



Whether you are a published author or a writer-wanna-be, this e-zine is for you. Here, you will find articles, announcements, book reviews, poetry, and information about the craft and business of writing, publishing and book marketing written by our readers. Our goal is to connect the writing and publishing community through networking that benefits both. Please forward this ezine to anyone you know who might enjoy its contents.

### AUTHOR'S CORNER BY YVONNE PERRY

What a busy first quarter. Our team has edited, proofread, formatted or ghosted 12 books since January 1. That's not to mention the smaller projects such as bios, articles, book reviews, web text and book evaluations. But, there's always room for more, so let us know if your book needs proofreading, editing, evaluating, or a tear sheet review.

Congratulations to Writers in the Sky editor, Barbara Sharp Milbourn, who has been selected as exclusive editor for southern Californian travel writer, novelist, and nature photographer Linda Ballou. Learn more about Linda at [www.lindaballouauthor.com](http://www.lindaballouauthor.com) and watch for her soon-to-be-released historical fiction work Wai-nani, High Chiefess of Hawai'i.

I wish to thank all those who participated in Irene Watson's *Reader Views Literary Award for 2007*. Congratulations to all the winners and runners up. Writers in the Sky Creative Writing Services is pleased to present to **Alan B. Robbins** the \$100 cash prize for *Best Creative Writing of the Year Award*. Contests like these allow the public to become familiar with many talented self-published authors. I hope many more of you will participate in the 2008 contest. Download the submission guidelines on Reader Views' website: <http://www.readerviews.com/Awards.html>.

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## Book Length – Where Do I Go From Here?

By Carol Denbow

Some writers plan ahead as to how many pages their complete book will be. Others simply start writing and end when they feel their work is completed. Either way, before publishing, the number of pages will need to be decided.

The Averages:

Most commonly, the length of your manuscript determines what type of publication you have.

- Short story – under 15,000 words
- Novella – 15,000 to 29,999 words
- Short novel – 30,000 to 44,999 words

- Novel – 45,000 to 69,999 words
- Plus or super novel – over 70,000 words

There are some exceptions to these numbers. If you are writing a children’s book, you may have as little as 500 words, but many more illustrations, which might add to the total number of pages in the finished work. If your manuscript is less than 8 pages, it may not be worthwhile to publish as a book. In most cases, a minimum of 32 pages is needed for a hard cover book to have a solid “backbone.”

### **How length may affect printing cost:**

If you self publish and have your book printed, your layout and printing costs may vary depending on the books length. Many printers prefer a book to be set up with a particular amount of pages. Most books are printed on large sheets of paper which are folded into sections containing 8, 16, or 32 pages. Since printers generally set up the pages in segments of 8 at a time, keeping your book at an even number divisible by 8 can save you some money on printing costs. For instance, if your book is 144 pages in length, the printer may use 18 sheets to copy it (144 divided by 8 = 18). Printers may vary on the number of pages per sheet so it is important to discuss this with your specific printer.

When calculating the total number of pages in your finished book, don’t forget to add up the extra pages needed for components such as, your table of contents, introduction, index, etc. And by all means, don’t forget that book pages are two-sided.

**Suggested Reading:** Modern Matriarch, The Ideal Length for Your Book, McGraw-Hill, Book Length

Carol Denbow is the author of *Are You Ready to Be Your Own Boss?* (2006 Plain & Simple Books, LLC). She has two new books coming in the summer of 2008: *Stress Relief for the Working Stiff* (Publish America), and *A Book Inside, Writing, Publishing, and Selling Your Story* (Plain & Simple Books, LLC). Please visit Carol’s new website at: <http://www.BooksByDenbow@Weebly.com> or blog with her at <http://ABookInside.Blogspot.com>.

## **Writer’s Block in the Energy Field**

by Dyan Garris

We’ve all heard of and perhaps have experienced that mysterious, frustrating, and inexplicable phenomenon of writer’s block. What is this exactly and how do we get beyond it?

All writing takes place first in the higher dimensions of the heart, soul, and mind of the author and then gets translated to the two dimensional piece of paper. So when one is experiencing writer’s block, whether you are fully aware of it or not, it means that somewhere along those points of energy, or energy meridians, exists energy blockage.

One of the keys to unlocking the doors to creativity lies in the ability to clear and rebalance the energy field and/or chakras. When the energy field is balanced, one discovers with joy that the hinge on the door of the creative mind once again swings open as easily as a newly oiled gate.

The first step in clearing the field is as simple as identifying what is really bothering you or affecting you on a very physical level. We start with this because this is the energy that resides in the first or root chakra. Issues and challenges regarding money, time, family, and relationships can have quite a negative effect upon creative flow.

