

But beauty itself is not given to us by anyone; it is a power we have within us from the gate, a radiance inside us.

---Marianne Williamson

I ATTENDED A WRITER'S WORKSHOP, listening to wonderful personal stories of both disappointment and triumph, as only a writer can present it. I sat back and soaked in.

I've heard it said that "if it was easy everyone would be doing it." I agree with this statement. It can be applied to so many areas of life, and listening for a couple of hours reinforced this.

Getting published the traditional way is very difficult. Today's economy doesn't help either; major publishing houses are in difficult times financially. The industry is changing with digital publishing becoming more prominent, and it's tougher than ever for a new author with an undeveloped platform to break in. Agents routinely receive 100 or more queries from authors each day, all hoping to stand out from the rest and have their manuscript chosen for further consideration.

Despite the odds, the room was full.

Having a passion for something defies logic sometimes. Webster's defines it like this: *a strong liking or desire for or devotion to some activity, object, or concept; intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction.*

Having a passion involves feeling an emotion for something. It's something that you have experienced. My passion for photography came over time, the process of learning to take what I see in my head and reproduce it on film and digital media. I did not have a passion for photography before stepping into the waters and trying it out. It was the same story with my writing. What I have found is you can create amazing results when you have a genuine passion for something, whether it's a career, hobby, social or religious beliefs, or anything else you deem as worthwhile.

This beauty within us is powerful. We can achieve amazing things when we're driven from within to not only achieve, but also excel.

We can touch other's lives in such a way that their own experiences are enriched. Inspiring to achieve. And inspiring them to not lose sight of their own dreams.



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