

## Thirteen Lucky Rules to Get Your Writing Noticed

*“Don’t narrate—Paint! Draw! Build! Create!”*

Jack London

- I have written a true, original story which will interest a military audience.
- I have used vivid, descriptive details that appeal to the readers’ senses.
- I cut out unnecessary words and phrases.
- The setting, time period, and branch of service in my story are clear.
- Instead of vague generalizations, I have used specific incidents or conversations to explore a theme.
- I can describe my story in one sentence: “This is about how we work our way through the pantry before a move” or “This is how we gave new life to my husband’s sad wardrobe.”
- I have shaped an interesting, polished story with a beginning, middle, and end.
- I don’t preach or moralize directly, but impart an enduring or essential truth about military life by sharing a memory or an observation.
- My story offers an emotional connection to the reader, i.e. a witty or heartwarming anecdote you would share over coffee with a good friend.
- I have included complete contact information: name, address, phone, email (and self-addressed stamped envelope if sending by snail mail.)
- I have given my story a thoughtful title.
- At least one other person has given me honest critique and checked my story for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.
- My story is under the 1200 word limit.

*“Find a subject you care about and which you in your heart feel others should care about. It is this genuine caring and not your games with language which will be the most compelling elements in your style.”*

Kurt Vonnegut

HOUSEHOLD BAGGAGE HANDLERS, ATTN: Marna Krajeski, P.O. Box 1402,  
Kingston, RI 02881; *submissions@householdbaggage.com*