The second chakra is the seat of creativity. If we are writing and creating something that we have no audience for or have challenges in bringing to market, then we may find the creative flow being stifled or stunted. It is akin to being in a constant state of pregnancy and never giving birth.

The third chakra is the resting place of the soul. If you aren't able to express, communicate, and impart what is in your very core, you will perhaps experience a wedge of stagnation and frustration.

Most writers write from the heart, from their imaginations and upper chakras. When experiencing writer's block it isn't that the heart and mind are closed. It's that the *flow* to these is temporarily blocked. If the flow is blocked by the static energy being generated from the lower chakras, nothing brilliant or inspirational can get through or get translated to paper. It's similar to a clogged pipe. It is necessary to eliminate the obstruction in the system.

Clearing the energy field and balancing the chakras is not a difficult task if one understands that one must start at the base and work up from there. I used to teach a class on how to do it, and then in 2005 I developed a music and meditation series for vibrational attunement of mind, body and soul. One can incorporate this concept of vibrational attunement into everything they do. I incorporated it my new cookbook, *Voice of the Angels – Talk To Your Food! Intuitive Cooking*. Cooking and preparing food is a basic root chakra function; however the creative procedure of doing so is an upper chakra operation. When you tie those together, you're opening and balancing all of your chakras easily and effortlessly.

One of the most important goals of my body of work is to make chakra balancing and energy clearing into a completely natural and enjoyable process for everyone. In learning to do this we can become our best selves and our whole selves. Here's to no more blocks! Let the creativity flow!

Dyan Garris is the author of "Money and Manifesting," "Voice of the Angels – A Healing Journey Spiritual Cards," an intuitive cookbook and "Fish Tale of Woe – Lost at Sea." Free angel card readings are available on her website. She created a series of music and meditation CDs for Automatic Chakra Balance,<sup>™</sup> relaxation, help in sleeping, stress release, and vibrational attunement of mind, body, and spirit. Her "Daily Channeled Message" and more information are available at her main website [www.voiceoftheangels.com](http://www.voiceoftheangels.com). For much more information about Dyan Garris and her latest book Money and Manifesting – feel free to visit her virtual tour home page on <http://www.inspiredauthor.com/promotion/Dyan+Garris>. The tour schedule is posted at <http://inspiredauthor.com/promotion/dyan-garris-april-tour-schedule>.

## WITS Podcast Schedule April 2008

### April 4 Anne Davigo

Anne Da Vigo is a freelance writer, public relations professional and award-winning former journalist. Her fiction has appeared in literary magazines, and she has presented her work on Public Radio's *Valley Writers Read* program. She has been a winner in the Sacramento Friends of the Library short story contest. For over a decade she has been a member of the Monday Night Writers Group, which has nourished and sustained her writing life. Anne edited and co-authored the group's book, [\*Coffee and Ink: How a Writers Group Can Nourish Your Creativity\*](#), which won a gold award in the Northern California Publishers and Authors annual competition. Anne will discuss her book in her interview with Barbara Milbourn.



### April 11 Meri Lee Testa

Ever since she was a little girl, Meri Lee Testa felt different from other children—like a misfit who didn't belong. It wasn't until her Dad's passing in 1983 that she discovered that she had been adopted. As an adult, after three years of trying to have a child, she and her husband resorted to fertility drugs. However, it was



determined that the only way they were going to become parents was thru adoption.

Even amidst the joy of raising her newly adopted son, Meri Lee dealt with the symptoms of depression that had plagued her all her life. In 2001, her aging mother began declining from Alzheimer's. Soon, Meri Lee found it more and more difficult to be in public and to do the normal everyday tasks. The next thing she knew, she was drowning in the turbulent waters of severe depression. No longer able to deal with her life, Meri Lee attempted suicide three times. Thankfully, she was rescued each time, and as a result of her turmoil, Meri Lee wrote her book *Choosing the Color* (ISBN978143271024-8), a Christian self-help book for those dealing with depression.

Listening to Writers in the Sky Podcast on a computer is easy.

Just click this link:

<http://yvonneperry.blogspot.com> and go to my blog.

On the right sidebar there is a list of archived shows. Click on the interview you would like to hear and it will open a post that has a link to open the audio file.

I appreciate all the positive feedback you send me about these shows.

