



*Dream of
Travel Writing*

How to Become Part of an Editor's Stable

by Gabi Logan, founder of Dream of Travel Writing

A soft-focus photograph of a desk setup. In the foreground, a white ceramic cup of coffee with a latte art design sits on a matching saucer. To the left, a smartphone is visible. In the background, a laptop is open, and a vase filled with purple flowers stands on the desk. The overall scene is bright and airy, with a light-colored background.

Today, we're going to
talk about...

1. What the stable is and why you want to be a part of it

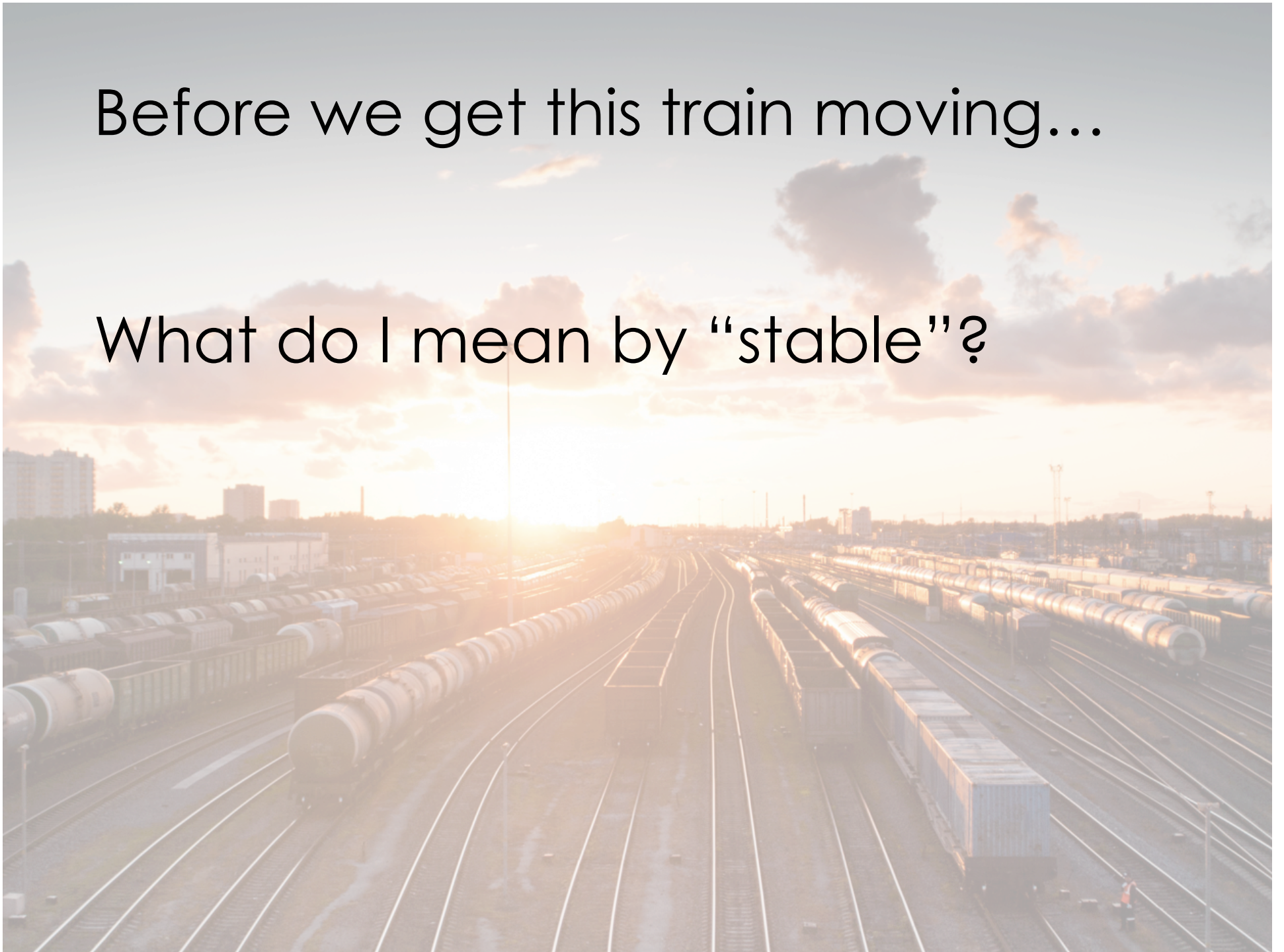
2. The best ways to become part of the stable

