



Poets&Writers

Media Kit for Writers 2026

FROM THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHOR OF *THE MATCHMAKER*

PAUL VIDICH

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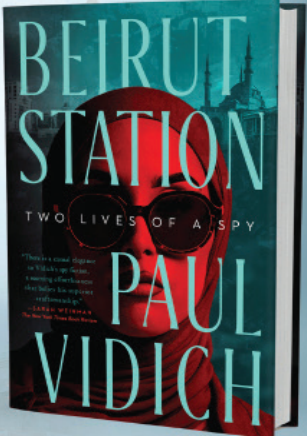
PRAISE FOR PAUL VIDICH

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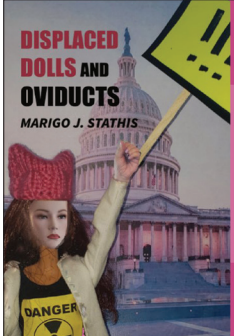
"There's more than one way to be a writer, and that's not [discussed] enough in the writing community," says Williams. What's more, there's no one path to success. And if Williams had insisted on getting an MFA to get started, would she ever have begun her book? Would she have completed it as quickly?

Like Williams and Hoffer, Rabecah Hasnain already had an established career—and a master's in education—when she finally decided to apply to MFA programs. "I don't think I [wanted to] publish a *New York Times* best-seller," Hasnain says. "I just wanted to learn." Before applying she had been active in writing groups in New Orleans, where she has lived for about ten years. "And then when I exhausted all those options, I decided to pursue my MFA." She applied to nine programs and was accepted to one school, but because it was not fully funded, she

ultimately did not attend.

Applying to master's programs in education had been a seamless process for Hasnain. But she felt woefully unprepared for the competitiveness of the MFA application process, something she had carefully contemplated for three or four years beforehand. It wasn't until her partner introduced her to the MFA Draft groups on Facebook that she started to understand the intricacies of the MFA application system and saw how common it was to be rejected. Hasnain confesses that MFA Draft also made her behave in cringeworthy ways: "It felt like sorority rush or something," she says. And the more she learned, the more competitive she felt. She began checking the backgrounds of other writers in the group, comparing her work with theirs, and deftly sleuthing to discern acceptances on the group's shared spreadsheet. "It was awful."

"Sometimes I feel inferior to other writers [with MFAs] even though you know people say you don't need an MFA," says Danielle Buckingham. Buckingham currently works as a journalist and was encouraged by friends and by the writer Kiese Laymon to pursue the MFA in 2018. She applied to nine programs and, like Hasnain, was accepted to one school, but a lack of funding from the school meant she ultimately could not accept the offer. Living in Mississippi, Buckingham watched as her friends with MFAs got books published and gained access to a certain level of mentorship from professors. "I was very resentful about it for a long time," she admits. She resolved to be "more intentional" the second time she applied, focusing only on fully funded programs and being realistic about the schools she believed would be the best fit for her writing, which



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DEADLINES

For the year 2026, these dates apply (dates & themes are subject to change):

Issue	Reservation date	Materials date	Publication
January/February - <i>Inspiration</i>	October 16	October 23	December 30
March/April - <i>Writing Communities</i>	January 2	January 9	February 24
May/June - <i>Writing Contests</i>	February 12	February 19	April 21
July/August - <i>Debut Fiction, Agents</i>	April 16	April 23	June 23
September/October - <i>Writing Education</i>	June 18	June 25	August 25
November/December - <i>Independent Publishing</i>	August 20	August 27	October 20

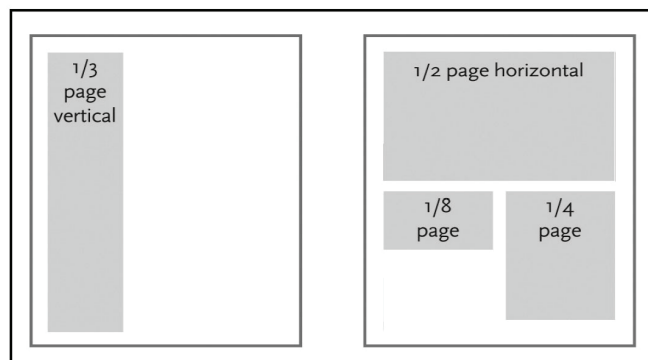
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