For information about being a guest on Writers in the Sky Podcast, see

[http://www.yvonneperry.net/Writing\\_Packages.htm#Publicity\\_Packages](http://www.yvonneperry.net/Writing_Packages.htm#Publicity_Packages)

husband of 36 years. She is a 2-year survivor of IBC—the rarest and very aggressive form of Breast Cancer. She wrote a book titled *The Handbook of Humor, Survivor Stories, Support, and Hope for people with Inflammatory Breast Cancer* (ISBN: 9781432714338) to help other people diagnosed with IBC get through tomorrow. These survivor stories are shared to give patients and care-givers love, support, courage, and strength to get through another day. She will discuss her book with Barbara Milbourn during their interview. You may purchase the 5x8 paperback for \$8.95 or download as an ebook for \$5.00 at [www.outskirtspress.com/handbookforwomen](http://www.outskirtspress.com/handbookforwomen).

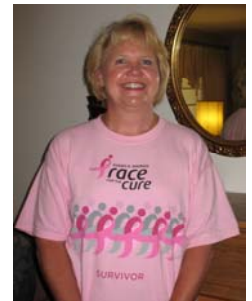
### April 18 Ron Firmin

Would you like your money to work harder for you? Ron Firmin's new book *Fire Your Financial Planner* (ISBN 978-1-4327-1695-0) was written with "baby boomers" in mind. However, regardless of our age, we should wish to manage our resources, assets and money more wisely. The information that Ron shares in his book cost him over \$3 million but it will only cost you \$20 for the book at [www.ronfirmin.com](http://www.ronfirmin.com). Ron will discuss his book in the interview with Yvonne Perry. We all have a responsibility to be personally involved in the management of our own Personal Retirement Account (PRA). Sometimes, we have to "fire" ourselves.



### April 25 Dee Kantorowicz

Dee Kantorowicz is a wife, mother, and grandmother who lives in Minnesota with her



## The First Draft: One Trick to Get There

by Mary E. Martin

It's a marvelous "high" seeing those three hundred pages stacked up on your desk—the first draft! How long did it take? Three months, a year, a decade? I remember when the last page chugged out of my, by then, wheezing printer that I gazed at that first draft in awe for at least ten minutes. It was the first glimpse of my new-born.

But how did it get there? It's important to give that some thought, especially now that the real work of revising lies ahead. What did I learn from completing it?

I vividly remember the steps along the way. After I had completed the first fifty pages of *Conduct in Question*, the first in *The Osgoode Trilogy*, I came to a screeching halt. I had absolutely no idea where to go next. I racked my brain for plot ideas and called upon my muse, who remained sullen and stubbornly silent.

Yes, I had created lawyer, Harry Jenkins, the protagonist, who would eventually grow big enough and complex enough to fill three books. I had created the beautiful Natasha, Harry's beloved. I had burdened him with his churlish secretary, Miss Giveny. But I did not know what they would do next.

And then, the light went on. *I did not know nearly enough about these people.* Harry, his secretary, Natasha and the other cast members were on stage. Harry's elderly client, Miss Deighton, and her strange family members, Katharine, Suzannah and Gerry, were waiting in the wings. Worse yet—although I had created the “bad guy”, who was eventually to become the Florist, I didn't really know what made him tick.

At last, the answer came to me. I spent about a month [I was doing other things, such as practising law] making notes on a yellow, legal pad. I can see it now. I listed each character and wrote down as much as I could think of, for each one of them.

Physical appearance to the last detail, mannerisms, modes of speech and thought filled the pages for each character. Where did he or she live? What sorts of relationships did they have to the other characters and to themselves? What motivated each of them? Was his or her temperament extraverted or introverted? Honest, deceitful, violent or peace-loving? I could go on, but you get the idea. By the time I was finished, I had a file half an inch thick.

That's fine, but you may ask how could such an exercise help? After all, I wasn't planning on writing a novel of description only. I needed plot ideas. Here's the interesting part. Once I had written all I could imagine about these characters, they—like dolls from the toy chest at night—climbed out and began to play. They started telling me what they were going to do. Some were quite adamant. But this is not really so surprising. After all, if you are creating real characters, real people, sooner or later they will speak up for themselves. And so they did.

After that, I raced on for the next fifty pages, until I came again to a halt. Convinced I was onto a good trick, I began the process again. I got out my file of characters and wrote down everything I could possibly imagine about each of them. And it worked. I was able to see my way through quite a few more chapters.

Now this process works for me, but it may not for other writers. Perhaps it works for me, simply because no character can come alive on the page unless I really know him or her well. If you do get this intimately involved in your characters lives, perhaps they will tell you the story—but only when you listen carefully when the toys come out to play late at night.

