

All the write moves

by

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I went in to this pretentious bookstore in Brookfield; you know, the one with three names and an extra middle initial? That's the one. So, There I was, trying to buy a journal. And I'm looking through them, and they all suck. They all suck.

So there is this girl looking thought the journals with me. I pick up one of the journals with a Superman drawing on the cover, just because it seemed cool. Inside were all these crazy Superman drawings, spattering up the paper with cartoons and onomatopoeic explosions. Oh yeah, that'll help clear out the ol'

writer's mind. Nothing like lavish distractions actually embedded into your blank pages. Obviously, this was not a good journal. And so I put it down, and say, "Whoa! Yuck." and the girl next to me starts to laugh.

"What's wrong?" she asks.

"That's a terrible journal." I say.

"Why?"

"Well look at it," I say.

She picks it up and says, "It must be for little kids." She puts the Superman journal down.

"What are you looking for?" she asks.

"A journal-- A nice ringed notebook."

"Yeah. I like a ring bound notebook. It makes them easier to write in," she says.

"Yeah. You can fold them." I say. "I'll probably just go to Target, That's where I got my last one."

"Oh, but the paper in those is no good," she says.

"Yeah, but look at the covers on these..." I say.

"What's wrong with them?"

"Well, don't take this the wrong way, but all

of these are, well, girly." Her blank stare tells me she didn't understand.

"Look at this one," I say, pointing to the bottom row, pointing to what would be a great notebook, except that it's yellow, and has little pink ribbons on it, and little pink icons of gardening tools.

"And this one," I say, handing her a journal with a cartoon kitty kat playing with a mouse on its cover.

"And this one," I say, handing her another journal, this one the color of a speckled bird egg, criss-cross tied with a pink ribbon.

"Oh." she says. She hands me the one she had been holding when I arrived. "Here. This one has a typewriter on it."

The book she hands me has a nice feel, a good size, and the paper is thick, and acid free. The artwork on the book is a little picture of a typewriter-- it's lame, but at least its not overstated.

"This is nice," I say.

She smiles.

"I think I'll take it."

"Good" she says.

I turn to leave, but then something causes me hesitate. I feel the tiniest pang of guilt as I realize that this girl might have picked the journal out for herself. "Listen," I say. "What is your name?"

"Heidi," she says.

"Thanks. Thanks Heidi. I'll put your name in my new journal. So I'll remember you."

And her eyes light up to match her huge smile, and she says, "Oh, thank you..." as I turn and leave.



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