



Wm. Delia Books

Write Now

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Welcome to the June issue of *Write Now*, a monthly e-newsletter from Wm. Delia Books. Thanks to all of you who responded to my first newsletter. Your encouragement keeps me going. Writing is a solitary undertaking, but I think of the people reading my work as my partners in creating. Absolutely nothing is a greater reward than hearing from someone who enjoyed one of my books. So, thank you for the encouraging words

Update

The pandemic seems to be winding down, but my writing frenzy has continued. This month I finished my latest novel, *If I Should Rise*. This means that I now have three—count 'em 3—completed novels awaiting publication. What's more, I am excited about each of them.

It didn't occur to me until recently, but these three novels have one thing in common. All three would probably be classified as historical fiction, a genre I have not explored previously. Writing a story set in an earlier time requires a bit more research to maintain historical integrity, but it also offers the opportunity to explore interesting themes.

As I shared last month, I am looking forward to the release of my first book to be published by ATTM Press. *Remember Who You Are*, is expected this summer and it will be the first of my three historical novels to be released.

Here is the teaser line for the book: 3 Generations - 2 Families - 1 Terrible Truth
Got your attention?

Remember Who You Are is a story of greed and grace that begins with the internment of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans during WWII. Palmer Wolfe gets rich by stealing homes, businesses and properties belonging to many of them, including the family of Suki Hayashida. Twenty years later Wolfe's son Trent falls in love with Suki, marries her and then leaves, not knowing she is pregnant with their son. When Trent is in his seventies and dying, he meets his son for the first time, and he decides to atone for his father's sins by leaving the Wolfe family fortune to Suki. If she can fight through legal and personal attacks, the fortune will give Suki the opportunity to right an old wrong for her family and for her community.

Watch for news of the publication of *Remember Who You Are* in coming months.

Current Titles – Available on Amazon.com or from the author

<u>Novels</u> Healing River Home to the Mountains I Once Was Lost Truth, Lies & Consequences One Day More Shelter from the Storm	<u>Books of Faith</u> Jesus Told Them Many Things – Devotional Standing on the Promises – Devotional Waiting for the Light – Advent Study
<u>Children’s Book</u> Bucky the Manatee	<u>Poetry Collection</u> On the Edge of Forever

Recent Selection

Here’s an essay I’ve been working on recently. Not sure if it’s done, but I thought I would share it with you. Our perception of life is often a matter of perspective. Whether we see something that happens as a victory or as a defeat is up to us. But how we choose to see things will change how we think about ourselves and our lives.

**The Thrill of Victory
and the Agony of Defeat**

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Wide World of Sports was one of the most successful television sports programs of all time. It ran for 37 years on ABC in the days before cable TV sports took over the market. It showed all kinds of sporting events—sports you couldn’t see anywhere else, and some sports you had never heard of. The opening credits showed a montage of several sporting events and announced the show’s signature line, promising “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat”.

If you remember the show, then you undoubtedly remember the video that went along with those words “the agony of defeat”. A ski jumper is speeding down the hill and then suddenly falls right before he should have jumped. He tumbles off the corner of the ramp, collides with nearby spectators and finally crashes to the ground. That video from 1970 is still on YouTube, some 50 years later. After so many years, it can still make you groan out loud and shake your head in disbelief.

The ski jumper in the video was Vinko Bogataj from Slovenia (formerly Yugoslavia). It may surprise you to learn that he walked away with only minor injuries. Even more surprising, however, is that he fell intentionally! He explained later that falling snow acted like grease on the ski jump. He realized he was going too fast. He was afraid he would out-jump the hill, land on flat ground and be seriously injured. The only way to abort the jump was to fall—so he did!

Vinko was a world class ski jumper, young but quite experienced. He understood ski jumping and its dangers, but speeding down that hill he was in an absolute panic! He was facing perhaps the biggest risk of his life and trying to decide what to do. He was not prepared for what might happen, so he decided to stick with what he knew and not take the risk. He decided that what he knew was better than what he did not know.

We have all been there, forced to choose between jumping into the unknown or holding on to things as they are. We arrive at a fork in the road, a turning point, a critical juncture, and we must decide whether to go for “something more” or to settle for who, where and what we are.

For me it happened in my fifties. Not a mid-life crisis, but a nagging sense that the life I was living was not the life I was “meant” to live. I was 57 years old, married with two children, a dog, a cat and a mortgage. I had a successful career and was only a few years away from retirement. Common sense said it was not the time to jump into the unknown, and yet I had an unshakeable feeling that I needed to do more. All that I had accomplished up to that point in my life was simply not enough. The good news was that it was not too late to double down and make it right.

Trying to decide what to do in that moment I imagine I felt a lot like Vinko Bogotaj must have felt. Things were out of my control, moving faster and faster and I had to decide whether I should jump into the unknown or hold tight to what I knew.

If you have faced a similar decision in your life, then you know the answer is seldom obvious or easy. These decisions never come in the calm and reasoned times of life. They only appear when you are sliding down a slippery slope racing toward the point of no return. The moment of truth looms ahead and the time to decide is now. Will you cling to the things that you know, or will you leap into the unknown?

Vinko Bogotaj slammed on the brakes.

I jumped.

I risked everything I had worked for in my life. I walked away from a 30-year career and took a 75% pay-cut to accept a part-time job that required me to go back to school and earn a three-year Masters Degree. I took a deep breath and jumped into the unknown. It was the best decision of my life as I landed in the very place I had been preparing for, unknowingly, for fifty-seven years. The risk paid off—I was truly blessed.

Does that mean I knew the thrill of victory while Vinko knew only the agony of defeat? No.

Vinko Bogotaj has no regrets about his decision and neither do I. We each made our choice and embraced the results with no second-guessing, no nagging doubts, no “what-if” agonizing.

And therein lies the lesson learned.

Wide World of Sports got it wrong. The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat are not brought on by your accomplishments or your failures. Instead, they result from how well you embrace and live into the choices you make. It’s your life. How you live it is up to you. The risks you take and the risks you choose not to take are in your hands. Jump or don’t jump—it’s your call, but don’t waste your life agonizing about what might have happened if you chose differently. Regrets are a poor reward.

Instead, Vinko and I offer this advice. When you find your life speeding out of control, your heart pounding, your hair on fire and nothing in front of you but an unlimited horizon, don’t give in to panic. Own the moment. It belongs to you and to you alone. Trust yourself.

Then whatever choice you make, embrace it without second thoughts. Only then will you experience the thrill of victory. Only then will you realize that life is too precious to spend wallowing in the agony of defeat.

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