*Mary E. Martin grew up in Toronto where she began practicing law in a small estates firm. In 1999, she became a full time writer and photographer. Her own writing *The Osgoode Trilogy*, in the legal suspense genre, was greatly inspired by her law practice of twenty-eight years, which she says gave her a window on the world and humanity. Visit Mary at [www.theosgoodetrilogy.com](http://www.theosgoodetrilogy.com) and [www.authorsden.com/maryemartin](http://www.authorsden.com/maryemartin)*

## NETWORK WITH US

**Add your announcement or brag about your writing accomplishment. Tell us about your book or business. Share information and ideas or send articles or advertorial for the next issue to [writer@yvonneperry.net](mailto:writer@yvonneperry.net). Here are some announcements from our readers this month:**

Yvonne's speaking engagements:

1. On April 18, I will be presenting *Marketing a Business and Finding Clients Online* for the Women in Business Luncheon—a committee of the Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce. Knowing how to market your business via the Internet is a great way to grow your company. The ability to earn money from home allows many women the opportunity to care for a family and have a fulfilling and successful career. There is no limit to what a woman can earn through an online business.

2. Yvonne Perry will be leading a workshop for the Tennessee Writers Alliance 3rd annual writer's conference. She will present two, 1.5-hour workshops on *Book Promotion in the Digital Age: Online Book Marketing*. The 2008 conference will be held at Battleground Academy in Franklin, TN June 6th (1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and June 7th (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) Other experts include: Jimmy Carl Harris (Write Risky Fiction), Gloria Ballard (Creative Non-Fiction), Lantz Powell (What Agents Want).

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**Book Promo 101 – Learn the Basics of Book Promotion by Nikki Leigh** is available in Print at <http://www.amazon.com/Book-Promo-101-basics-Promotion/dp/1594314691>

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Dayna Steele has just completed her book, [Rock to the Top: What I Learned about Success from the World's Greatest Rock Stars](#) (Brown Books). She is also the creator of [Smart Girls Rock](#) and [Operation National Anthem](#). For those of you that are in the **New York City area on April 9**, please do yourself a favor and visit her at her book signing and pick up her book. I promise it will be a fabulous and interesting read. Tell her Taryn Simpson sent ya! For more info about Dayna's book, check out her website: [www.rocktothetopbook.com](http://www.rocktothetopbook.com).

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Self Publishers Place is now expanding our absolutely free book promotion site to include Independent Publishers. If you check out our young site and our international Forum, I am sure you will join the more than 500 authors who have listed their books in the last few months. Contact Mark Landsberg at [mr770@fea.net](mailto:mr770@fea.net) or visit his website [www.selfpublishersplace.com](http://www.selfpublishersplace.com)

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Ever wonder what the phrase “quantum leap” really means? What is the difference between the scientific definition of the word “dimension” and the metaphysical interpretation? Why is there a connection between quantum physics and mysticism? These are the very questions author MaAnna Stephenson began to ask early on as a seeker and student of New Age thought. *The Sage Age* demystifies the jargon and harmonizes the concepts toward a wholistic understanding. [Read more about this book.](#)

[Sign up for the email list](#) and receive the latest news on upcoming events and book topic discussions. [Read the latest Sage Age Newsletter.](#)

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**Book Reviews on Request, Query First**

Carol Denbow ([CarolDenbow@gmail.com](mailto:CarolDenbow@gmail.com)) is the author of *A Book Inside* (<http://abookinside.blogspot.com>). She is offering a free monthly e-zine *A Book Inside* containing articles on writing, publishing, and selling books. Learn to write a book, publish it, and sell your story. Carol's Website is <http://www.BooksByDenbow.Weebly.com>.

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Lynel Johnson Washington is ready to edit your fictional or inspirational stories. An enthusiastic editor, I pay close attention to detail and thrive on creativity. Sharp proofreading and honest feedback are my specialties. If you'd like a professional, experienced copy editor to polish your writing and make it shine, contact me at [Lmaria23@hotmail.com](mailto:Lmaria23@hotmail.com).

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Hal Manogue's new book *Short Sleeves Insights: Live A Ordinary Life In An Non-Ordinary Way* will be in print in April. Visit any book store or Hal's website to get a copy. Hal's third Collection of poetry: *Short Sleeves A Book For Friends* will also be in print in April.

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### **\$1000 for the First Chapter of a Novel? Now That's a Writing Contest!**

The third annual Writing Show First-Chapter-of-a-Novel Contest is awarding \$1000 for the best first chapter of an unpublished novel. We're also offering four other cash prizes and ten 750-word critiques. Early deadline May 20, 2008; late deadline June 20, 2008. Winners announced on October 1, 2008. Full rules, instructions for entering, and more detail can be found on The Writing Show Web site at <http://writingshow.com/contests/2008/2008callforentries.html>.

