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Pelham Author John Coyne Shares Tips In “How to Write A Novel in 100 Days”

By Alex Wolff

Have you ever dreamed of finally sitting down to write your novel? Do you, like nearly everyone with the same idea, have no idea where to begin? If the answer to the second question is a resounding “yes,” then perhaps purchasing a copy of Pelham author John Coyne’s latest book, “How to Write A Novel in 100 Days,” is a good idea.

The How-To book, penned by Mr. Coyne who is a bestselling author of 12 novels and of a total of more than 25 books of fiction and nonfiction, helps serve as a roadmap to aspiring writers. It not only has a day-by-day approach, but also provides tips on editing, publishing, self publishing as well as the writing process.

“I had started a web site on how to write a novel in 100 days, mostly to help former Peace Corps members share their stories,” said Mr. Coyne, a former member. “I’m a believer in the advantage of the Peace Corps. The writing they do can influence education and give assistance to the developing world. I wanted to help promote writers on the web site.”

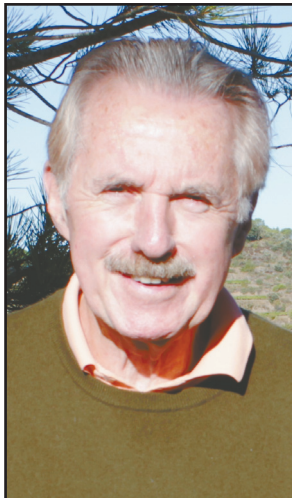
By launching the site, Mr. Coyne found more than just Peace Corps members interested in using his guide to writing their own story, prompting him to author and self-publish the book.

Within the book is a step-by-step, day by day guide that if followed attentively would allow an author to complete the work in the 100 days, although Mr. Coyne admits he is skeptical of whether people can reasonably stick to the timeline. Within the book are assignments that help the aspiring author develop characters and plot points as well as writing exercises.

“How to Write A Novel in 100 Days” is based on Mr. Coyne’s own novel writing process, which has led to such works as “The Caddie Who Won the Masters,” “The Caddie Who Played with Hickory,” “The Caddie Who Knew Ben Hogan,” “Child of Shadows,” “Fury,” “The Hunting Season,” “Brothers & Sisters,” “The Shroud,” “Hobgoblin,” “The Searing,” “The Piercing,” and “The Legacy.”

“The first draft is getting it down on paper,” said Mr. Coyne. “It’s like the skeleton of the house. Then you work on the skeleton and get a roof on your head so it doesn’t rain inside.”

In speaking about how novels can



John Coyne

change from draft to draft. Mr. Coyne said that once while writing a novel that focused on a male character, he went back to review his second draft. What he found was that the story really needed to be about the female character, who originally had a lesser role in the book.

“It wasn’t him, it was her. It’s a process of discovery,” he said about the writing process.

Throughout “How to Write A Novel in 100 Days,” Mr. Coyne asks readers to reflect on their

own experiences to use within their work.

“I’m trying to get them to reach back in time and use metaphors in their book. Sometimes it’s easier to tell a story you know,” he said, noting that “stories can be incorporated into a larger story.”

While Mr. Coyne said that following his book will help authors write their novel, he noted that it is up to each and every writer to find his or her own process.

“There are two things: there is the structure of the novel, with the beginning, middle and end, and there is the self structure,” he said. “You have to work out what works for you.”

“How to Write A Novel in 100 Days” is available on www.amazon.com. Mr. Coyne has lived in Pelham with his wife for 22 years. In addition to novel writing, he has taught creative writing at the high school and college levels, conducted writing workshops in major cities in the United States and has taught English and writing in Africa. For more information on “How to Write A Novel in 100 Days,” visit <http://howtowriteanovelin100days.com/about-john-coyne/>.

