

## I Hope this is Dangerous Enough

“Writers write, everyone else makes excuses.”

A tall order, but true.

“Wannabe Writer’. Yes, that’s me, a frustrated writer. I had some stints back in college and luckily, had a few pieces published for the university annual. But I have never been published at a scale that would affirm myself as a legitimate writer. So until then, I will happily confine myself to being a ‘wannabe.’”

With this line of thought, I found myself scribbling down these same words to indicate my profession at a dream boarding event by [Writer's Block Philippines](#) and [co.lab](#). The event organizers even told me that I’m no “wannabe,” and I replied by saying something like, “I’ll erase it and leave out the word ‘writer’ someday (cue in dramatic song please).”

Anyone who wakes up each morning with the mantra, “Today, I am going to improve on being a wannabe [insert occupation here]” is wasting precious time. I was one of those whose anthem used to be a Spice Girls hit song.

We may see this “wannabe philosophy” as an act of humility, or as a form of restraint to avoid getting ahead of ourselves. Unknowingly however, we create a wall of limitations, thrusting us farther away from what we can actually become. It ironically permits more excuses and creates mediocrity, because there's really nothing on the line. Hence, instead of aiming to walk on the moon, we become satisfied with just looking up, gazing, as its glowing visage stares back.

Becoming a writer begins with acknowledging one's self as one. As Steven Pressfield perfectly puts it, “A writer is a writer when he says he is.” Identifying one’s passion for and exceptional flair in writing is not the difficult part. Discovering one’s love for writing involves an unexplainable drive, that instinctive necessity to express one’s thoughts through flawlessly stringing words in a cohesive and creative way. Astonishingly, you just know it. Complication comes in when a supposed writer does not cross over the other side to own the title. Though in a superhero context, Peter Parker felt the same way when he finally decided he could get used to transforming into Spiderman once in a while. The upside-down kiss probably did it. So if you feel that funny, happy, and crazy feeling toward writing, don’t run away; face your responsibility and simply own it.

“They do it because they cannot not write.” – Jeff Groins

There’s no such thing as a “wannabe writer,” you are either a good or a bad one but a writer just the same. I figured I'd prefer to be called a bad one initially, as opposed to be labeled as just wanting to be one; at least a natural tendency to evolve from bad to good exists. Similar to how rank and file employees must picture themselves filling in the shoes of their boss, new writers must wholeheartedly act like a true writer and forget about identifying themselves as anything less.

Over a month ago, I can’t bring myself to write below my name, the six-letter word I tried so hard to run away from. Now, I hope it’s not too late to erase “wannabe,” edit my business card, and leave the word WRITER. There, I said it, and there’s no turning back.

\*\*Inspired by Jeff Groins’ [Write Something Dangerous](#)