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Carol Burge is pleased to announce that her Historical Western Romance Novel, *Dangerous Desires*, has been accepted for publication by Lyrical Press. *Dangerous Desires* is due to be released in ebook format on September 1, 2008 and then in print December 1, 2008, just in time for the Christmas holidays. This is Carol's first sale, and she's very excited, to say the least. For further details, visit Carol's blog, Romance Writer Woes at [www.romancewriterwoes.com](http://www.romancewriterwoes.com).

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Dr. Joe Capista's book, *What Can a Dentist Teach You about Business, Life and Success?* made it to #1 for hot new releases in both Entrepreneur and Motivation categories on Amazon.com on March 2, 2008. The book also made it in the top 10 in three categories. Your blog postings contributed to the success of the book. The page acknowledging all the bloggers involved in the tour is located at <http://www.joecapista.com/blogs.htm>

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***The Mango Tree Cafe, Loi Kroh Road*** co-authored by Taryn Simpson and Alan Solomon has been nominated for two categories in The 2008 Indie Book Awards: Best Fiction Novel and Best online Marketing of Novel. Winners to be announced May 15, 2008.

***The Mango Tree Cafe, Loi Kroh Road*** is also competing for a **Pulitzer Prize** for Best Fiction Novel. Winners to be announced April 7, 2008.

Taryn and Alan are collaborating again to write another fictional novel. The name of the book is *He Played the Game*. To read a bit more about the book and to follow the progress, click here:

<http://heplayedthegame.blogspot.com/>

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WITS team member Taryn Simpson was recently chosen as staff writer for the following online magazines:

[www.IdeasGoalsandDreams.com](http://www.IdeasGoalsandDreams.com) (Ideas, Goals and Dreams) Be sure to sign up for membership and tell them "Taryn" sent ya!

[www.MyParkinsonsinfo.com](http://www.MyParkinsonsinfo.com) (My Parkinson's Info). Be sure to check out the latest and greatest info regarding living and dealing with Parkinson's Disease.

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Thanks for the invite to write a piece for your newsletter. Just dropping by with a "crazy marketing idea" that I hope is of interest to your readers. I came up with this idea for the launch for my book, [The Goddess Guide to Chakra Vitality](#) a couple of years ago. It is based on the cover of the book. Women just love, love, LOVE this image; they love the freedom that it represents for their inner wild woman, and that her body is "real" rather than an unrealistic size zero.

When they see the book they pick it up and gush, "Ooooooh that is what a REAL woman looks like!" They'll call their husband over and say "see, big butts are SEXY!" They'll hold the book in the air and yell out to their friends, "I wish I looked this good running naked through a field of tulips!" They get very excited that someone is being REAL about women's bodies. THEN they open it up to flick through the contents.

Here is where the crazy marketing idea comes in. The cover image is sooooo popular and strikes such a chord with the hearts of women, that I produced a [limited edition print of the original artwork](#). The prints are numbered and signed by the artist (me), and made available for sale only to anyone who purchases a copy (or who has already purchased a copy) of the book. Crazy, but good. I've got letters from women all around the world describing how they framed their print and where they are hanging it in their homes for inspiration. One lady has it in her office, and her colleagues now see her in an all new (wonderful) light!

I can't say for sure how many books the marketing idea sold, but it sure created some fabulous hype at my site!

Love and delight,  
Anita Revel [www.goddess.com.au](http://www.goddess.com.au)

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Some years ago (1990s), I (Bill Hoke near Seattle) corresponded with an author who had MS. We shared some common stories because we had both adopted children with disabilities. We've lost touch amid child raising, but I THINK her name is Nancy Meyers. She wrote a book titled *Parts of Speech* but I can't find her on the Internet. I may have her name wrong. Anyway, I thought I would see if anyone in your network could reconnect us. [hoke@sbmarketingpartners.com](mailto:hoke@sbmarketingpartners.com).

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Check out our NEW FEATURED BOOKS and learn more about the upcoming literary event -- Romantic Times Booklovers' Convention! Click on the Featured Books section to find out more details about this event and to see our latest featured books. Also, showcase your literary work; advertise your book on [www.author-promotion.com](http://www.author-promotion.com). ~ Nadia

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Yvonne, I wanted you to know about this special post and guest on my blog [Riehl Life: Village Wisdom for the 21st Century](#): Hal Zina Bennett, long time publishing professional...who disusses "**Shifting the Publishing Paradigm: On the Cusp.**" Hope you have a chance to come to [www.riehlife.com](http://www.riehlife.com) to read my conversation with Hal. I think you're gonna like it. ~ Janet

Visit Janet's blog "Riehl Life: Village Wisdom for the 21st Century" at <http://www.riehlife.com> for connections through the arts, across cultures and generations.

