

PREFACE TO REVISED EDITION

This book started out as a series of articles I planned to put on my website for new authors. I wanted to share with them the pitfalls I had faced as a writer and author. I saw how quickly the joy of creation was crushed by the need for money, the lack of support and obstacles that the writing life throws in the pathway of many. There were many times when I thought I was crazy; that I had no business being a writer.

I had recently parted with an agent, I'd been forced to hire a literary attorney to get me out of a legal position with a publisher and I had been orphaned by two editors leaving in less than two years. I wasn't sure how long my writing career would last. Even my lawyer told me that for someone so newly published I had faced a lot of obstacles. But despite what others may have called misfortune or the plight of the creative person, I never lost my joy of writing.

I refused to let the business of publishing destroy my joy of writing. I saw other authors crumble because of a few rejections (it took me thirteen years to get a book published. I started sending out manuscripts when I was twelve) and freelance writers turn in assignments and not get paid (that happened to me and I had to get the law involved). I knew why I was still in the game while others had faded away.

I thought that it was unfair because I wasn't anyone special. I just had one skill they did not: I knew the art of bouncing back.

I wrote this book as a gift to other writers who are discouraged, feel hopeless or useless in a world that can make us--the artist--feel insignificant and invisible. I hope that this revised edition will be a companion to those of you who feel that another day is too painful or that you are alone in your misery.

Isolation is deadly to the spirit, yet, as a writer, a necessary requirement at times. So let this little book be a friend that whispers to you: "You are important and your words are needed."

I dedicate this book to the author of six romances who hasn't sold a story in the past seven years, the mystery writer whose series fails after three books, the mainstream author whose book is remaindered within months of release, the freelancer who has yet to see a check above four hundred dollars, to the beginner who faces another rejection slip in the mail or is struggling through a book and is afraid it will never get published.

I don't profess to be an expert, but I've survived through resilience and I want to show you how. Envy, Doubt, Discouragement -- I've faced them all and more. I continue to face them. But they pale in comparison to the beauty and joy of creation and the wonderful gifts it brings.

INTRODUCTION

The reason 99% of all stories written are not bought by editors is very simple. Editors never buy manuscripts that are left on the closet shelf at home.

Joseph Campbell

Do you think it's impossible to make a living as a writer because: It's difficult to get published?; the mid-list is shrinking?; fewer people are reading, yet more people are writing?; the market is overcrowded and on a downward spiral?

In spite of these and other dire considerations, there are authors who have bounced back from low sales, sold to publishers without agents, made a handsome income as mid-list writers and reinvented themselves and their careers.

The Writer Behind the Words isn't a "how to write" book. There are plenty of books about how to write a bestseller, improve your grammar, find paying markets, develop your career and so on. This is a book to help you when:

- You're a hundred fifty pages into your book and it stalls. Look at **Creative Blocks**.
- You've received a rejection and can't move forward. Check out **Rejection**.
- A good friend just got a publishing contract and you can see your skin turning green. **Go to Envy**.

You'll also learn what to do with a bad review, how to get your career back on track when it seems to have derailed, foods to help boost your energy, and many other topics important to writers. Someone once said that "our problems aren't our problems; it's our solutions that are the problem." You will learn how to identify solutions that will lead you to success.

I know the traps ahead. When I was an unpublished author, I dealt with years of rejections, projects that almost got a yes, discouragement, and doubt. As a published author, I have faced poor reviews, being orphaned (by the departure of my editor), breaking up with my agent and a host of other obstacles, but I'm still in the game. I'll reveal how I've kept going in times of adversity, using examples from exercises I've discovered from different sources.

Resilience will help to keep you from becoming an industry statistic. The difference between longevity in publishing and being a "one book wonder" or a "struggling freelancer" is the ability to move forward in spite of setbacks. It's a skill that can be

learned. Your dreams are at hand. Forward, march!