

# Podcast 317

[00:00:00] **Vicky:** Hello, and welcome to notes in the margin.

[00:00:04] **Joe:** It's gonna take me a while to get used to that.

[00:00:05] **Vicky:** I'm Vicky Quinn Fraser. And this is

[00:00:09] **Joe:** Joe my, your husband, Joe.

[00:00:12] **Vicky:** I know, but I thought you might like to say your own name.

[00:00:14] **Joe:** Oh, okay. Hello? Hello.

[00:00:15] **Vicky:** I don't know if I've ever heard your middle name. You can't just give us your government name.

[00:00:19] **Joe:** You can't just like go around changing the, the intro without telling me.

[00:00:22] **Vicky:** Yes, I can. it's my podcast

[00:00:24] **Joe:** spooked me.

[00:00:26] **Vicky:** um, Right. What, what? Welcome to the, oh my God. I dunno. What's happening.

[00:00:34] **Joe:** I know you got, you went off piste and now I'm lost.

[00:00:36] **Vicky:** Well, I, I feel like you tripped me up with your face. Um, so welcome to the podcast today we're gonna be talking about, I'm gonna be, um, going through a few of the writing, editing and publishing tools that I use. Okay. Yeah. I'm not gonna like list them all out. I'm just gonna talk about them and they're divided into three categories. No.

[00:00:57] **Joe:** Many categories.

[00:00:58] **Vicky:** They are divided [00:01:00] into four categories, productivity, planning, and writing, editing, and publishing.

[00:01:07] **Joe:** Blimey okay.

[00:01:08] **Vicky:** Yeah, I know. So I'm, I'm not gonna kind of list them all out but I do actually have an article about this on my website, which I will link to in the show notes, which goes into a lot more detail and also links to some of them. And some of those are affiliate links. And if you would like to buy through those affiliate links, I'll make a few dollar nice.

And I would really like that. So, um, and I, these are only links to things that I actually use and like as well. So this isn't some like bullshit affiliate, um, you know, no, you're not, you're not, I would never affiliate with something that I haven't used. You're not big app. Absolutely not big Abhi. , I'm a big app heel, a big Ashe.

I don't right. Anyway. Um, so, um, but Joe, what are you reading?

[00:01:48] **Joe:** um, I'm reading pre-study by Patricia Lockwood.

[00:01:53] **Vicky:** Yes, that is correct. It's not test .

Is it good?.

[00:01:57] **Joe:** I've got absolutely no idea. I've

[00:01:59] **Vicky:** oh, you started [00:02:00] reading it last night and you were drunk.

[00:02:01] **Joe:** I started reading it last night and a couple of my friends got married yesterday.

Oh. And I had a few beers in the pub last night. Yes. So I picked up a book, read the same paragraph about 23 times. And then fell asleep. So honestly I've got no idea.

[00:02:15] **Vicky:** and do you know what? Um, I went to pick Joe up from the pub and said hi to said friends there. Um, Joe knows them much

better than me. Um, but I went to say hi.

And it was really lovely and there's just lots of people being happy. And then we ran into another friend, Ben, who was also there.

[00:02:28] **Joe:** Hi Ben.

[00:02:28] **Vicky:** Hi Ben. Um, and in his inebriated state, he was raving about this app, um, that he's been using to make music and music videos, cuz he is the brains, the mastermind behind my ridiculous little jingles that you may have seen on, um, Instagram.

And if you haven't then you need to go and find them because they're, they're really funny aren't they? okay. Um, and you can, you can hear really funny music funny lyrics and surprisingly good singing from me. Um, but yeah, anyway, he told me about this app just in passing. He's like, oh, that's great. It's [00:03:00] great.

It's called cap cut. Um, and I've literally just been using it to put together a brand new reel for Instagram and it's really good. It makes it really easy to cut video and add music and, you know, you can have texts and style captions. Yeah. It's really, really cool. Anyway. Um, so you're reading pre-study well, I mean, no verdict as yet.

None

[00:03:18] **Joe:** whatsoever. I'm gonna start again. I think.

[00:03:19] **Vicky:** Fair enough.

Oh,good.

[00:03:22] **Joe:** That's the

next door neighbors, burglar alarm.

[00:03:24] **Vicky:** Oh, it's gone. Um, and I am reading, I'm still, I'm literally on the last few pages and I almost finished it last night, but I was so tired. I was like, I want to read at the back the end, the back of the

book, the end of the book properly without falling asleep, halfway through.

Um, Almost finished around India in 80 trains. Okay. By Manisha, Rajesh. And I love it. It's so great. Um, haven't got much new to say other than I still wanna travel around India on trains. Mm-hmm having read the book, um, and go and read it and buy her other book as well around the world in 80 trains, because that is also super, um, really love them.

I'm still reading good pop, bad pop, because I keep putting my [00:04:00] book somewhere and then forgetting where I put it .

[00:04:02] **Joe:** That's not like you .

[00:04:05] **Vicky:** How dare you! Um, anyway, so this week, oh my gosh. We've got walls in the bathroom.