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My new web site is up and functioning. Please feel free to mark it as a favorite, visit periodically and pass along to friends. <http://www.authorjamesross.com/>. If you're interested in the intro photo as desktop wallpaper (golfers!) I can pass along the link.

**Finish Line** should be out in late May 2008. I'm working on **Tuey's Course** for late 2008 or first quarter of 2009. Am weaving tales out of the fictitious setting of Prairie Winds Golf Course on the east side of St. Louis.

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### **Virtual Book Tours with Nikki Leigh in April**

#### **Money and Manifesting by Dyan Garris**

Did you read *The Secret*, but you're just not sure what all the fuss was about? That could be because the information in *The Secret* doesn't work for everyone. Many people may use the information that is in *The Secret* and wonder what they are doing wrong. That means, you need to find out about "the truth". This additional information is available from Dyan Garris is her latest book *Money and Manifesting*. She gives you the added details to make "the secret" more effective for YOU. Spend the month with Dyan as she tours cyber space and visits a wide variety of blogs. Many blog owners asked her about *The Secret* and she provides a lot of insightful information for people who want to find their way to a happier and more fulfilling life. For full details about her tour, visit <http://inspiredauthor.com/promotion/Dyan+Garris>. Her tour schedule is at <http://inspiredauthor.com/promotion/dyan-garris-april-tour-schedule>.

#### **The Ethnic Presidency by Earl Ofari Hutchinson**

Everyone who is keeping an eye on the presidential primaries has heard the media talk about the part that race is playing in the election process this year. But, race has played an important part in the election process for decades. This book shows you how the various politicians and political parties have used and will continue to court the various ethnic groups during upcoming elections. We're doing a five day blog blitz to promote *The Ethnic Presidency* – during the second week of April. Would you like to be involved? We will be working with a large number of blogs to circulate information about Earl Hutchinson and *The Ethnic Presidency*. It's as easy as posting an excerpt or two from his book during that week. If you would like too generate some additional exposure for your blog and to participate in the blog blitz, feel free to email [nikki\\_leigh22939@yahoo.com](mailto:nikki_leigh22939@yahoo.com) as soon as possible. For information, visit - <http://www.inspiredauthor.com/promotion/Ethnic+Presidency+Blog+Blitz> and the full schedule will be posted at <http://www.inspiredauthor.com/promotion/Ethnic+Presidency+Blitz+Schedule>.

I'm always interested in finding new blog owners that would be interested in being a blog host for a future tour. Contact me at [nikki\\_leigh22939@yahoo.com](mailto:nikki_leigh22939@yahoo.com) to be added to the mailing list.

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**Wordclay** is a new offering from Author Solutions, Inc., the world's largest self-publishing company. On our new self-publishing website, in as little as one hour, anyone can self-publish a book with Wordclay. Wordclay's team has over 100 years of collective book publishing experience – which they've "baked" into the web site. This means you don't need to be concerned about the details of publishing, such as calculating spine width and gutter size. Simply save your writing in a Word document, upload it to Wordclay's web site at [www.wordclay.com](http://www.wordclay.com) and follow the step-by-step instructions on the screen to publish your professional-looking book. The publishing tool is completely free (printing costs are obviously separate.) Books can even be sold online at Wordclay's web site.

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Tadeusz Glowinski is looking for English books to stock his library in Poland. Please consider sending one of your books to:

GLOWINSKIS' LIBRARY  
ul. Waly Jagiellonskie 20  
56 - 400 Olesnica  
Poland - Polska

Here is his other contact information:

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### **Do You Want to Get More Mileage out of Your Book Marketing Dollars?**

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## **THE WRITING LIFE: Organic Notes as a Writing Tool**

By JJ Murphy

Sometimes it is easier to make a picture with words than it is to write words in a line. Some writers call this process organic notes or brainstorming.

Here are the steps.

1. Use single words or short phrases and write using capital letters. Some researchers believe that your eyes and brain remember capital letters more easily.

Use a separate page for each subject.

2. Write your subject in the center of a blank page. You can put a circle around it if you like.
3. Draw a line from the subject to each main idea.
4. Draw a line from each main idea to each detail that supports the main idea.
5. Use colors or shapes to connect each train of thought.
6. Draw arrows to connect related ideas.

Use the pictures and images you are creating as a jumping off point for writing. What you begin with may not be where you end, but it may allow you to see your topic from a new perspective.

Use this technique as a writing exercise when you are staring at a blank page or screen. Peter Elbow's open ended writing technique in *WRITING WITH POWER* suggests you begin with a ten minute freewrite.

Read what you've written, select the main theme and use it for another ten minute freewrite. If you choose this technique, how did your thoughts and associations compare with your organic notes?

