

**Manuscript Title: Stranger Than Fiction**

**1. Name of author:**

**2. Date Received: 4/3/15      Date Read: 5/6/15**

**3. Reader: Brandon Sanford**

**4. Is the manuscript... finished/half-finished? : Finished**

**5. How many words: 72, 200**

**6. What is the manuscript about specifically: A memoir about a former reporter for the Oregonian.**

**7. How does the manuscript align with Ooligan's Mission? : The Pacific Northwest, as well as the local institution the Oregonian, is central to the memoir.**

**8. Stated or not, what is the underlying theme of the MS? : The macabre nature of news journalism and how it parallels real life.**

**9. Specific reasons why I liked/didn't like the MS: I am somewhat in love with this story. There's the drama of interoffice politics of the Oregonian and decades of compelling news stories. Tobias knows how to write. The title is terrible, though. Not only has Palahniuk published a book with the same title, but there's also the Will Ferrall movie.**

**10. Tone of MS (academic, comic...) and writing ability of author (needs improvement/well-developed...) Personable. Tobias is forming a relationship with the reader. Ability well-developed.**

**11. Is the manuscript organized? Will the writing need a lot of editing? Will the text need a lot of fact checking research? Rate from 1-10 the state of the manuscript, 10 being ready to be published: I don't think the writing will need a lot of editing, but the MS might need some organizing. Right now it's just in long chunks. Will probably need to fact check the stories. 7, maybe.**

**12. How original is the idea behind the MS? : Not super original, probably. Certainly not the first memoir penned by a former newspaper reporter.**

**13. If you think that the manuscript should be rejected, provide specific reasons as to why—unless you alluded to this earlier:**

14. Market: who will read this and where would it be shelved in a bookstore? Be specific: [Memoirists. People interested in journalistic writing.](#)

15. Other related books or competition. (Please attach Amazon pages for these books)... Is the manuscript different from the competition? How so? State briefly.

<http://www.amazon.com/Story-Never-Memoir-Newspaper-Reporter-ebook/dp/B005U41PAA>

<http://www.amazon.com/Reporters-Memoirs-Newspaperman-Will-Fowler/dp/091567761X>

<http://www.amazon.com/A-Reporters-Life-Walter-Cronkite/dp/034541103X>

Not vastly different. Reporter memoir writers tend to blend retelling of past articles with a narrative of their own life. Death is sensational, and other memoirists have focused on it too. I think what would set Tobias apart is the deep emotion in her writing. She never reads as detached. Also, hers is not a story of triumph, but of survival in a cutthroat industry and eventual termination.

16. Author qualifications. Are they fit to write about this topic? What have they done/completed/hold a degree in that makes them an author the audience can rely on: [Decades of journalistic experience and time employed at the Oregonian.](#)

17. Rate your enthusiasm for this project from 1–10 and your proposed recommendation (conditional acceptance, rejection, developmental edit): [9; conditional acceptance.](#)