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Make a Real Living as a Freelance Writer:  
How to Win Top Writing Assignments  
By Jenna Glatzer  
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OK. Time to clear out your desk, turn in your key, hug everybody goodbye, and head on home to your new life as a freelance writer. From now on it's just your trusty cat (dog, hamster, goldfish) and you, nestled in front of the computer screen in your bathrobe, paychecks winging their way to your mailbox as you do what you were born to do. The bad news, of course, is that the process isn't that easy—time constraints, financial concerns, the demands of personal life, (understandable) timidity, or uncertainty about where to begin can keep you from taking the plunge. Now for the good news: the life you want is definitely possible, if you follow the expert advice offered by top freelancer Jenna Glatzer, editor-in-chief of AbsoluteWrite.com and bestselling author (*Words You Thought You Knew*, *Outwitting Writer's Block and Other Problems of the Pen*), in her new do-it-yourself guide to (finally) making your writing dreams a reality.

In an amusing, informal style, Glatzer gives you an insider's view of the freelance life, covering such topics as professionalism (in freelancing, you are your reputation), nuts and bolts organization, finding ideas, query-writing, interviewing, and negotiating for money, rights, payment schedules, bios, kill fees, and more. According to Glatzer, only a small percentage of all freelancers earns over thirty thousand dollars a year, so she makes clear the work habits you'll need in order to (eventually) put yourself in that top echelon: persistence in identifying and pursuing new angles on popular subjects; dedication to finding and analyzing markets; and attention to detail that will make editors love you (NEVER miss a deadline) and cause fact checkers, who often go on to become editors, to praise your name (on the source sheet, highlight the information you actually used in the article. Don't know what a source sheet is? Another reason to buy this encouraging and detailed how-to.) As Glatzer states in her introduction, "By the time you finish this book, you should be ready to compete with established writers." For anyone seriously contemplating the leap into freelancing, *Make a Real Living as a Freelance Writer* is a practical and inspiring guide that makes the dream of freelancing doable. So, as Glatzer says, just "...keep your arms inside the bus and enjoy the ride." (And yes, her words encouraged me to submit this review. Thanks, Jenna.)

— Ann Stapleton