Organic notes can help you see where you may need to fill in gaps in knowledge or anecdotal example. They can help you see a bias; they can also help you form new associations. This is a simple, yet reliable tool to strengthen both fiction and nonfiction writing.

*Writer and naturalist JJ Murphy, <http://www.WriterByNature.com>, offers creative nature curriculum, wild food recipes, fiction, poetry, articles and writing services for individuals, entrepreneurs, small businesses and ecologically aware companies.*

## April Poems



### A Moment In Time

By Gail Livesay

Surrounded by trees, wind chimes  
sparkling in branches like fairies dancing,

I sit on the swing the soft mummer of your  
voices as you talk and laugh on the deck.

The moon peeks through the  
clouds and gently questions me.

I whisper, if only time  
could stand still.

The moon whispers back, time must go on,  
but you will always have this moment in time.

*Gail Livesay is 57 years old and lives in Berea, Kentucky with her husband, Wayne. They have two children, Michael and Lisa and have been blessed with two granddaughters, Marina and Hannah. Gail writes poetry, fiction, plays and is currently revising her autobiography about growing up with bipolar disorder which was neither recognized and/or diagnosed.*

### **Air - Earth - Fire - Water**

Earth revolves, evolves, resolves  
Her issues with the universe,  
Spawning her own children by  
The million billion trillions.  
Unafraid and unashamed,  
Unabashed by circumstances,  
She creates and recreates then  
Reinvents herself.

Air to breathe the gift of life,  
Air to bathe in sunlight's glow,  
Feeding, breeding, never needing,  
Always yielding with the flow.

Fire raging unafraid,  
Bold and brave its hunger feeds  
Until its taming offers warmth  
To satisfy the basic needs.

Water, water everywhere,  
Giver, taker, miracle-maker,  
Mystery of mysteries  
Riding high upon her seas.

And all are tied and intertwined,  
All dependant one on one,  
Ever-vigil,  
All inclusive,  
Always reaching for the sun.

*Dennis Martin began writing plays and submitting them to the local playwright's festival when he turned 40 years old. He has written 13 plays –several of which have been presented as staged readings in the Baltimore*

*Playwright's Festival. Dennis has written over 800 poems and self-published a book of poems titled "Love and Passions" available at [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com) and major online bookstores as well as 6 other poetry collections and 3 novels available at [www.lulu.com/dsmartin](http://www.lulu.com/dsmartin). Read more at <http://www.iwritesome.com> or blog with Dennis at <http://iwritesome.blogspot.com>.*

## Epistemology

Chocolate Roses  
Drip With The Fragrance Of Love  
Mint laced Thoughts  
Melt Into A Creamy Reality  
Spicy Melodies Float On Clouds  
Of Freedom  
Bubbling Friendships Unite  
In The Bottle Of Time  
Tender Memories Swim  
In The Waters Of Now  
Delicious Dreams  
Sizzle In The Drizzle  
Of Polarity  
Future Rides  
On The Back  
Of Present's  
Epistemology

*Howard (Hal) Thomas Manogue, was born in Philadelphia, and is a forerunner to the Indigo children, a now age term for misfit with an intuitive nature, a desire to know his truth with a gift of giving and sharing. Hal retired from the shoe industry after 35 years of sole searching, and discovered his real soul. His poems have been published by: Mystic Pop Magazine, Children Of The New Earth Magazine, New Age Tribune, Seasons Of The Soul Newsletters, Lightship News and Writers In The Sky Newsletters. His essays can be found on [www.ezinearticles.com](http://www.ezinearticles.com) and [www.selfgrowth.com](http://www.selfgrowth.com). Hal's Blog <http://halmanogue.blogspot.com> and Website [www.shortsleeves.net](http://www.shortsleeves.net).*

## The Language of Love

Writers espouse a world of words and wrap them around a vibrant idea to embrace the emotion therein. Innovative themes capture poetic form and substance to be shared with willing readers who appreciate every syllable. The reader experiences the most profound of life's adventures through outlandish characters, heroes and heroines.

Language is a gift from the gods and meant to be celebrated by a myriad of educated, literate and curious participants. Precious phrases are presented on the pages of books, articles, manuscripts and even scribbled post its.

Creative endeavors are headlined in festive categories. A literary genius wins an award. An audience of bookworms gathers at a black tie affair to hoot and holler in admiration of an acclaimed prose.

Witty words attract great wealth. Writers are revered. From greeting cards to novels, the human spirit embraces the language of love.