[00:04:12] **Joe:** Oh my God. Plastering is

done.

[00:04:13] **Vicky:** Yeah. We've had the walls plastered and oh my God, they look so beautiful and oh my God, we've now gotta pay them.

Uh, yeah, that's a lot of money. Um, but it's so worth it. It's beautiful.

Isn't it?

[00:04:22] **Joe:** It's gorgeous. It's gorgeous. And it kind of opens up us up to a whole bunch of next steps, which is nice. The development tree has opened out again.

[00:04:31] **Vicky:** it really

feels like I'm gonna be able to have a bath by Christmas. Mm. It's very exciting.

And I was in, um, Steph's shop today in Loveleaf

[00:04:39] **Joe:** hi Steph

[00:04:40] **Vicky:** hi Steph! Um, and she's got the most enormous plants, like all the way up to the ceiling plants. I reckon one of them would only fit in this office here. I don't think it'd fit in the house because it's that tall

[00:04:50] **Joe:** I'm amazed that you haven't bought it already.

[00:04:51] **Vicky:** Well, but it would go in, um, the, you know, the, the nook by the double height ceiling by our bedroom stair. Oh yeah. And, oh my gosh, they're so tall [00:05:00] and they're so amazing. And I was just like, oh my God, I'm gonna get. But you can't buy that until two

giant banana plants until,

[00:05:05] **Joe:** until that nook is being decorated and having a chair put in it,

[00:05:08] **Vicky:** giant banana plants,

[00:05:09] **Joe:** you can't buy that yet

[00:05:10] **Vicky:** giant banana plants.

[00:05:11] **Joe:** You can't buy that yet. Banana plants will exist in the future.

[00:05:16] **Vicky:** anyway. Right. So we're talking this week about, um, I just wanted to run through some of the tools that I use to, to write my books, um, and to help my clients write their books. And, um, yeah. So, and I thought it might be useful for people because.

you know, I mean, it's a bit like saying, oh, what's the best car. And then you recommend your own car because mm-hmm, , that's just what, just what everybody does. um, but I have tried a, a bunch of different, like I've gone through so many apps and pieces of software and. Stuff and strategies and tactics and "good advice" I'm doing air quotes.

yeah. Good advice from, um, um, you know, dude bros who have a wife at home to do all of the other work for them, so they can go away for three weeks and write a book um, and so I [00:06:00] have tried a lot of stuff. Um, and yeah, so a few things productivity now, don't hear what I'm not saying, and be like, you've gotta be super productive all the time, but I do wanna be as productive as I can be in the bounds of, you know, the rest of my life and what I want to do.

I want to make the most of the time that I'm allocating to write a book mm-hmm um, so there's various bits and pieces that I use and some of them are absolute essentials. So freedom app is fab. It will block me. Um, it's like a, it's like a child lock for your social media and stuff. It will block off all the distracting websites.

Um, and actually since I've come off Facebook, I need it a lot less, I've found mm-hmm . Um, but yeah, so, um, Freedom app is great because it blocks distracting websites. You can put anything on it that you want. So if you're like, if you find yourself sliding to obviously the social media ones are the obvious ones like Reddit and, um, Instagram and Facebook and stuff like that.

But also there's things like eBay and, um, Atlas Obscura, and other ones [00:07:00] that I'm like, oh, I'm just gonna go and do this thing instead. So you can add whatever websites that you want. Okay. That's very cool. And you can also get the app for your devices as well. Um, and it'll kind of sync across all your devices.

Which is really useful and it will block, it works a little bit better with like, I, I remember it was really glitchy with the Facebook app, um, on my phone, but, um, it worked really well with other stuff, so. Okay.

[00:07:21] **Joe:** So, so that you, and you can set schedule, presumably it doesn't just block that stuff. You can kind of say yeah. After 6:00 PM it's okay.

[00:07:27] **Vicky:** Yeah. And so you can set lunch times and you can set as many kind of time, time. Like blocks for it as you want. It's um, and the other thing that I found out, I did not realize it also offers focus sounds and music, which I didn't realize until I actually wrote the article

that I wrote.

Um, I don't really use it for that because I've got other stuff that I use for that. But you it's it's I think it's synced up with brain FM. So you, it kind of, you know, binaural sounds and things like that. Which is very cool. Speaking of sounds. The other thing that I wish I had bought years ago, and I think I've probably mentioned this a few times on the podcast is [00:08:00] my Bose noise canceling headphones, which have been an absolute godsend.

[00:08:06] **Joe:** Nice.

[00:08:06] **Vicky:** They are the most amazing thing. They were about 250 quid. And if they had cost twice that I would still be grinning it with delight because they are not only really com like I can wear them for cuz I think a lot of over the head headphones over ear headphones, they can, they can get quite uncomfortable after a while I've worn them for like an hour and a half before they start to kind of press on the top of my head in such a way that I'm like, oh, you know what?

I'm just gonna take them off now. So they're super comfy. They're really comfy around my ears. They work really well with glasses as well, which I was quite surprised about because obviously the arms of the glasses. Um, and they just make music sound beautiful. And like, I was like, oh my God. I feel like I'm hearing music for the first time.

