

Writers' FORUM

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

As we settle down to business in 2018, Kath Kilburn offers some tips for those struggling to get words on the page. It's all too easy to get distracted, or to concentrate on other things that are important to your project – planning, research and redrafting – without doing the actual writing part. But unless you're regularly producing a decent word count, you're not a writer. That dedication is the single hardest part of the job, and I don't know anyone who enjoys it.

You can get a rush for completing a passage or solving a plot point, but it's not like exercise: it doesn't get easier as you tone up because the 'muscle' we use is the brain, which has an infinite number of ways to flex. Doing 'reps' just leads to repetitive ideas. Good writing is always hard, but that's what makes it worthwhile. Put in the time this month.

Write soon, Carl



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