

Ann's Historical Fiction #12

05/31/25

Writing or publishing?

Taking a break from one to do the other

Last quarter, I recommended we all cut ourselves some slack. Now, I'm taking my own advice. Yesterday, I started using one of those productivity tools, Todoist, so I have no recommendation or pan, yet. It has a commitments template, and I wrote out every last one of them. It's a lot. I have six sections, 25 high-level tasks, and 28 highest level subtasks. Writing is in the "Me" section, with writing and publishing tasks. This does not include my efforts to write and publish children's books as part of my science education nonprofit, Science is Elemental.

To say that I am overloaded is an understatement. One of my tasks will end this fall, and if things get too crazy, I can leave that one early, although not before July. Another whole section I have listed as a lower priority—it will be the first to go if anything else needs to be added to my plate.

But it's still too much. So, for the time being, I am curtailing my writing even further (see next page). However, I will still be working to get one of my novels published. I should have a completed cover soon, and a friend is editing it for me.

Wish me luck!

Genre: Historical fiction, with a bit of fantasy thrown in for good measure.



Summer music, sports, and arts

I decided not to go to Vegas for the Historical Novel Society Conference, and I may not even attend virtually—see article to the left.

I will be spending much of my summer with my nonprofit, [Science is Elemental](#), running sports, music and arts camps integrating science with these activities that kids love. Last summer I was able to include a writing camp, but not this one.

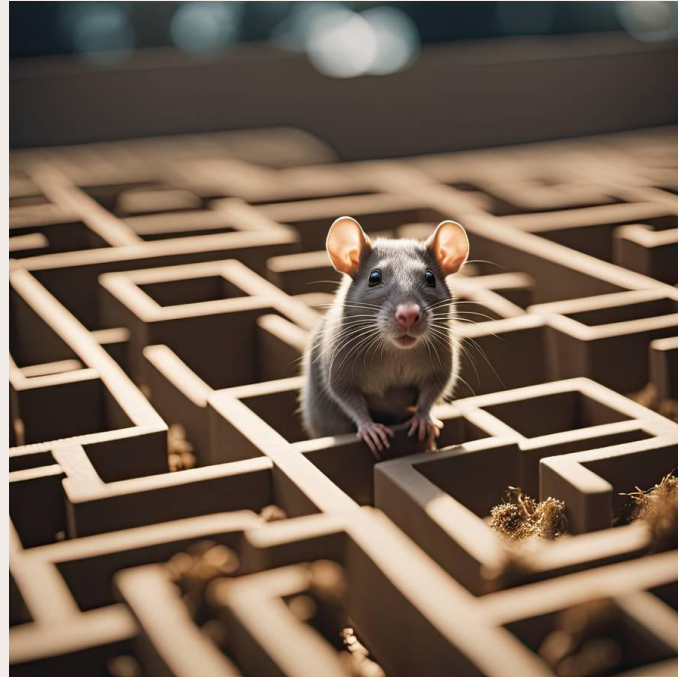
More casual writing/Reedsy

Last quarter, I described my efforts to continue the Anna Magdalena Bach novel, despite having little time to write. Although I add a few words here and there, it wasn't going well. I've lost the bubble.

However, I don't want to give up on writing entirely as I focus on publishing, and on my nonprofit work. Therefore, I started paying more attention to Reedsy. For those unfamiliar with this organization, they are an British firm dedicated to giving authors and publishers access to talented, professional tools, and free educational content. I am not paid by them nor gain any profit from them. I just like their writing prompts.