[00:08:43] **Joe:** That's nice.

[00:08:44] **Vicky:** Yeah. And cuz obviously like, usually we're kind of listening to it through your crappy MacBook speakers or your phone speakers or whatever, and you know, one day we're gonna have a nice sound system in the house, right.

[00:08:54] **Joe:** Anybody who listens through mu to music through their phone speaker needs, needs to stop doing that.

[00:08:59] **Vicky:** Well I do [00:09:00] cuz I, I feel like there's, you know, sound good. Sound equipment is expensive. Let.'s not, You know, let's not lie, but yeah. I feel like there's a whole generation of kids out there

who just don't know what it can sound like,

[00:09:13] **Joe:** what this should sound like. Yeah.

[00:09:14] **Vicky:** Yeah. And, and so I just think that's really exciting.

Um, so yeah, my go-to white noise for that, by the way, is the relaxed guy on YouTube who just puts rain on. Like, I, I write to rain. Mm-hmm um, I can't write to music, music with lyrics. If I've got. If I'm listening to something on a loop and I've already listened to it, like 10 times I can write to that because I I'm no longer paying attention to it.

[00:09:37] **Joe:** Yeah. It needs to be super familiar. Doesn't it?

[00:09:38] **Vicky:** Yep. Um, so white noise or binaural sounds or brain FM type music. Um, just, just kind of, or trance works quite well as well. Um, so children by Robert Miles is a really good one. Explain why you made the face that you just made?

[00:09:54] **Joe:** I once shared a student house with a guy who played children by Robert Miles on a loop for [00:10:00] about a year. drove me insane.

[00:10:03] **Vicky:** Well, I get that because that's what I do with music. Joe looks at me like, I don't know how you can do that. And I'm like, but it's like a sound blanket was it because he was off his tits the whole time.

[00:10:12] **Joe:** I mean, he was off his tits the whole time, but I mean, we all were.

[00:10:15] **Vicky:** Um, so yeah, that's two things. Um, the other thing that I have recently bought is my fidget toy, which Joe is currently fidgeting with.

[00:10:24] **Joe:** I am currently

you might have heard the odd, random click. Uh it's it's I'm I'm sitting here.



[00:10:29] **Vicky:** That's one of my favorite sounds just it's like, it's like ASMR to me, it's like, oh, it's like stroking my brain.

[00:10:35] **Joe:** So it's basically like a little a little cube is about an inch square and it's got lots of buttons and clicky things on it and you can just play with it.

[00:10:41] **Vicky:** So this, this is one of the favorites for how it feels and how it sounds a little rubber, little rubber Podfly are gonna be like, could you stop one or the other speaking or fidgeting. Um, it's like a little rubber button and it just clicks so satisfyingly. And then there's like a lightswitch. [00:11:00] Anyway, so I've actually found, so one of the things that I massively struggle with is watching videos, like training videos and things like that.

Mm-hmm because I will go off and I will do something else. And then I will be like, oh, damn, I've just missed the last 10 minutes and I'll have to rewind it. And then, you know, ad infinitum mm-hmm and I've found that since I've got my fidget toy, cuz I'm not always making notes. If I'm making notes and doing worksheets, then I can do it.

If I got my fidget toy, I can sit and listen and it's like, That's really cool. So, um, it costs me about £10. It's awesome. Um, my ergonomic keyboard, uh, just so that my wrists stop hurting. I've got a stand for my MacBook. I've got a second screen. Mm-hmm second screen is amazing because, um, my working memory lives in all of the windows that are open on my website, on my computer currently.

So like, um, I've actually got relatively few tabs open today. Um, But if you go to my tab saver, one tab that has got a history of all of the, um, bullshit that's currently in my [00:12:00] head,

[00:12:00] **Joe:** 162 tabs,

[00:12:02] **Vicky:** 162 tabs. Nice. Um,

but that's, again, it's like, I guess that's kind of a productivity tool as well, because I forget, like I forget things that are currently interesting or

important to me.

And so I'm like, fuck, I know, I, I know I was looking at something that I now need, where is it? It's gonna be in one of the saved tabs that I've got, or it's gonna be one of the open tabs on my desktop. So

[00:12:23] **Joe:** that's fair.

[00:12:24] **Vicky:** Yeah. So the second screen is great for that. It's great for when I'm, um, editing and writing as well, because I can look at notes on one screen and write on the other that's really useful, useful.

[00:12:33] **Joe:** Yes, you need, you need more than one screen. I, um, I spend a lot of my time on sites with my laptop balanced on top of a wheelie bin or something and plugged into some esoteric industrial network. Um, and quite often I'm not just. I got three windows open on my machine, but I'm also remotely into one or two other machines and they've got windows open on them as well.

and that gets really, really ugly [00:13:00] quite quickly. Yeah.

[00:13:01] **Vicky:** I would get lost in

that.

[00:13:02] **Joe:** Yeah. Well you do every now and again, I just have to like close everything down and start again cuz it's just I'm just lost. when you're using one machine to like remote into another machine and then using that machine to remote into something else as well.