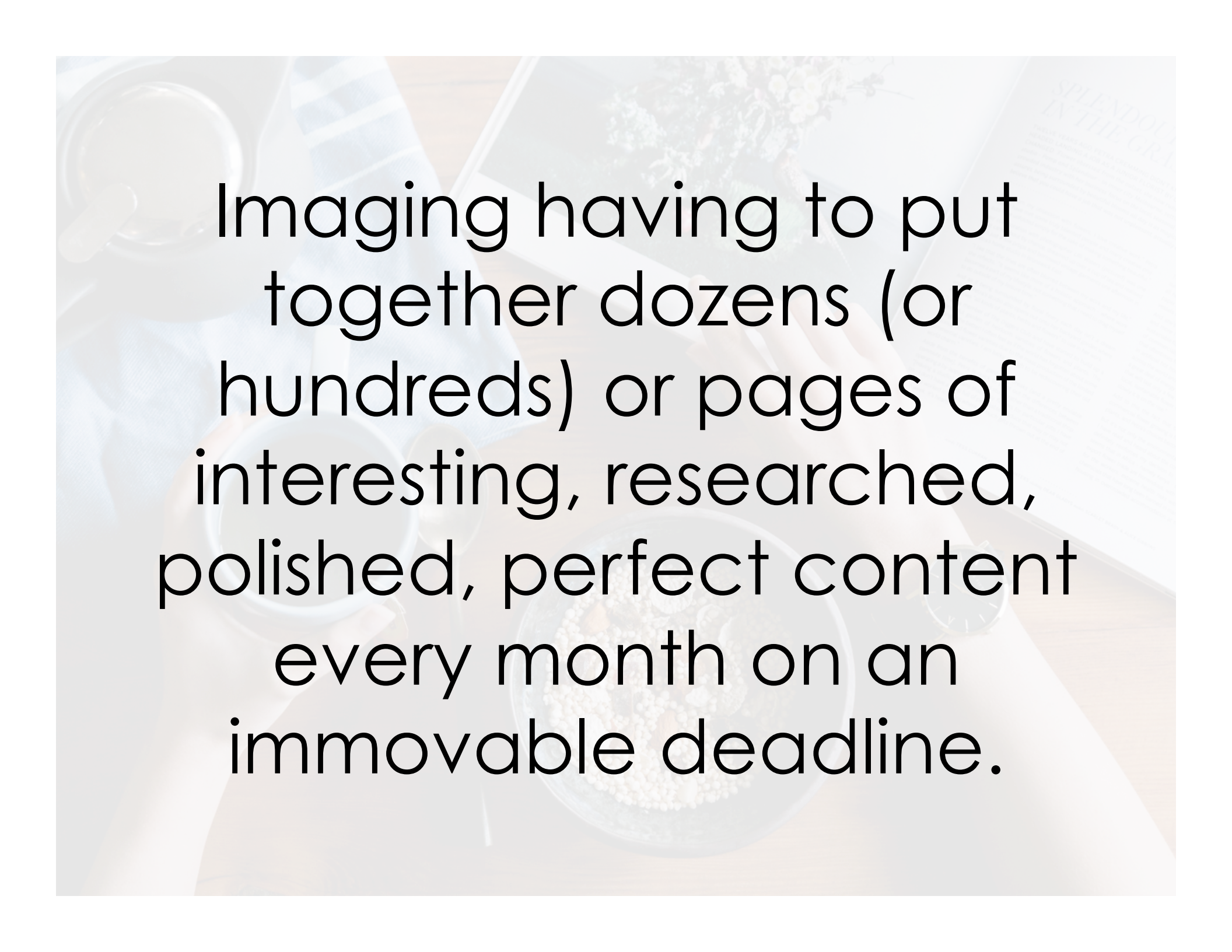
3. When you **SHOULD NOT** become part of the stable



