

LITTLE GRAVEYARDS

*salem paige's
monthly newsletter*

September 2022



BABY'S FIRST NEWSLETTER

For so long I have witnessed the twitter-verse talk about the value of having a direct line of communication to the people who genuinely care about your work and I figured it was time to finally stop putting off doing it for myself. I don't know exactly what this newsletter will be - I'm allowing it to form itself over time. For now, I'm going to likely focus on talking about submissions, rejections, and how I balance my own writing. I realized recently that I accumulated a lot of strategies for getting my poems published and keeping myself organized as I do so and it would be silly to keep that information from people like myself who could use it! On top of that I'll be sharing what I'm reading lately, quotes that have resonated with me, and my personal goings-on and achievements (in small doses). So without further ado, welcome to my Little Graveyards.

Love, Salem Paige

SAL'S STEPS TO SUBMIT

Putting in the effort to submit is truly daunting, especially when you haven't done it before. Here are some steps to ease you into it.

1 / KEEP YOUR WORK ORGANIZED

Keep a document of all of your work with a table of contents. If you're submitting a lot, make a spreadsheet or use a submission manager to keep track of where your work has been submitted.

2 / RESEARCH LIT MAGS

To find your work the perfect home, you should first look into lit mags and journals that interest you. Read their past issues, research who they've published before, and if you admire or resonate with what they do, make a note of them. A good place to start is chillsubs.com.

3 / FIND YOUR BEST-FITTING WORK

Once you have a mag you want to submit to, return to your document of your works and find the best fit for your mag of interest based on their past issues and submission guidelines. Make sure you follow the guidelines as closely as possible, and address your submission to the mag's editor in chief if their name is available.

4 / DO IT AGAIN AND AGAIN

Success is in repetition, not only in skill. The more you submit, the easier it gets, and the more likely it is that you'll be published. The more you do things, the better you get. It's that simple.

SAL'S MAG RECS

Finding the right place to submit your work can be daunting. Good thing I made this nice list for you of friendly lit journals and mags accepting submissions right now!

Tupelo Quarterly

Conceptual poetry, collages, non-fiction, and fiction. They want your best work but not in a stuffy way. Lots of great writers in here.

DEADLINE: OCT 15 / FEE: \$3

JAKE

They self-identify as an anti-literary magazine. Weird, different, digital, hosted on a simple site to keep focus on the work. Good for anyone who doesn't fit the "norm."

DEADLINE: NONE / FEE: NONE

The West Review

The EIC of this mag says that in poetry, she looks for "(1) Music, (2) deft line breaks, and (3) invention." If that feels like you, definitely check out their guidelines.

DEADLINE: NONE / FEE: NONE

TO QUOTE SOME GUY

“

To be an artist is this: not to count or to reckon: to ripen like a tree which does not force its sap, but in the storms of spring stands confident without being afraid that afterwards no summer may come. The summer comes all right. But it only comes to the patient, to those who are there as carefree and quiet and immense, as if eternity lay before them.

-Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet*

This collection of letters from Rainer Maria Rilke to a young admirer and budding poet, Franz Kappus, discusses the universal truths of a writer despite the letters being written between 1903 and 1908. I listened to it as an audiobook as I walked to class through my Canadian autumn and it comforted me like a big blanket scarf. Rilke talks about patience, that he learns "through [his] sufferings that patience is everything," which relates well to my earlier points on submitting, and on rejection. As artists we need to exercise patience, as much as we hate doing so. If you are compelled to write, if writing is what you need to do, then be patient with your work. Things get rejected, and it helps us grow stronger. It takes time to become great. Stay patient, and you will become great.

WHY "LITTLE GRAVEYARDS"

My thought process behind the name started simple - if I am a corpse of a poet, where would my work live? Clearly, in a cemetery. Each issue I put out of this newsletter will become, in theory, a little graveyard in and of itself - a place where my thoughts have found their final resting place. We're all dying and being reborn over and over again, and each newsletter is written by a different version of myself (with only a month of difference from the previous version, but a new version nonetheless). While this letter is a home for my words, I also want it to be a home for those who read and subscribe to it. These little graveyards have room for all of us to squeeze into, and I'm so grateful that you're here for the unveiling of the first of many issues. Welcome to our first Little Graveyard. Come find a home in the dirt with me.

ON REJECTION

Submitting your work is a vulnerable action. The possibility (and let's face it, high likelihood) of getting rejected for a piece of writing or art that you are proud of, that you deeply care about, it a very daunting endeavor. I didn't realize how desensitized I had become to the process of submitting until speaking with a good friend, who was nervous about putting their own work out there. I realized then that the best way to get yourself comfortable with submitting (or with doing anything, really - this lesson is applicable in many areas of life!) is to do it frequently, over and over again, until it no longer holds power over you. Humans hate rejection. We internalize it. We attribute a rejection to a problem with ourselves, we see it as a doubting of our capabilities. The answer? Throwing yourself completely into rejection. Skateboarding is daunting to a first-timer, but anyone who rides a skateboard will tell you that with time it becomes second nature. The thought of falling off the board - or in the case of writing, getting rejected - can be hard to stomach, but when it happens you get back on the proverbial bull and try to ride it again. Rejection is scary, yes, but it's not a failure. Rejection is a step forward, and strengthens your submission muscles. I like to think that going out and getting rejected is good for you - I submit with the intent of getting rejected because realistically that's where most submissions lead. When a publication gets back to you, regardless of their answer, I celebrate it. To put your work in front of someone and allow them to consume it is an action worthy of celebration on its own - even if you aren't chosen in the end, you get your name into the world and the minds of editors, and you strengthen your submitting muscles. Not everything needs to be about the end result - often, the process is just as rewarding, if only we step back and take the time to appreciate it.

TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK OF ME

In case you forgot, this is my first newsletter! Writing to people who want to keep up with my work and my thoughts is a new experience for me so I can't say for sure if I'm doing it right - so if you liked this, or if you didn't, or if you think it should be shorter or less verbose (I don't know how to shut up sometimes), please let me know! You can reply to this email, you can DM me on instagram or twitter @corpseofapoet, you can attach a letter to a raven and set it free and hope it finds me. I want to know what you think! Give me that tasty, tasty feedback. I'll love you forever for it.