

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

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I could almost see the five people trying to distance each other in the massive living room, but my poor description forgot to tell the reader of the nice, fresh lemon scent that worked its way around the room. I also forget to tell the reader that two of the people were seated on the couch, at opposite ends. One man stood near a large grandfather clock with an unlit pipe hanging from his lip. The other two people just seemed to pace around the room, trying to find out the same thing I was. Who shot Mr. Manor in the chest? Which one of his closest friends decided on a joyous weekend to kill their best friend for money? Please, tell me, who shot Mr. Manor?

I sat huddled on my living room floor, almost hooked into a five-page story that I wrote ten years ago. At that time, in the very beginning stages of an attempted writing career, I basically mimicked those authors I idolized. Regardless, it was still writing.

It was cheap words, on cheap paper, with cheap titles and cheap story lines, but for me, it meant something more than I ever thought it could. So has my writing improved since these five page stories that lacked detail and creativity? As my worst critic, I say of course not. As my worst critic, I shouldn't even have started writing. But I did write, and still do, and all my writing, along with everyone else's writing, starts with the same basic concept; a blank page. Yes, the blank page. A terrifying sight for some. One solid color, nothing on it, but yet it feels like life cannot move forward because of it. How do you fill that page? I'm not positive quite yet, but I do believe that nothing is impossible.

Basically, most writing starts with an idea and a blank page. Remember, though, nothing is impossible. What exactly does that mean? Well, it can be viewed optimistically or (even better) pessimistically. As I sit in front of a blank page, time and time again, my mind becomes more and more cluttered with thoughts. I'm supposed to be creating my next piece of work, but secretly my mind focuses in on the small crack in the top corner of the wall. I've noticed it many times, and usually I ignore it, but this time, I can't help but stare. That's when I realize that nothing is impossible. The page in front of me is empty, and it feels like it is impossible to fill. Can you imagine that? A blank page that looks so harmless, looks so full of potential, but yet is so intimidating or so . . . impossible. There are hundreds of thoughts running through our minds, all bumping into each other, exchanging ideas, and creating chaos. (And that's all because of the first sentence.) At that point, there are two options. First, we can pace around the room, convince ourselves to stop writing altogether, chew on the ends of our glasses so they never feel comfortable again, and end up wasting a lot time and taking in a lot of caffeine. The other option is a much more optimistic, but almost contradicting. Just write.

Just write? That's it. So here's the idea; for the time being forget all the "rules" about writing. Don't worry about margins, paragraphs, MLA, APA, or even spelling. (Only for the moment, though.) Close your eyes, take a long, deep breath, and let your fingers become like paper in the wind. Let them float across the blank page in front of you, and let your brain have a few moments to unleash all the thoughts that have been crashing into each other. But what if it's "bad writing"? Oh well, just let everything out and start completely over with an empty, clear mind.

Now, what to do with this page filled with your brains thoughts. You can quickly go to File, Exit, and don't save the document. (Or throw it in the paper shredder before anyone

catches a glimpse of this “bad writing”.) I personally don’t believe in throwing anything out, especially pieces where you completely “brain drain”. Why? Because somewhere in that clutter, there are ideas. Some are good. Some aren’t. But, any idea can be molded into a good idea, which then can lead to a great piece of writing. It’s almost the easiest way to get ideas. Besides erasing the document, you can save it. Save it for future use when looking for ideas, and even look to see if there is something that pops out for the assignment at hand. Hopefully you will find a small idea that will lead into the creation of your first draft. That is when you bring back all the “rules” of writing. From there, you have your assignment. How? Because nothing is impossible. With an open mind, and a heart full of perseverance, nothing is impossible. It may seem impossible to fill that blank page, but when you print the final copy, you realize that it is possible. Yes, it is possible.

I never did find out who killed Mr. Manor from my old story because a few pages have been lost over time due to moving. Reading that story, though, did make me realize that whether it was ten years ago when I wrote it or ten minutes ago when I reread it, nothing is impossible.