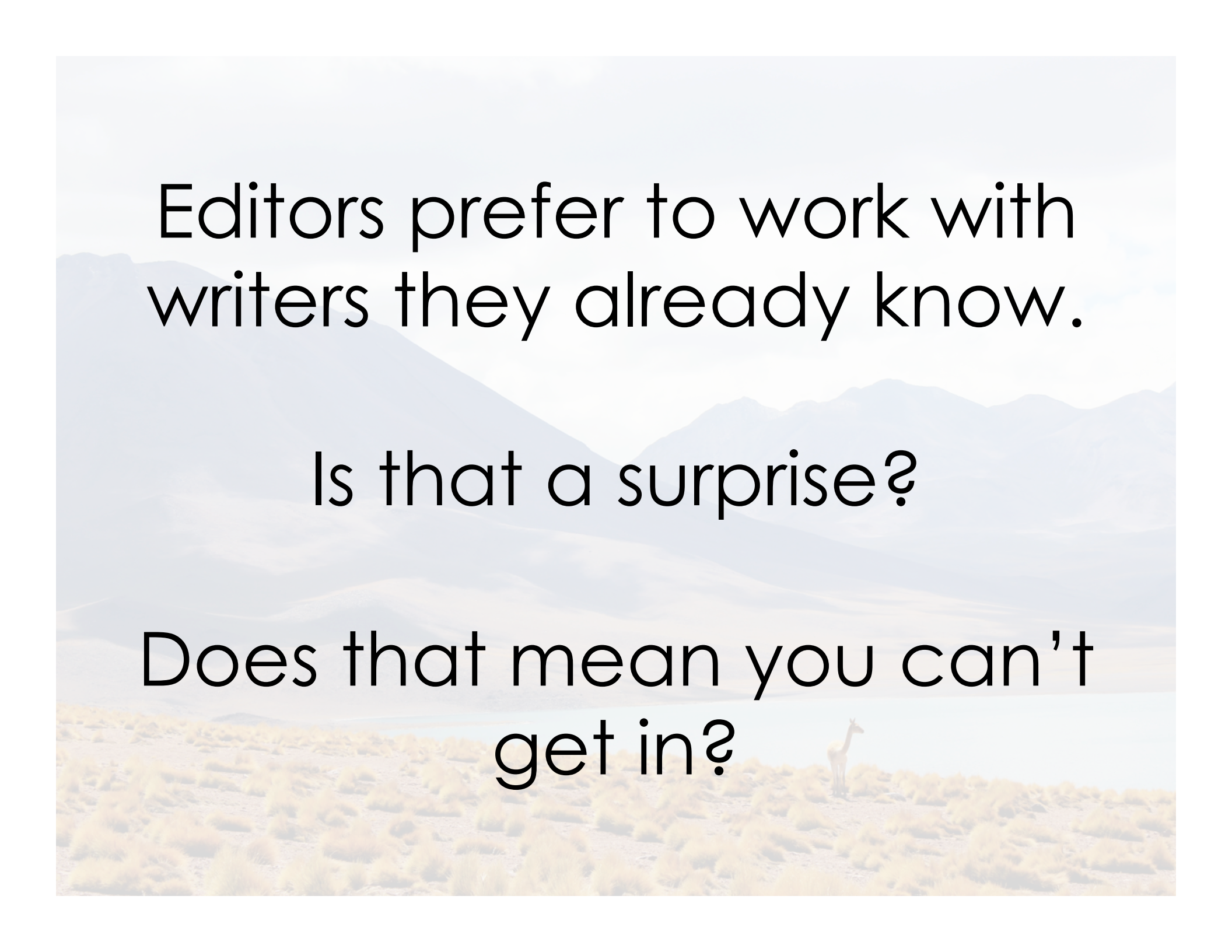
Before we get this train moving...

What do I mean by “stable”?



A collage of images including a coffee cup, a smartphone, a bowl of food, and a newspaper, with text overlaid.

Imaging having to put together dozens (or hundreds) or pages of interesting, researched, polished, perfect content every month on an immovable deadline.