You're like, you're like properly inception. Remote desktop. It's all getting a bit much.

[00:13:17] **Vicky:** Yeah. So second screen is a good investment.

[00:13:19] **Joe:** The more screen's the better.

[00:13:20] **Vicky:** They don't have to cost a fortune. I think mine cost about a hundred quid, you know? Yeah. In the grand scheme of things.

Um, I know that's a very privileged thing to say, but you know, they're not that expensive.

So, um, water, I forget to drink water. Mm-hmm have lots of water. I've got a water filter. Thing in my office. So, um, I've usually got water in my office, but I have water next to you all the time. Um, because honestly, one of my main sources of feeling like shit is not eating or drinking enough and your brain function will atrophy.

Like your brain function will decline rapidly. If you are dehydrated or hungry.

[00:13:53] **Joe:** Yes, it might be nonsense, but something like a 1% dehi being 1% dehydrated [00:14:00] results in like a negative 20% capability or something. It is quite a lot.

[00:14:05] **Vicky:** Yeah. That is a, a stat that like, Joe's just pulled out of nowhere, but it, it does make like, we can, we can look it up, but it does make a big difference and, you know, tiredness as well, like get enough sleep because I remember reading somewhere sometime that driving while tired is as dangerous as driving, after having a couple of drinks.

And you know, there's not, it's difficult to regulate that so we, we regulate the alcohol as we should, but, um, But yeah, it's just, yeah. Tiredness eat properly, drink properly. Um, especially, especially if you're neurodiverse, like our brain function is really tied, really closely to what eat and what we drink.

So like, try not to make your entire lunch a bag of Skittles , which is something that I do sometimes. Um, yoga mat also have my yoga mat. I get up and move around. I roll around on the floor. Um, that's really useful too. So those are my main productivity tools, um, planning and writing tools. Okay. Just gonna run through these quickly cuz you know, [00:15:00] um, ding bat's notebooks.

Oh, any notebook will do I guess, but dingbats are beautiful. The paper's beautiful. It's eco-friendly um, their paper came from Lebanon originally. I love their company ethos and the notebooks themselves are so stunning. I have an affiliate link. Please go and buy from. Them through

that because, um, I just want more money to buy more Dingbats notebooks basically.

um, so yeah, that's fantastic. Um, pens, I'm really fussy about my pens. I always have at least one full box of Pentel energel rollerball pens in black.

[00:15:32] **Joe:** I'm gonna, I'm gonna just pull you back there and use the full description of what you use, because you've actually got serial number, like a proper partner with it.

PenTile BL 27 dash ax energel

[00:15:42] **Vicky:** cool. Thanks.

[00:15:43] **Joe:** I mean, that's specific

[00:15:46] **Vicky:** it's cuz I really love the pens. I really love them.

[00:15:49] **Joe:** I, I love them too, actually. You know, you know, the reason you don't have as many pens as you think you do is because I steal your pens.

[00:15:54] **Vicky:** Oh my God. That is not cool Joe it's not cool. Um, but yes, [00:16:00] so I always have a stash of them.

Um, and it reminds me of that scene in the west wing. Do you remember when Mrs. Landingham dies and he can't find his pen, his favorite pens. And they're not like particularly special pen at the president. Mm-hmm, , can't find they're not like particularly expensive pens, but, um, she always kept a box of his favorite pens in her desk drawer so that whenever he lost it or ran out or whatever he would have, and it just always reminds me of that scene, cuz that's kind of how I am.

It's like I can't, I mean obviously I will use whatever is to hand, but,

[00:16:25] **Joe:** but those are the pens you need.

[00:16:26] **Vicky:** Those are the pens I really love. Yeah. They're just so

smooth. Um, Okay.

[00:16:31] **Joe:** And they're about, they're about a quid each if you buy 'em in bulk.

[00:16:33] **Vicky:** Yeah, 50 and 50 for 12, I think from Amazon. Sorry. Um, pencils, obviously, um, colored pencils.

I love colored pens, brush pens. I use to in my, um, in my creativity notebook, which is where I just doodle and sketch and write random shit.

[00:16:50] **Joe:** Stretch your brain.

[00:16:51] **Vicky:** Stretch my brain, um, colored brush pens. Love it. Make your notebook beautiful and colorful and something that you want to go into and play with.

Um, [00:17:00] Notion app. Oh my God.

[00:17:02] **Joe:** Okay. So the notes for this podcast are in the notion app.

[00:17:05] **Vicky:** Yeah. Everything like we're looking at it now. I've got my articles in there. I've got my podcast notes in there. I've got my email sequences. I've got my product. Um, ideas, descriptions, all my books, um, are either referenced or live in there.

Mm-hmm um, I, I don't, I write my books in, in it as well, but that's not the only thing I write my book in because I've got fragments of books. Like the current, the book that I'm currently writing, I've got in notion Scrivener. Um, my notes app, um, at Google doc somewhere, I think my notes app on my phone and my voice notes and my notebooks

[00:17:36] **Joe:** You should probably colate all that into a pile somewhere.

