in your pocket will allow you to quickly keep track of your thoughts. Will you get down 6k words this way? Likely not. But jotting down your ideas will remind you of your writing commitment. It might even charge you up to want to write a little later in your day.

\*Sacrifice online time.

I know, you're starting to feel light headed. How will you survive if you are unaware of every social blip in your circle? Trust me, this will be good for you. Disconnect from distraction. Literally disconnect your internet and eliminate the distraction. Turn off your phone.

Many of us claim to have no time in our schedules, but we might spend an average of 14+ hours a week on social media sites. That's an awful lot of wasted creativity. So just unplug. Your muse will thank you.

\*Sacrifice time with your friends.

Writing, unless you're working on something as a collaborative effort, is generally a solitary practice. You need to find a comfortable place, make time for yourself within your "Cone of Silence" (if you don't get the Get Smart reference, you are sad indeed) and write. Alone. The rest of the world will simply have to survive on its own. You're writing. Jimmy and Sally (any reference to persons alive or dead is purely circumstantial) might want to trek to the mall for the latest sale. Will there be Starbucks? Likely. Will that thing you love be on sale for 50% off? Quite probably. Are you going? No. Why? You're writing, doing something you love for the good of your soul—and potentially your pocket book.

Change up the above situation any way you like, but you have to put the time in to get the results out.

\*There's an app for that!

There are many applications out there designed specifically for those who scribble. They range from time management to note taking and everything in between. I'm not a fan of Evernote personally, but if it works for you go for it. I'll provide these resources at the end of this post.

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The bottom line is, even if you set aside 15 minute chunks of time, you *can* find time to write and gather your thoughts. Will you finish your novel in record time? No, but you *will* be writing. If you don't use it, you lose it. So flex that writing muscle and get those creative juices flowing.

Wow..that was totally not supposed to be laced with sexual innuendo. Oh well. You get the idea. Sexual innuendos aside, I hope this helps.

Happy scribbling!

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