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GOATS AGAIN

Artists and writers have traditionally kept an animal friend in their workspace -- preferably one that is comforting (not distracting) and listens without answering back! My studio is no exception. I prefer to write on the large "Story Bed" that resides in my studio near my desk. My mascots, Sumo and Duffy Pug, always stretch out



beside me and snore sweetly as I am working. The doors to my studio are wide open to

allow in the sweet fresh trade winds that blow across our island home.

Most of the time our barnyard animal friends are very courteous and stay outside, but not today. Kneestar and Lilly-Goat snuck out of their pen and walked into my



HARD AT WORK

As a writer, a good deal of my time is spent day-dreaming. I like to put on cozy pajamas, turn on some dreamy music, get into my bed with my pugs, close my eyes and simply allow my mind to play with fun and intriguing ideas. I let my mind wander free, allowing my imagination to create fanciful worlds, scenes and story possibilities. Its fun! The story that unfolds in the eye of my day-dreaming mind is always in full technicolor, it is like viewing a film. While watching the film, I edit, rewind if necessary, hear dialogue spoken and often, if I don't like the way things are going, I change the plot.

studio to say "hello." Both goats don't feel it's fair that the pugs can stay inside with me and they can't. Soon chaos reigned.

Henry Penny, my Rhode Island Red, followed the goats inside. Lilly-Goat decided to play football with Ms. Henny and butted her up in the air. Henny just kept on flying and landed on an exposed beam and refused to budge.

While I was concerned with Lilly-Goat and Henny, Kneestar jumped on a table to nibble flowers



from a vase and knocked the vase to the ground spilling water everywhere.

When you live on farm you learn to be calm and tolerant with your animal friends. I simply grabbed my broom, flushed Henny off the rafter, and with a few gentle strokes swept all of the the barnyard critters out the door and back onto the grass. This



interruption during my workday turned out to be valuable -- it gave me an idea for a new story that I am

working on now. Over the years, my animal



Sometimes I stop the film to quickly take notes, then I pick up again where I left off. Around my house when my family sees me laying in bed during the day with my eyes closed, a pillow over my head, next to my snoring pugs – they know not to disturb me because I am hard at work!

NO RULES . . . EXCEPT

Every writer is different. Over time, and through a lifetime of experimentation, a writer discovers the tools which work best for her or him. There are no rules for becoming a writer . . . except maybe two. Write and read books every day!

A TEAM EFFORT



Don has

returned to his studio and he is hard at work (he doesn't get to work in bed like I do) illustrating his new book. I can't tell you the title, or what it's about, because the new title won't be released until 2013. But I promise you will get a peek before anyone else, maybe even before my editors. This is a book Don and I are co-illustrating. I drew the pictures and Don is coloring them in. We had so much fun with this co-illustration technique on PIGGY PIE PO, that we decided to try it again..

friends have proved be a wealth of inspiration for me. I suppose you could say that my pets are some of the tools I use in my writing process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Wood". The signature is stylized, with a large, five-pointed star shape on the left side that partially overlaps the first few letters of the name.

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