A desert landscape with mountains in the background and a giraffe in the foreground. The scene is hazy and has a soft, muted color palette. The text is overlaid on the image.

Editors prefer to work with
writers they already know.

Is that a surprise?

Does that mean you can't
get in?

From *Gourmet Traveller Wine*:

“Most of the front of book is written by regular contributors. “Bennie’s Bars” is written by Mike Bennie, “Spirit Guide” is written by Fran Scheurer, “Craft Beer” is written by Julian Tomkin, “Dilemmas” is written by Jane Skilton MW, “Green Gauge” is written by Max Allen, “Asian Perspective” is written by Jeremy Oliver, “Tasting Wine” is written by Huon Hooke, “Tasting Wine New Zealand” is written by Bob Campbell MW, “Wine Observations” is written by Andrew Caillard MW, “Pinot Files” is written by Nick Stock, “Global Perspective” is written by Jancis Robinson MW, “Wines to Watch” is written by Mike Bennie, and “Importers to Watch” is written by Nick Stock. “Wine Matching” is written by Peter Bourne and “Food & Drink” is written by Andy Harris, both of which are found “Food & Drink.””

A person is shown from the chest up, holding a globe of the Earth. The person's face is partially obscured by the globe. The background is a light, textured surface with scattered papers or documents. The text is overlaid on this background.

Working with frequent
contributors saves a
ton of time for
editors...

...and those writers.

Biggest Advantages of Being in the Stable

1. Save pitching time

1. Learning the magazine's style
2. Checking what the magazine has covered in the past
3. Understanding the magazine's section

