

A journey with Paul McMahon



Let me take you on a journey. It is a voyage after falling 3.5 floors on to concrete, needless to say it is a simple pleasure to have even survived. The expedition is quick by many standards but it is long for someone who has suffered such a massive accident. The story lasts for just over a year. A tale of recovery before returning to work, including travel across the continent, detesting love, finding love and back to something we always search to escape. Normality.

Writing about reality is sometimes a good but hard thing. Many times I have edited the book and thought of the stupidity a whole chapter or paragraph brings to the story. Like any writing, time brings more clarity and the fruition of an unconfused voice. Writing is not the art of speed, writing is the art of eventually getting it!

Getting it takes time (my book is not completed yet, as the storyline continues a little longer). I did not know what this book would include and what this tale could weave. My advice to all writers is to never assume it will just flow vividly from start to finish. Once a book is completed it usually takes around 4-5 full edits to have something worth submitting to publishers.

So what can I advise? What is my best advice for my story and others?

Time. Edit. Time. Edit some more and then edit another few times. That is how you will know if this book is worth sending to publishers. This is also the only way they will know the full breadth of your talent. Like all things in life, it is time that breeds the most spectacular artists.

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You may ask the question of why I write my travel blog and book. These are two colliding vehicles. The travel blog began as a passion for the very soul of what I was doing. I love travel so much and centralise it as much as possible. I think understanding the people and places we encounter helps us grow. Needless to say, I studied international studies as an addition but it is really an extra degree I needed.

While it seems odd to try to explain my book. I didn't want this disaster to be remembered for its pain and suffering. I studied communications in social inquiry and I knew that building knowledge and understanding would change this sudden change in my life. I wanted to share my luck and hope that others will view positivity as the only option - my positivity and luck was all I had and all I can give you. I hope giving you this story will show you can achieve despite the expansive obstacles ahead of you.

Paul's travel blog is on his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/paulmcmahonauthor>

The *Sydney Morning Herald* story, detailing what happened is at <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/rooftop-fall-followed-long-night-of-partying-20140401-35vsm.html>

Please show your support by visiting Paul's Facebook page and reading his blog and the article in the SMH.