

Desensitise

Letter for Publication
By Richard Crowhurst

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SIR: I have recently begun reading your magazine after quitting my well-paid and secure managerial job due to stress. I am following my dream to become a full-time freelance writer. I find many useful items in your pages, but I read the letters by Ann Williams and Andy Roberts (*WM*, April) with interest.

Perhaps I have been unduly fortunate, but in three months I have had seven articles accepted for publication and made useful contacts with three editors. However, this modest success has required the submission of more than 40 queries and articles. This

makes my success rate sixteen percent, which I consider to be quite good. I would be interested to know the success rate of readers of *Writing Magazine*.

I must say to Mr Roberts eight submissions is nothing. My first eight queries were all rejected. My next three all landed paying assignments. One aid to success is to have as many market details at your disposal as possible and to have several options for the same topic. It is true that another publication may well accept an article already rejected by a competitor.

For Christmas my wife gave me Andrew Crofts' excellent *Freelance Writer's Handbook*. The best advice in it is: 'anyone too sensitive to handle rejection is doomed'.

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