

Nicole L. Heidbreder



Nicole lives in South Korea!

English Teacher

Fiction and Memoir Writer

SLWG Member since 2005

It occurred to me only within the last year that I have a writing bug. It isn't typical for a young woman of 30 to have consistently kept a journal for more than 10 years. In college, I wrote several lengthy papers for my Art History and English classes, however writing stories was ostensibly for the highly intellectual and academic students—at least that's what I thought. Lacking confidence, I kept my writing a very personal experience.

Late last fall I decided to try my hand at a few writing courses in hopes that I would find a home for the thousands of thoughts and memories I had documented. Fueled by the desire to turn my writing into something readable, I decided to take a Memoir class and learn to craft a story from my journals. Since then I have been pushing myself to write outside of my daily journal entries.

Sometimes finding the time and energy is very difficult. To maintain perpetual goals, I came up with a plan to hold myself accountable. I decided to present my completed memoirs as gifts to my mother. I knew that she, of all people—my biggest fan (!), would appreciate the memories I had been harvesting. I gave her a journal to paste each story inside as I complete them. Delighted by the creative gift, she now provides a positive boost to remind me that I need to complete “*her*” next story.

Not only have I been writing memoirs but I have also begun a novel about a young woman who is trying to succeed in the art world. The young painter leaves her family in rural Missouri to head west for the all-inspiring, majestic Rocky Mountains. She finds herself in Denver, struggling with life, art, and relationships. This is definitely a work in progress and it may take a number of years to bring it to fruition; however, I am allowing myself to make mistakes and enjoy the process as I learn about developing characters, plots and descriptive sentences.

Some of the most inspirational books that reside in my library are: *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden, *Amazing Graces* by Patricia Gaffney, *One True Thing* by Anna Quindlen, *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. These books are stories of life, relationships, and uncovering oneself throughout tragic, heroic and joyous experiences—the kind that life heaves at us when we aren't looking. For the most part we all encounter many emotions and challenges in one way or another. We can only hope that through it all we love and respect ourselves on the other side. I intend to continue finding inspiration through reading, painting, and hiking, and to relieve my relentless desire to document my life and experiences by writing.

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Read some of Nicole's writing:

[Letter from Nicole to the SLWG Members](#) (May 23, 2005)

[Embarking on Independence](#) (excerpt 1 of 2 from her memoir in progress)

Email [Nicole](#).