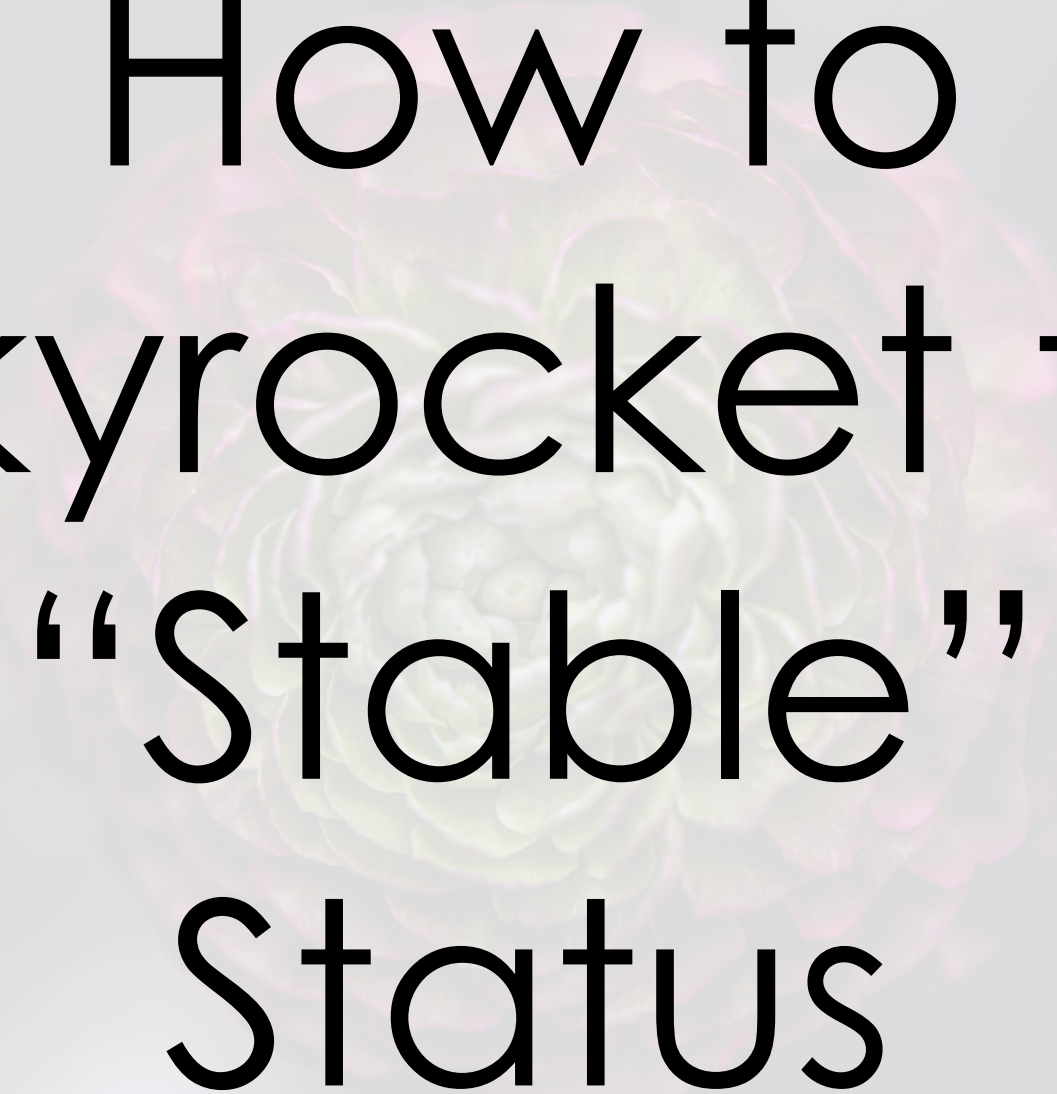
2. Save writing time

1. Know what the editor is looking for
2. Know the submission style
3. Have a report with the editor to ask questions and clarifications

The Basics of Becoming Part of the Stable (from the Pitch Phase)

- SHOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE MAGAZINE
- Show you are not crazy
- Show you have good ideas
- Show you are professional
- Show you are a good writer

(these are in order of importance)




How to
Skyrocket to
“Stable”
Status

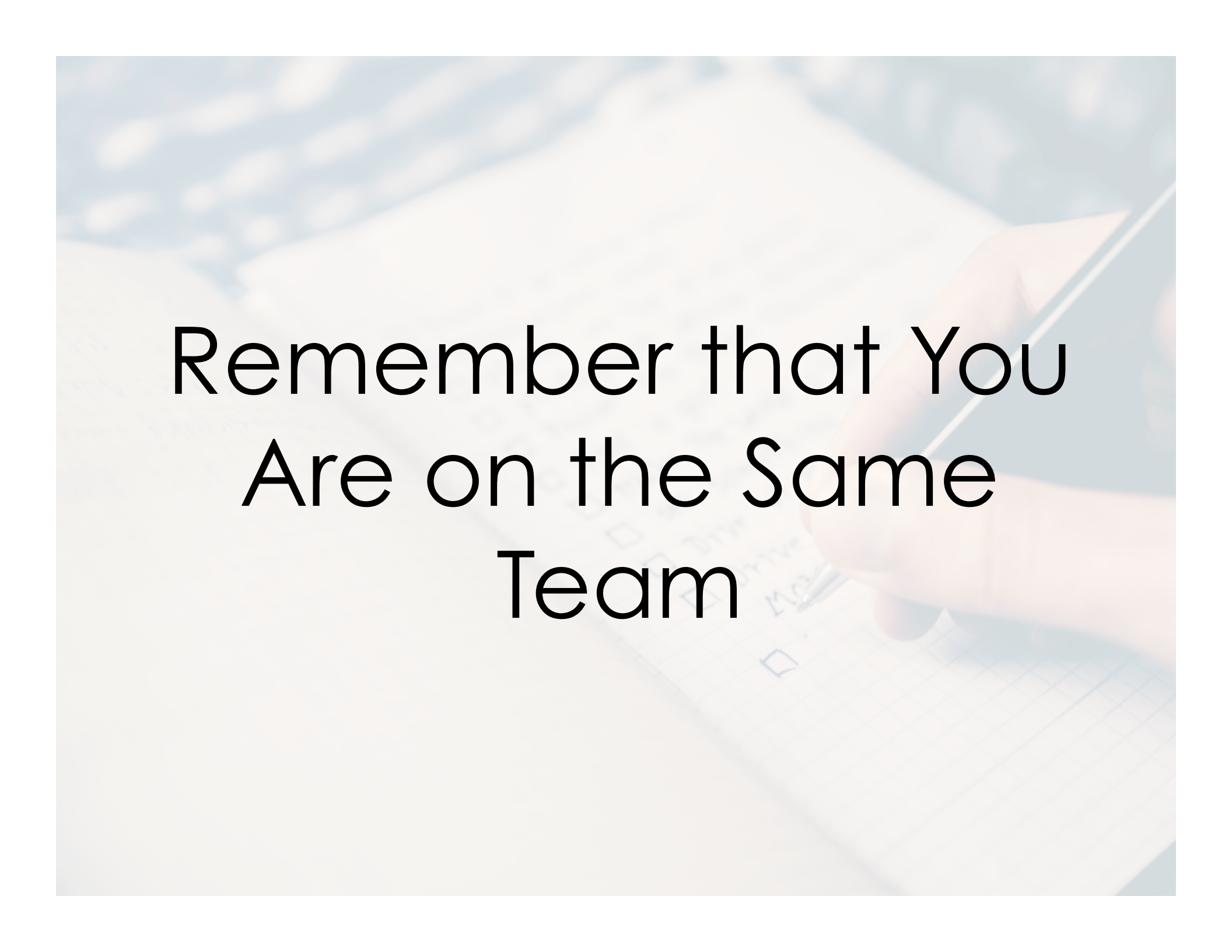
A person is seen climbing a steep, snow-covered mountain slope. The scene is set during a soft sunrise or sunset, with a warm glow on the horizon and a sky filled with light, wispy clouds. The mountain's surface is textured with snow and shadows, and the overall atmosphere is serene and challenging.

