The Crazy Writers Group

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Members of the Crazy Writers Group gather on Tuesday nights in a local watering hole to bemoan their fates as unpublished authors. But a new era is dawning with epublishing. The question is: Will they be selling their literary souls by taking that step? Frustrated as writers and with their jobs and lives, something has to give. But what? A story of misspent youth, literary longing and the choices - both good and bad - we all make in life. The Crazy Writers Group is a wry, painful glimpse into the foibles of human nature.

The Crazy Writers Group Details

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From Reader Review The Crazy Writers Group for online ebook

Jonny Parshall says

Reuther has created a fun story with Crazy Writers Group. The characters are likable and relatable, and just as zany as the situations the author puts them in. That said, the author could've stirred his imagination a tad more in places, and resolved areas of predictability (it was obvious who would die), repetition (there are other great writers beyond Salinger and Kerouac to allude to), and proofreading. Also, his portrayal of epublishing and resulting downfall of bookstores might be a little inaccurate, based more on pessimism than reality. Though flawed, it's still very much an enjoyable read and the way it ends is something to look forward to.

Denise says

Full disclosure: I received a copy of The Crazy Writers Group by Mike Reuther as a Goodreads giveaway. That in no way affects the review which follows.

I found The Crazy Writers Group to be a fun read, easy to follow, and with likeable characters. There were very few typos (which disappeared altogether after the book got going), and the glimpse into the nature of a group of fledgling writers was enjoyable. Reuther's writers spend a good deal of the book hanging out in bookstores, which I really liked. His characters discuss the pros and cons of e-publishing, as compared with traditional publishing, and their strong opinions seem believable to me.

One of the things I most enjoyed about the book was the road trip that some of the characters make, while they are also journeying and growing through their frustrations about writing. The only thing I really didn't like was that two of the three main female characters had very similar names (Katrina and Cat); with all of the names available, I'd have preferred two that weren't quite so similar sounding. (I found myself wondering if they were both feline references... So as not to include a spoiler, I won't elaborate about what I concluded here.)

All in all, this was a quick and lighthearted read, with enough serious moments to make it feel like an accurate reflection of the lives of the characters. I am grateful for the opportunity to read it.

N.W. Moors says

William is a member of a group called the Crazy Writers Group made up of William with three other would-be writers, Katrina, Steven, and Walt. The book follows their attempts to write a novel for traditional publishing with some of the pitfalls along the way. Any writer or someone attempting to write something publishable will recognize the characters in this easy-to-read book. E-publishing is just coming to the fore, and it creates a debate among the group - still being waged today - about the viability of electronic readers vs. books you can hold in your hand.
Mr. Reuther is a good writer, especially with his dialogue, and I enjoyed the first part where the group is meeting and William is interacting with them and other characters. The second part with the road trip was

not so much a homage to Kerouac and the other Beat writers as being "too cute" in my opinion; I found the earlier realism of the story more engaging. It seemed to just end without much resolution.

I will say that one point in the debate about the quality of e-publishing is on display here; there are numerous proofreading errors that interrupt the flow of the story for the reader. It's an easy read, but a good editor could make this a better read.

Maureen says

I wanted to like this book. I couldn't wait to get it. I had planned to buy 10 copies: one for every member of my writers group. BUT...it was awful. I wish I had my money back. Was it even edited? There are characters that fall away, and we never know what happens to them. The story is so awkwardly contrived. The characters unlikeable. The writing, embarrassing. This book is a good example of what not to do, especially for those authors considering self-publishing. SAVE YOUR MONEY, folks.