[00:17:38] **Vicky:** Well, yes. Um, so

[00:17:41] **Joe:** but yeah, I mean, I I've, I I've recently started using

notion as well because I was finding that the contents of my head was, um, crowded mm-hmm . Um, and typically what I would do is I, would sit down in a meeting and I'd open notepad and I'd go meeting. Here's the three people who are in it.

This is what we're [00:18:00] discussing, and then I'd make some notes mm-hmm and then I'd save that into a project folder. And that would be sort of there for the team to see if they needed it. Um, But yeah, notion's better. Yes. Um, because you can, you can arrange things the way you want people. You can allow people access to see what you want 'em to see.

Everybody can chip in. It's like, uh, it's, it's a, it's a good thing. It's interesting. And I've started trying to do clever of things that you kind of just. No, no offense. You kind of use it as, as a place to put text. Yeah. Um, and

maybe categorize text or whatever.

[00:18:31] **Vicky:** And my accountants use it for they've got spreadsheet and do stuff in it as well.

[00:18:34] **Joe:** So yeah. But

I, I I've started, um, with some of the databases and like linking things and tasks and due dates, calendars and things, and it all can, you can, you can get quite, quite clever with it. Yeah. Not that I'm quite clever with it, but you can, uh, you can do some pretty swish things in there.

[00:18:49] **Vicky:** Yeah. There's a whole subreddit devoted to notion and the people in there are really great because like you can, the people will make templates for things.

So like I keep all my house plant stuff, for example, in [00:19:00] notion as well, so that, um, it reminds me to water them every week. Um, which is the only reason they're not all dead. Um, and I got that template from just from somebody who was offering it for free. And so some people offer free templates. Some people offer, I bought a couple of templates as well from people that, um, One of them worked really

well for me.

The other one didn't so much. Um, but yeah, it's just, it's just really fab. It's got a lot more scope to do stuff with than I know. And it also integrates with a lot of different software. So Harriet, um, cuz she's much cleverer than me at this kind of thing has integrated it with Canva, which we use a lot for our social media, um, post and things like that.

So, um, she creates like my prompt calendar and also we've got a content calendar for my content that she has integrated into notion so that I can pop in and have a look and see, what am I supposed to be doing?

[00:19:46] **Joe:** That's cool

[00:19:46] **Vicky:** , which is really cool. Um, you can, yeah, it's just great. And you can nest things. And, um, so for example, and for books, because this is, you know, people listening to this are gonna be like, okay, but books, but books, I've got a notion [00:20:00] space workspaces they're called, called my books.

And within that, I've got. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 books. Not all of which are going to ever be written or have been written yet. Um, several of which are in progress, but the one that I'm currently writing, which working title is not going to be. Revealed yet. I've got inside there, I've got intro bits and pieces, random shit that might fit research and references.

Mm. And it's all in there and you can, yeah, it's just very, very cool. So

[00:20:34] **Joe:** that's, it's a cool thing. It's, it's quite interesting. I haven't started paying for it yet, but I think I'm gonna have to,

[00:20:39] **Vicky:** there's a limited free version or it's \$4 a month for personal pro \$8 a month um, for a team and I think per person mm-hmm so, um, if you start putting big teams and they've got like enterprise versions for, for big people, but it's just great.

Yeah. Um, other productivity tools that I love my iPhone notes app

already, already mentioned it, you know, I'm I think there are, [00:21:00] I've seen writing advice out there. That's like, oh, you have to use Scrivener or you have to use Google docs or use whatever the fuck is at hand, like use whatever is at hand. If you are in a position to type notes into your phone and that's all you've.

Do that because you can find it later, if you are driving and you like can't stop or whatever act, use Siri to activate. Um, I had to whisper that, so, so they didn't wake up. Um, but use, use that to activate your voice recorder.

[00:21:27] **Joe:** Use, use a smart speaker,

[00:21:28] **Vicky:** use a smart speaker to activate your voice recorder and then record.

Yeah. Speak into it. Cause most smartphones now have got a voice recorder. . Yeah. Yeah. So, so that was really cool. And then I can email them to myself and transcribe it myself or get it transcribed by. And I think Apple's native, um, thing is. In like doing a transcription thing that is native to it is not great at the moment,

[00:21:54] **Joe:** but it'll get better.

[00:21:55] **Vicky:** It'll get better. Um, so that's all of those little things that will probably come with [00:22:00] your phone. Um, Scrivener, love, love Scrivener. Also I hate Scrivener. Um, I hate that it's incredibly dense and complicated and the user manual is about 3 million pages long, right? It can do a lot. I think if someone's doing loop the loops above us in a little plane

[00:22:15] **Joe:** yeah, it sounds like it isn't, it

[00:22:18] **Vicky:** Um, but I love that it is a beautiful word processor and it's built by authors for authors. And you can tell, I don't like the publishing side of things because I think it's clunky and I think there are better ways of doing it. Mm-hmm um, unless you are willing to spend a lot of time learning and I'm not.



