Self-publishing Steve: part 1: the dream begins

I CAN remember the precise moment when the idea dawned on me to self-publish a book. I was sitting in the well-appointed office of a senior editor, high up in a Manhattan skyscraper, in the proverbial lap of literary luxury. I had just told this editor about the next book I wanted to put into the world, a book I had been dreaming about for several years. It would consist of thirty one-page stories and thirty one-page essays on the psychology and practice of writing. As corny as this will sound--and I realize it sounds corny--I even had a title chosen: "This Won't Take but a Minute, Honey."

"Get it?" I asked the editor, rather too ardently. "Each piece takes less than a minute to read. The whole point is to tell readers, young readers especially, 'Listen, I know you're in a rush, you don't think literature has anything to do with you, but it does....'" On and on I went, babbling about the resurgence of micro fiction and the eventual redemption of literature in this age of joyous screen addiction.

Then I made the mistake of looking up at the editor. Her expression was one I'll never forget, a rictus of polite horror. It was as if, every time I opened my mouth, a tapeworm squirmed out. I am not blaming this particular editor--she was merely doing her thankless job, which consists of figuring out how she might extract a profit from my meager talents given the prevailing market--but gazing at her face, it was instantly clear to me that my brilliant idea stood no hope at all in the realm of commercial publishing.

Almost immediately, a dark vision seized me. There I was, staggering through the corridors of BookExpo America in a stained trench coat, hawking my mimeographed masterpiece. I could hear other authors murmuring in my wake, "Yeah, that's Steve Almond. He used to have a real publisher. Now look at him, the poor fool."

So, like any good self-preserving author, I went home and wrote the book that the editor wanted. It wasn't an onerous task. On the contrary, the book was a long silly riff about my obsession with music, and it provided me an excellent excuse to stalk my favorite songwriters. Still, I couldn't quite shake my original idea. I kept thinking about it when I should have been doing other things, such as copyediting the music book.

And then one night I went to a reading given by a couple of young authors who had books published by small presses. They talked about the ways in which the traditional, top-down model of publishing--with its bloated marketing departments and built-in publication delays, its insane retail return policy and massive transport costs--struck them as hopelessly outdated. Now that the means of book production had become widely accessible, it was time to embrace the DIY model. Rather than sitting around waiting for the New York Times Book Review to anoint them, they were busy building a...

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Steve’s favorite part of the writing process is when he’s written the last word of the book. He never has to read that book again or do any research connected with that book. He can move on to the next project. One of the rewards of self editing your work is your book reads better, and you feel better about it. Steve doesn’t like to be compared to other writers. He prefers to compare his own work to previous drafts. Self-Publishing options• Where is the most bang for the buck?• A brief tutorial – Create Space• Feed… Scribd will begin operating the SlideShare business on December 1, 2020 As of this date, Scribd will manage your SlideShare account and any content you may have on SlideShare, and Scribd's General Terms of Use and Privacy Policy will apply. If you wish to opt out, please close your SlideShare account. See more ideas about Writing, Self publishing, Writing tips. Figuring out how to choose the right word is a crucial part of your writing that directly correlates with your readers’ reaction to your content. Fiction Writing Writing Quotes Writing Advice Writing Resources Writing A Book Writing Prompts Writing Corner Story Inspiration Writing Inspiration. Protected Blog › Log in. Self-publishing can be a full-time a job, but it doesn't have to be. I was talking with someone the other day about the pros and cons to self-publishing, and his biggest concern (based on a conversation he had with an agent) was having the time to self-publish. You see, his agent told him that self-publishing … The Dream Begins” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Published April 1st 2006 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published September 15th 2005). More Details Original Title. GOAL!: The Dream Begins. ISBN. 0152057986 (ISBN13: 9780152057985). In the second part of the chapter, the author is talking about the trainer and Santi’s reaction when they knew who was the other team. First, the training was getting harder and harder. “My trainer was a bit nervous because he knew the team that we were going to face”. Publishing with a Ghost Writing Company. When I first started to consider writing a book, the only thought at the time was self-publishing, or pseudo self-publishing. I really didn’t know a lot about publishing a book. Then I discovered that there are these companies who will basically take your content and ideas to help you actually write the book. You will typically pay a monthly fee of some sort (perhaps $500-$1000 per month).