

Creative Entertainment Wealth

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Poor Man's Copyright & TV Show Guidance



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"What real writers do is write, whether anyone reads the material or not."

Any movie or TV show begins as a written story. Novels, novellas, and short stories become **movies or plays or TV series**. Writing happens first. Personally, I put my new idea for a story into a synopsis. It might be 2-3 pages, and I try to tell the story in a condensed fashion, touching on the high lights, and get it all done in just a few pages. Then, using the synopsis, I can expand on it bit by bit and divide the work into chapters as I go. Before you know it, the work is 30 chapters, and over 200 pages letter sized page single spaced. This expanding of the synopsis,

slowly, can take up to 6 months. Then, you have rewriting. Going through it slowly and making changes can take another 3 months. Most authors rewrite their works at least 3 times, maybe more.

Once the work is complete, even if not edited or totally rewritten, a copyright is in order. It takes about \$35 with the Library of Congress and they give you a receipt once you upload it online with your title of the work on your receipt. You may not hear from them for years after this, so do not lose this receipt, and keep it printed out and in your cloud also. Many writers take another step, to add security against theft and plagiarism. It is called the **the Poor Man's Copyright**. It is immediate proof that something is your work, and when you do it, it gives a simple proof without having to go to the US Library of Congress for help. (But by all means, do the real copyright with the government, and do not fail to do so.)

(Where to copyright with the US Government: <https://www.copyright.gov/registration/>)

To do the **Poor Man's Copyright**, put the final work into an large strong envelope and seal it, and address it to yourself. Go to the post office and mail it to you, by registered and/or certified mail. You could also use Priority or Express mail which costs more. When you get it, do not open it. File it, and if you ever need to prove your work in court, let the judge open it, and he or she will see the date you mailed it, establishing when your work was done, and that it is yours. In a lawsuit to protect your work, proving when you wrote it could mean everything to your case. Your proof is as official as the dated US postal service mark that is stamped on all mail.. Again, this is only a supplement to real copyright practices, so do not fail to do them.

Do You Have a TV Show Rolling Around in Your Head?

Maybe this video will jog some ideas loose in you. I am working on a TV show, a comedy and although I cannot reveal what the

content is right now, I will keep sharing what I learn as I progress. This lengthy video from true experts and Movie/TV people was quite helpful to me.

<https://youtu.be/hIdZEZ2rCo4>

This link below may not have new material every time you see it.

Get show tips by Greg as he works on his screenplay.

<http://themfngroup.com/mentortvseries.pdf>

More next time,

Greg Nichols