

Freelance or “Free Lunch”

By AWC Member Dave Swan



On a recent Saturday night, I was busy messaging back and forth with a publisher about a possible freelance editing gig. Today I’m sadder but wiser – well, not really sad, just hoping to pass along a bit of advice.

The overture came from a small independent house that puts out speculative fiction and magical realism. The job seemed similar to others I’d done. However, I should have looked more closely at the owner’s profile on a leading professional networking site (which will remain anonymous but whose name rhymes with Blink Tin).

My Zoom interview began with a few standard questions. There were also some about my knowledge of financial literacy, a subject I’d dealt with in a previous editing life. So far, so good. Then all of a sudden, I was hearing a long spiel about guaranteeing my own financial security. Why?

You guessed it. This literary tycoon also works for a [financial services outfit](#) that some observers and ex-employees describe as a multi-level marketing operation like Amway. She claimed she was offering this “security” as a benefit. To a freelancer. Not magic and definitely not realistic.

Needless to say, this ended the conversation. All I lost was a little time but it could have been worse. So if you’re scouting for writing, publishing, editing, or other opportunities:

- Research, research, research any offer and the company or people behind it. After all, you wouldn’t write a Civil War novel if you don’t know Gettysburg from Vicksburg.
- Apply due diligence to every lead, even if it’s from an apparently solid source.
- Whether you call it instinct, your gut, Spidey sense, or the Force, trust your inner voice when it tells you something isn’t right.



Dalton '23 Book Fest



The Dalton-Whitfield County Public Library will hold its annual Book Fest on Sat, April 1st from 10am -2pm. Over thirty Georgia authors will be participating on panels focusing on Killer Reads—True Crime and Thrillers, Getting Your Material into Print; World Building and Fantasy Fiction, and Storytelling Basics. Authors will also be signing books.

Admission is free and parking is available onsite. The library is located at 310 Capps St., Dalton, GA 30720. For more information, call 706-876-1379.