But what I really love is that it's a fantastic organizer of ideas. Chapter sections, you can tag things, you can use notes, you can, it's got a corkboard where you can move bits of writing around within. So it's like notion, but one step further mm-hmm, in a kind of visual way. And it just, it's just very, very, very cool.

Um, was also remarkably inexpensive. It's 47 pounds. Or if you are a student or an educational institution, it's [00:23:00] 39 95 and that's lifetime.

[00:23:02] **Joe:** that's cool.

[00:23:03] **Vicky:** Yeah, it's very cool. So I also have an affiliate link for that. Um, and I think they also give you a 30 day free trial, but it's 30 real days of use. So it's not like it's

[00:23:11] **Joe:** not like starting today and closing in a month at all.

It's 30 days of

use.

[00:23:15] **Vicky:** Yeah. Which is, which is my kind of trial because you know, who's gonna use most things every day for a month for nobody. So, so I love that, um, 750 words.com absolute favorite tools, \$5 a. And, um, it's designed to build a strong writing habit. So based on Julia Cameron's morning pages, the idea is that you write 700 words every day, 750 words a day on anything.

I empty my brain into it, and then I also often write essays and things in it as well. So sometimes I end up writing thousands of words, mm-hmm in it, but, um, it's just, it's just fab. And then I copy it to wherever I want my writing to be.

[00:23:49] **Joe:** That's cool.

[00:23:51] **Vicky:** It just, again, it's building a habit. Um, oh look, here's one of my tools that I made my start, your book templates.

These are my products. Um, I struggle [00:24:00] massively with getting started and finishing stuff, and I could not find anything that worked for me to help me write the nonfiction books that I write. So I made my own templates. Currently. There are five of them. There are gonna be more mm-hmm as I think of more things.

And they're also gonna be continually improved as well, continually continually. So if you buy them. You get like a link to where they are because they are in Google docs for people who don't have notion and in notion for people who do have notion mm-hmm , um, and I am continually improving them. So you can go back.

Like every time I update them, I email everybody. Who's bought them and I'm like, here is an update free. You don't have to pay again. Yeah. Um, and they are 49 pounds each, or you can get all five of them for 199 beans. Nice. Yeah, they're really good. Um, one of the people who, one of the lovely testimonials I got was.

she said that it was literally the only tool that she'd ever found that actually got her, started writing her book. So I was really pleased with that.

[00:24:54] **Joe:** That's cool.

[00:24:56] **Vicky:** um, that's also, obviously my book. How the hell do you write a book, which you [00:25:00] can get from my website by the book. Um, [moxiebooks.co.uk/buythebook](http://moxiebooks.co.uk/buythebook)

oh, the templates are [moxiebooks.co.uk/start-your-book-templates](http://moxiebooks.co.uk/start-your-book-templates). All this will be in the show notes. Um, my free Moxie calendar prompt as well. Totally free. [moxiebooks.co.uk/calendar](http://moxiebooks.co.uk/calendar), um, free daily prompt calendar and my writing group. Um, nothing wonderful is ever created alone.

No matter what some people might have you believe, um, to. You can come and try us out for a pound for the first week and join live online writing sessions with the best group of people. Some of them, some of whom have been with me. I worked this out the other day for, I think

like six or seven years.

[00:25:39] **Joe:** Oh, wow.

[00:25:40] **Vicky:** Yeah. and I think in Mike's case, I think it's since 2015, which is gosh, eight years. Is it. Yeah. So, um, hi Mike.

[00:25:52] **Joe:** Hi Mike .

[00:25:53] **Vicky:** Um, oh, Mike is so close to finishing his book as well. Oh my God. So excited. Um, so yeah, you can find [00:26:00] out more about that at [moxiebooks.co.uk/powerhour](http://moxiebooks.co.uk/powerhour). Um, that will take you to there.

You can try it out for a pound for the first week and after that it's 50 quid a month. And if you come to every single session, which is about 40 of them, it's like what a quid, a session mm-hmm . So, um, and then finally, just very quickly gonna run through a few editing tools. I think

[00:26:20] **Joe:** editing tools.

[00:26:21] **Vicky:** So remarkable tablets wondered if this was gonna be a very expensive.

Piece of text, but

[00:26:26] **Joe:** this is like a digital notepad thing.

[00:26:28] **Vicky:** Yeah, it's really great. It's a bit pricey. Um, did wonder if it was gonna be a thing that I never used, but it's actually great. Um, I use it mostly for editing, working on client books, also my own books as well. Um, and also for doing training courses because I don't like printing out loads of stuff.

Um, like loads of paper, because. You know, eco blah. And also they just, I, I lose it. Um, so you can import PDFs onto the remarkable and then scribble on them. So

I bloody love.

[00:26:58] **Joe:** So you use it like [00:27:00] a, you seem to be using it as an e-reader, rather than as a. as a writing tool.

[00:27:05] **Vicky:** No, I, I do both because I also have notebooks I open.

