Oct 16, 2024

Hi Diane,

Thanks for giving us this opportunity to get to know you! After reviewing your responses, we've selected Pamela Raleigh as your coach.

Pam has created this plan to help you achieve writing success. The first section identifies your writing personas, with explanations and links to learn more. A persona is a writerly type developed from our research and experience. Your persona mix sheds light on the obstacles you're likely to face and how they can be overcome.

Then, you'll find our analysis of your goals, history and practice. Your coach has used this info to recommend your next steps. This advice is based on what we've seen work, time and again, for writers like you.

For help executing your plan, Bardsy offers comprehensive support, including directed writing groups, proven tools and personal coaching. Please reach out with questions, especially if you feel the plan doesn't adequately address your needs: joinus@bardsy.com.

Warmly,

Celeste and Adam

Bardsy Co-founders

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Success Plan for Diane H.

Your Writing Personas



Your Persona Summary

Like most of us, you are blend of several personas:

Publication Pat speaks the loudest. You have taken strong preparatory steps toward publishing in that you have a completed novel, strong motivation, and determination. Revision, marketing ideas, and prep work/research remain.

Learning Logan nods next. This is more a nod to your desire to learn what comes next in the publishing process (author website, engagement with possible readers, promotional opportunities).

Ready Riley is another aspect. Your drive to publish and your awareness of what's needed to attain that (plus you have a completed novel) tells me you're primed to test the waters (after revisions, beta readers, and author website set up).

Finally, Message Morgan pipes in. Since you have a message to share, it will be important that themes build organically and strongly from start to finish. Even the inciting incident should have the seeds of themes to come planted within (and I believe with some shifting around in Chapter 1 of Ranked, you'll get that done - showing the intense pressure mixed with reminders of her backstory will set up an internal conflict which, if I remember correctly, will drive her story).

Background on Bardsy's Personas

Here are links to blog entries with more info on your personas:

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Learning Logan:
https://bardsy.com/forums/blog/writing-personas-part-1-do-you-want-to-write-better

Publication Pat
https://bardsy.com/forums/blog/writing-personas-part-3-pat-or-pretender

Message Morgan
https://bardsy.com/forums/blog/writing-personas-part-4-sending-a-message

Ready Riley
https://bardsy.com/forums/blog/writing-personas-part-7-ready-set-go

Your Goals

Since you are currently revising Ranked, you are on the right track! One consideration is to get beta readers (outside your current writing group) and Bardsy can help with that. A critique group with us is exactly that. Our groups are facilitator-led (professional, published authors) and are guided by the Publishability Index (more on that below) which will provide directed, specific feedback for revisions.

Additionally, you'll want to begin to make your author presence known (an author website, possibly a blog or guest-blogging on another site in your genre, testing the waters of publication by sending your work out for feedback or contests).

Your Practice

You are driven by the desire to get published (Kudos to completing that MFA, by the way) and work best with a schedule. Ensure that your writing time is netting the results you want: set tasks that need to be done - since you are re-evaluating the plot lines in your story, perhaps rank them (pun intended) by their priorities - how well does each subplot lift up/connect with the main plot? Anything that drifts off or dies suddenly can be omitted.

You mention you're in a writing group but that your needs might have changed. You are a strong candidate for Bardsy's writing groups (a benefit of Elite membership) because all of the group members are serious writers with publication desires. We are driven to provide (and receive) very specific feedback designed to make our writing more publishable.

Your Strengths & Weakness

I already know you have a strong sense of character and world. Mona is easily imagined and the Ranking Exam well fleshed out. Language is a strength, also, as the pacing engaged the reader nicely. To self-evaluate the other elements of writing (and you can also request a staff assessment), utilize our Publishability Index (PI). This 23-category rubric helps you ascertain weak and strong areas of a particular story or chapter. There are also links to exercises you can do to improve this.

In your case, however, I think other professional/critique/beta readers' eyes on your story is necessary. If you'd like to try a Bardsy group, I'm happy to set that up.

Your Next Steps

1. Beta readers/critique readers/professional feedback is next. I'd love to see you in a Bardsy directed writing group (these also come with a one-on-one monthly meeting with your personal

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coach who is also your group facilitator). We meet 2x a month, live, online and have several times available. We don't just randomly throw you in a group, either. We actually match you - genre or goals or writing style.

2. Send your work out to contests (Bardsy is about to begin a First Chapter contest within a month) that offer feedback (submission comes with professional feedback) and publications that publish in your genre (magazines, online websites, etc). This allows you to get solid feedback from industry professionals.

3. Ensure that any weak writing areas are those you are working on during those dedicated writing times. And, if you use beta readers, direct those readers to look specifically for something (like in the workshop we just did - you can ask readers what they imagine the conflict will be from the inciting incident). Again, strong critique partners can be good sources.

I hope this Success Plan helps you on your writing journey, Diane. I enjoyed reading Ranked and I'd love see Bardsy help you further in your journey. Please let me know if you'd like to try a writing group (no commitment or fee for a trial!). Hope to hear from you (pamela@bardsy.com). Happy writing, Pamela

Ready to Reach Your Writing Goals?
Join Bardsy's Community!

You'll receive:

✔ A twice-monthly directed writing group led by an educator who's also traditionally published

✔ A monthly 1-on-1 session with your group leader as your personal coach

✔ Kind, constructive feedback from your peers and coach

✔ Proven tools to guide your journey from first draft to coherent, satisfying story

✔ A community of serious writers committed to supporting each other while pursuing self or traditional publishing and marketing

We love discussing your goals and how to reach them.

About Bardsy

Frustrated by traditional writing programs, Celeste and Adam created Bardsy. Since 2016, Bardsy has provided writers with constructive environments to support their career goals. Offering research-backed tools, virtual directed writing groups, and personal coaching, Bardsy helps great writers become successful authors.