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## Re: Writers & Fees

From: **Greg Sandow** <[gsandow@prodigy.net](mailto:gsandow@prodigy.net)>  
 Date: Tue, 9 Sep 1997 11:40:43 -0400  
 Fwd Date: Tue, 09 Sep 1997 17:10:12 -0400  
 Subject: Re: Writers & Fees

Do writers make money?

> From: [c549597@showme.missouri.edu](mailto:c549597@showme.missouri.edu) [Barbara Becker]  
 > Date: Mon, 08 Sep 1997 14:36:55 -0500  
 > To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
 > Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: Writers & Fees

> You made me think about how many writers I actually do know, in ufology,  
 > academia, and as journalists. I must be hangin' with the good ones  
 > because they all make money on their writings. There was only one writer  
 > I know personally who told me they didn't make any money on their writing  
 > and it was Phil Klass. (Anybody who knows Phil, knows I'm telling the  
 > truth here!<G>) So go figure.

> BB

I've made my living from writing for a good many years. But then I've written for mainstream publications, newspapers, magazines, and the like. When I write for the Wall Street Journal or the Los Angeles Times, I get paid. When I write for IUR, the CUFOS publication...zilch.

And it's books that really kick a writer in the gut, pay-wise. Yes,

you get money for writing them. You get an advance. But normally the advance doesn't begin to pay for the work the book requires. If you spent an equivalent amount of time doing your normal work, you'd get paid far, far, FAR more. And normally you don't see another penny past the advance.

Think about it. Most writers (including ufologists) get very low advances -- \$5000 to \$15,000, let's say. And their books might take six months or more of full-time work to write. This is NOT lavish pay. As I've said here before, many writers in effect take a loss for writing a book. They give up other work that would pay more, or they give up their free time.

Greg Sandow

Search for other documents to/from: [gsandow](#) | [c549597](#)

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