So if I'm taking notes on some things that somebody has got workbooks for, or has done videos for, then I will often take notes in my remarkable, because I can then import them into the same folder in notion that has got all of my other notes and the videos and things. Okay. So cuz also it does, um, uh, script, to text recognition, which is really cool

[00:27:29] **Joe:** OCR.

[00:27:29] **Vicky:** Yes. Thank you. um, which, you know. Works better with some handwriting than another handwriting, I guess, but it does a pretty good job. Um, so yeah, I did wonder, um, if I would actually use it and I really do, um, it's 299 pounds at the moment. Um, so it's not cheap. Um, I don't think they ever discount it they don't do an affiliate either, which is really irritating.

Um but I really like it. I'm also aware that it's quite expensive. If you've already got an iPad, you can get some. decent writing some perhaps stick do similar things. Yeah. And [00:28:00] the apple pencil works really well. And I got, um, a screen cover that mimics paper really well for the iPad.

[00:28:07] **Joe:** Mm. Makes it have a bit of grip.

[00:28:08] **Vicky:** Yeah. And I use that for, um, my cartooning. So, um, and yeah, people do art on the remarkable as well. If you Google remarkable art, there's some incredible stuff. So there's that. Um, and then a few little other things, color pens and post-it notes again, invaluable for editing. Mm-hmm stick your coloured post-it notes all over the place.

And also a new thing that I've discovered transparent post-it notes,

which you can stick over the pages of a book if you want to, and just kind of write notes, but still see what's underneath it. Okay. Without damaging the book, which is really, really nice. So I tend, do tend to scribble in the margins of my books, but if I'm borrowing a book from somebody, I would never do that because that's a bit rude

[00:28:46] **Joe:** bit rude.

[00:28:47] **Vicky:** Yeah. Special place in hell people who do that. Um, but yeah, there's that, um, Grammarly such a useful tool to run writing through, to catch typos and spelling mistakes. Um, it's really good if you can't stretch a professional [00:29:00] proof reader, although not infallible pro writing aid is, is better. In my opinion, it's very similar to Grammarly.

Um, in that it does kind of the same thing, but it also does a plagiarism check if you pay for it. Um, sometimes worry that if I've written something that I've inadvertently swiped it from elsewhere, because you know, your brain will store stuff and then pull it out later. And so you can just run it through and check it.

Um, it also does really cool stuff. Like it will check for style. And have you, you know, how many times do you use words and what are your writing ticks? Mm-hmm um, and it does, it does a lot of stuff. It's very good. Um, if you can't stretch to a professional editor or you don't want to, for whatever reason,

[00:29:39] **Joe:** it will take a lot of wrinkles out your writing.

[00:29:40] **Vicky:** It will take a lot of wrinkles out. Yeah. And it's really reasonable, \$20 a month, \$79 a year, or, um, \$399 for the lifetime. I got a really good deal on it.

[00:29:49] **Joe:** So if you'd written a book and you wanted to run it through this thing, you could buy it for a month. Yeah. Smash your book through it. Yeah. And then, you're done

yeah.

And

[00:29:58] **Vicky:** I am just gonna reiterate, it is [00:30:00] not a substitute for a professional copy editor or developmental editor. But I know that not everybody has the budget for that. And so if you don't have the budget for a real human, it's a really, really good thing to do. And also just if you're writing a lot of content and blog posts and stuff like that, you know, run it through pro writingedit, which I always forget to do.

Um, so if you see typos, that's why. um, Google docs extremely useful when I'm working with clients on their manuscripts. Mm-hmm, , um, extremely useful. If you wanna send stuff to beta readers, Because they can all comment in the same document. Mm-hmm , which sounds terrifying, um, kind of is, but also really useful.

So it's free or you can pay for storage on Google drive if you want. So that's really cool. Um, and then I think we'll do publishing tools another time because it's half an hour in and I'm bored of talking.

[00:30:50] **Joe:** fair enough. Fair enough.

[00:30:51] **Vicky:** Um, but I think that was like, hopefully, I dunno. What do you think of those tools?

Is there anything that you would add?

[00:30:56] **Joe:** Oh gosh.

I mean, there's loads of stuff that I use that are [00:31:00] specific to the things that I do, but they're not really writing aids. They're more

[00:31:04] **Vicky:** well thinking aids though, as

[00:31:05] **Joe:** well. I mean, I need a, I need a big whiteboard and a pen.

[00:31:10] **Vicky:** Yeah. That's a useful thing.

[00:31:11] **Joe:** I need a big whiteboard and a pen and possibly some

post its and some magnets.

Yes I can. Yeah. Um, and I need, I need Excel.

[00:31:20] **Vicky:** Oh, God Excel makes me break out in hives.

[00:31:23] **Joe:** I just, cuz just cuz the things I do, I need Excel. Yeah. Real bad.

[00:31:27] **Vicky:** But I know a lot of writers who write in Excel, which makes my brain hurt.

[00:31:31] **Joe:** Yeah. That crazy.

[00:31:32] **Vicky:** Um, but I mean I can, I can kind of see, I can kind of see why, but I'm like, nah, nah.