Have a Specialty
the Editor
Desperately Needs

(three ways)

A photograph of a forest path in autumn, with trees and ground covered in fallen leaves. The scene is misty and has a soft, ethereal quality. The path leads into the distance, flanked by trees with sparse foliage. The ground is covered in a thick layer of fallen leaves in various shades of brown, orange, and red. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat melancholic.

Don't be Crazy (part II)

A hand holding a pencil is shown writing on a grid notebook. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a computer keyboard. The text is centered on the page.

Remember that You
Are on the Same
Team



Write What You Were Assigned


(Check.
Check again.
Ask someone else.)

“Don’t send a 3,500 word story that’s great (esp past deadline) when I’ve commissioned 2,000 words.”

Say “Yes”

“Nothing should every be a problem for you that we ask you do.

“The editor is always right, even if they’re not. Don’t tell them you’re too busy, you have another assignment, or don’t have time for them.”

A person is standing on a rocky cliff edge, looking out over a vast, calm ocean under a clear sky. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the horizon. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Volunteer. Show you have ideas. Show what else you can do.

"I definitely have a stable; have a few people that are difficult to work with and are kind of annoying, but the stuff they do is so specialized I put up with it. Some regular people send in great stuff all the time, but then send in stuff I'm not super stoked about, it's like the free one you give away to keep the relationship going. With the boat guy, it became then it was a week before press, then the Monday, then the day before, then he missed one."

A blurred background image of a meeting table. In the foreground, there are several papers, a laptop, and a glass of amber liquid. In the background, there are more papers, a laptop, and a cup of coffee. The overall scene suggests a professional meeting or collaborative work environment.

Trust.

Communication.

A photograph of a metal walkway or bridge in a dense forest. The walkway is made of metal grating and has railings on both sides. It leads into the distance, surrounded by tall trees and lush greenery. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible.

Is it really that
simple????

Warning Signs that this Editor's Stable is not the Place for You

- Has a crazy contract
- (I think) Only pays on publication
- Doesn't get back to you after you file the story and follow up (i.e. in weeks, not the next day)
- Doesn't pay easily
- Goes too far outside the scope
- Changes what they want from the article after you turn it in (not because you didn't understand the assignment though...)



How do you know it's
not a good fit if it's not
on that list?

Do you feel lost and
scared?

Thanks so much
for joining us today!

It was a pleasure chatting
travel writing with you 😊

Whenever you need to double check an idea fit, your assumptions about editors, or your self doubt on whether your idea is good, email questions@dreamoftravelwriting.com.