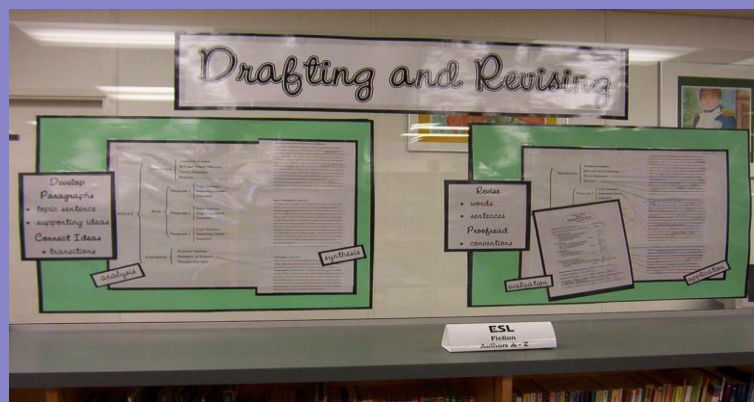
Reedsy provides a [Weekly Writing Prompts](#) contest with a new theme each week. You can write just for fun, or enter the contest for a nominal fee. Two weeks ago, to the prompt: "Write a story about someone who trusts or follows the wrong person," I wrote about a lab rat following the wrong fellow rat in a maze. High fiction, no. Getting me to write, without worrying about massive rewrites to a novel later, yes.

Who knows when I will have time for more dedicated writing. Soon, I hope. In the meantime, I'll keep looking for fun ways to address the Reedsy prompts.



PC:<https://www.deviantart.com/happybudman/art/Rat-in-the-maze-1003653978> [Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 3.0 License](#)

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MAD Weekend!

An Irish Music and Dance (MAD) event

I want to mention the wonderful event I've been attending for many years, the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann [Musical Arts and Dance \(MAD\) Weekend](https://live.staticflickr.com/2188/2351656805_d97b8a6395_b.jpg), put on by the O'Neill Malcom Branch in Washington, D.C.

I just signed up and I'm looking forward to a few days of Irish fiddle music in between teaching at many summer camps. Last quarter, I wrote about the syncopation challenge of ragtime. In Irish fiddle music there are two many challenges for me—rhythm and learning by ear.

Different Irish music varieties have different rhythms. I often find it difficult, especially when I try to learn the music from “the dots” (sheet music), to play the tunes with the appropriate rhythm. I'm working on it.

A way around that is to learn the music by ear, as is done in traditional Irish music sessions. Alas, I am not very good at this. I learned to sight read playing the piano and in junior high school chorus. Retraining my brain, along with the “ear-hand” coordination that is playing the violin or fiddle, is a huge task. I'm up for it.

If you play and are in the area, it's a great event. If you don't there is also a faculty concert on Saturday night.

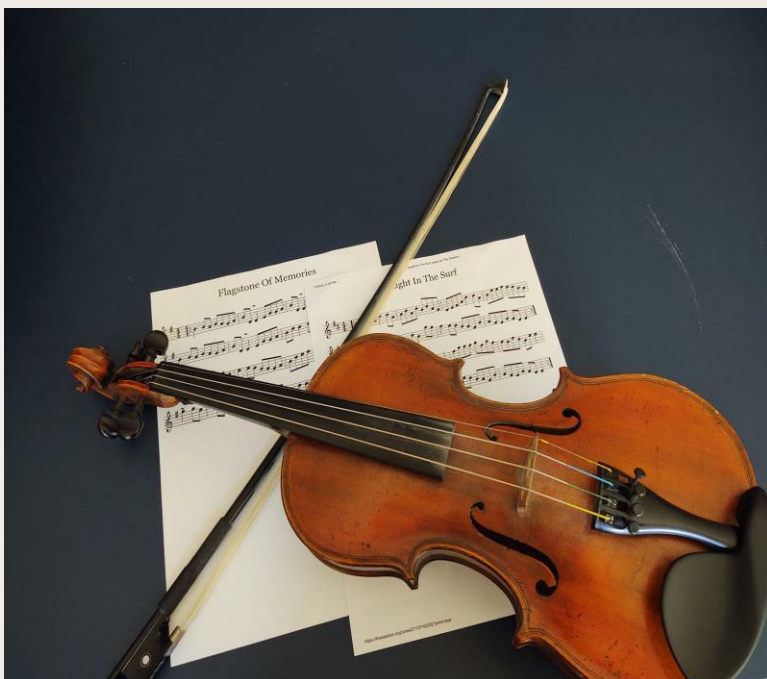


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