

A Story's Tale
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Many stories take a long, convoluted route to publication, but one particular story of mine could tell a most unusual tale. I first sent the story off for consideration to a well-paying, prestigious, adult print market. Two months later, I received an offer to purchase the story. Unfortunately, as is becoming all too common these days, the publisher wanted all rights in perpetuity. The editor would not negotiate, so I declined and sent my story off to another, more prestigious electronic market that doesn't pay as well.

I got no response. Eight months later, after several ignored queries, I withdrew the story and sent it to a British magazine. This publication offered neither prestige nor professional compensation, but I had sold to it before and knew the editor would negotiate rights. I received an acceptance within two weeks for publication (and payment) in five months.

Four months later, almost a year to the date after it had received my submission, the electronic magazine sent a form-letter rejection. Needless to say, that rejection caused no pain at all -- the story would appear in print less than a month later. And, with the dollar valued low against the British pound, payment for the story ended up at the higher end of the scale.

Sometimes it does pay to just say no.

In more than a quarter century as a professional writer, F.I. Goldhaber has produced news stories, feature articles, editorial columns, reviews, public relations and marketing materials, advertising copy, novels, short stories, novelettes, and poems. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in magazines, anthologies, and e-zines. Her latest collection of poetry, Pairs of Poems, is available from <http://www.uncialpress.com/> More information at www.goldhaber.net