Um, but yeah, I like the whiteboard and the post-it notes thing cuz it's very tactile. Right? Mm it's good to be able to move

around

[00:31:45] **Joe:** and yeah, standing up every time I need to explain something to somebody I find standing up in front of a whiteboard is a very good way to make sure that everybody understands what's going on.

[00:31:53] **Vicky:** That's true,

[00:31:54] **Joe:** including yourself. Yeah.

[00:31:56] **Vicky:** Do you know what I really like would really like at some point it's one of those fancy, [00:32:00] beautiful glass screen, like glass things that you can just write on. So it's like a whiteboard, but it's just fancier.

[00:32:06] **Joe:** We got some of those in the office. When we spruced up the office, we got glass whiteboards and we got some colored ones and we got some seethrough ones and honestly, the maintenance of the

pens is really, really dull.

[00:32:20] **Vicky:** Oh, really? Yeah. Okay. Fair enough.

[00:32:22] **Joe:** Yeah. You end up with wishy washy pens or buying new pens every week.

[00:32:26] **Vicky:** Well, there you go. Heard it here first. Yeah. Which is not eco-friendly or pocket friendly.

[00:32:31] **Joe:** Don't do it.

[00:32:31] **Vicky:** No. Get yourself whiteboard. Yeah. Okay. Um, Right. What else?

[00:32:38] **Joe:** I dunno. I mean, you've, you've toted a few products there.

[00:32:40] **Vicky:** I have, they're all things that I use and love. Um, so yeah, I would really love it if people would come and try out my power hours. Hmm. Cause they're so great. Um, And I dunno, it's just a really D it's a funny, it's a funny, old thing. It's a really difficult thing to encourage people to come and try because,

[00:32:57] **Joe:** because they think they well I'll just put some things in a calendar and I'll just do [00:33:00] the writing.

[00:33:00] **Vicky:** Yeah.

[00:33:01] **Joe:** But then they don't,

[00:33:01] **Vicky:** but then they don't and you know, with the best will in the world. If you ain't doing it now, you ain't gonna do it. Hmm. Because what's gonna change what's you need to have something change. And it's like skin in the game really helps. Um, like actually paying money for something is a real good incentive to go and use it.

Mm-hmm um, but also, you know, making a commitment to be in the same place with a lot of people, like. This is why people like make



appointments to meet their friends or their personal trainer at the gym. It's like, you have to turn up then. Yeah.

Cause

[00:33:30] **Joe:** accountability, isn't it. It's accountability.

[00:33:31] **Vicky:** Yeah. So there's all of that, but it's not just that because there are free writing groups out there as well.

And you know, even if you don't join my group, I would like you to, but even if you don't find a group of writers to write with, but my group of writers it's, it's the best. Just, it is just awesome. because the people like the breadth and depth of knowledge and skills in that group. So like, yes, we write, but we spend 10, 15 minutes at the, at the start having a chat and setting in goals and accountability.

Mm. And people like, I've got a question about this and I'm like, well, I don't know anything about [00:34:00] that thing, but someone in the group will. And so, you know, we've built up this library of incredible little lessons and tips and yes, loads of creative writing and publishing stuff from me, but also just like.

Questions about money, about staff, about, um, productivity, about accounts, about, um, websites. Do you know what I mean about literally everything to do with running a business and some stuff to do with running a life. And there's just this incredible library of knowledge that I'm really proud of. Um, kind of bringing these people together.

It's not all my knowledge, but like, I'm really proud of bringing these people together and they're kind, and they're generous and they're awesome. And if any of them are listening to this podcast, I love you all so much. thank you so much for being part of Team Moxi. Um, and you know, most of them have become well, pretty much all of them, the ones that I see regularly have become friends in real life.

And so, yeah, it's all, it's all very cool. Um, And I also just wanna say a special shout out to Louise, um, today, cuz um, she's going through stuff and hi [00:35:00] Louise and H we love you. Um, and yeah, that's it. So

come join Team Moxie, go to [moxiebooks.co.uk/powerhour](http://moxiebooks.co.uk/powerhour). Lovely. Give us a try. All right. We'll get back next week.

Same time next week.

[00:35:12] **Joe:** Same time next week. Yeah. See you there.

[00:35:14] **Vicky:** Thank you so much to Podfly for making this sound wonderful to Harriet for organizing things.

[00:35:18] **Joe:** Sorry about all the clicks and, and stuff in the middle.

[00:35:20] **Vicky:** Yeah. Sorry about that. Um, And thank you to you, dear listener for listening. And if you've enjoyed it, what do they do?

[00:35:26] **Joe:** Five stars rate it, share it. Tell the friends, subscribe,

[00:35:29] **Vicky:** subscribe, tell one person. If you love this podcast, tell one person about it and get them to subscribe because maybe they'll tell a person and then they'll tell a person. And in fact, tell two people,

[00:35:38] **Joe:** tell a hundred people

[00:35:39] **Vicky:** and then it'll grow exponentially. Um, but yeah.

[00:35:42] **Joe:** Cool.

[00:35:43] **Vicky:** Thanks.

[00:35:44] **Joe:** Take it easy folks. Tataa bye.