

Working for Exotic Publishing

My first contact with Exotic Publishing (EP) was applying to a job posting on Guru; they were looking for a Web Site Editor. At first I was hesitant in applying/bidding, as it had been years since I had really looked for work, and I felt a bit rusty. But, in the end I'm very pleased that I did.

The initial process was different from what I've normally experienced when seeking work. When working from home, nearly all of the communication with clients I'd have would be email (and at rare times the phone), with little inclusion of IMs. When I first spoke to Michelle and she had wanted to interview over Yahoo IM, I was rather pleased. This was new and interesting for me. It made it much easier to find out quickly if I would work for EP, and if they would work for me. Having an IM involved keeps the connections open and contact easy.

So, I began work. Michelle had known what I felt my strengths and weaknesses were, and introduced me to the work at a nice pace. I was editing their web page content, and learning the procedures that they like followed. As time moved on, I gained more tasks that branched out from the editing. This is one of the things I've come to appreciate most from EP. I wasn't pigeon holed into one slot, and they were willing to expand my range of work with them. Michelle at times gave me tasks to complete that touched a bit on some of my "Weaknesses", and I felt that EP had the confidence in my work to challenge me and help me grow and learn while completing tasks.

One thing I should note, that while I was deviated from my original task of only editing their web page content... it was never work that was "required". I was always asked if I felt I could do the given task, if I had the time to do it, or if I felt it was above my skills. While I never have been given a job that I haven't undertook with EP, I feel that if I had told them that I couldn't do what was required (if it was out of the usual skill set I had been brought on to do), they'd have accepted that with no pressure.

Working with EP has always felt extremely Professional in nature. But there is always a lighter side that makes it unique. I don't feel like a "random" person on the net pushing buttons. I am myself, and not my email address. While working 100% on the net, that is rarely the case in my experience. People tend to be just words on the screen, with little inclusion of the person behind the words. The person behind the words exists here.

Another thing I've found refreshing is how open EP is with my ideas, concerns, and suggestions. If I feel something could be improved on, or isn't working right... I am free to voice my opinion and know that it would be respected and considered. I'm regularly asked for my input. If a suggestion I make isn't the best, I'm not made to feel stupid or silly for attempting to help. I feel a part of the team and a part of the work. This in itself makes the work rewarding.

Day to day, I find getting up and “going to work” enjoyable. The variety I’m currently experiencing at EP keeps things interesting and actually fun. I feel respected, appreciated, and important. All 3 of those are difficult to find in a “virtual workplace”, and I find EP to be a gem of a company for successfully hitting the target on all 3.