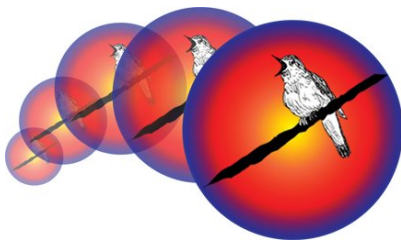
*Pamela Harper is best known as the “Queen of Visualization” and internationally renowned speaker on the subject of “Health, Wealth and Life Purpose.” She is a number one best-selling author, media personality, registered nurse, success coach and hypnotherapist. Pamela is the CEO of University of Masters.com, a virtual university for the world’s 63 million seekers of quality education and support.*  
[www.universityofmasters.com](http://www.universityofmasters.com) (free membership) and [www.pamelaharper.com](http://www.pamelaharper.com).

## Anthologies

Writing for an anthology is a great way to break into publication and provides a viable clip for your portfolio. This market offers a host of possible topics in fiction, non-fiction and even poetry. An anthology is a collection of writings which can be written by various authors or can include selected writings by one author. Stories included in an anthology usually have a common theme or subject. Anthologies can also work as stepping stones to establish relationships with publishers and to eventually get published by a larger press. These relationships can open doors later when you are ready to submit a longer manuscript. Check [Anthology News and Reviews](#) for current markets.

*Donna Sundblad is a full time freelance writer and published author. Check out her blog [Pumping Your Muse Writing Prompts for inspiration](#).*

## Nightengale’s Nuggets: Publishing a Book Is Like Giving Birth to a Child



Remember as a parent the way you felt when you first held your baby in your arms? Kisses, cuddles, smiles that were really burps? All the planning: setting up the nursery, doctor visits, the sonograms, the baby showers with family and friends cheering you on as a new parent.

But, when all the fuss and frenzy dies down, the reality of parenthood sets in. It seems like it is all about the late nights and diapers. Then as the child grows, there are the skinned knees, and the first day of school, the school plays, or sports events, and all the after school activities, vacations and then college. Kids absorb so much of your time, energy and money --- all well spent of course! --- but isn’t parenthood much harder than you ever thought it would be? The challenges are enormous to raise a human being (or two or three or four or more) from diapers to adulthood.

Now compare that image to the way PROMOTING A BOOK IS LIKE RAISING A CHILD!

Remember as a first-time author the way you felt when you first held your book in your hands? Pride of accomplishment, hopes for getting on Oprah’s show, “knowing” you had a best seller? All the planning: writing it, finding a publisher, setting up the first book signings, calls to the publisher getting enough books, getting an article in the newspaper, appearing on a radio show, entering awards contests, friends and family lining up to buy your book and cheering you on as a new published author. You felt like you were flying.

And THEN reality sets in. When the frenzy has died down, your arms grew tired, your successes seemed small, and the fact that the work of making your book sell began to wear you down. The challenges are enormous to promote a book from idea to bestseller, or at least a book that keeps on selling.

Now, maybe you feel like you’re just hanging in there with the fingers getting tired of clinging to the branch, ready to fall.

**Raising a book – promoting it to its full maturity** takes time, energy, money, love, nurture, education, a willingness to try new things and “abiding persistence” to make a book succeed. **You should not give up.** Your book talks to you all the time, nagging at you to do more, needing you to provide opportunities and visibility. Your book needs to run races, roller blade for fitness, ride in the back of your car wherever you go. Your book needs to be out there, visible to buyers before anyone will pick it up buy it and read it.

**“HOW?” you ask.** Well, one thing is to put it in the right places – yes, advertise it. Show it off! Get in into the publications librarians and booksellers use to find new books to put on their shelves. Get into community driven websites, Social Networking is becoming the biggest way to promote anything, books included. Another thing is to budget for the constant demand your book will make of you to let it out of your house. You **MUST** let your books breathe the fresh air of the market place. If you keep them cloistered and shut in, they will grow yellow, become brittle and soon be forgotten.

Your questions are many.

**Question #1:** What IS a best seller?

A bestseller is really whatever the author thinks it is. But in the marketplace, on Amazon, a bestseller sells 1,000 books in one day and then keeps on selling everyday. On B&N a best seller is a book that sells 250 books or more in one day, and keeps on selling for a while after that. See the discrepancy? But if you reach that bestseller status even in a genre category, you can put that fact on the cover of your book, and no one can take it away from you.

The Amazon Blast is an email campaign that accomplishes this, but you need to have thousands of contacts who are interested in your success to sell 1000 books on one day...and there is the little known fact that Amazon counts one order (no matter how many copies of one title are in that order) as one book sold. So, if you sell 50 copies to a friend, it counts as one book. Conversely, on B&N, if you sell 50 to a friend on one order, it counts as 50 books sold. So, to sell 250+ books on one day is a much easier hurdle to leap, and it opens the doors to in-store booksignings if you poise your marketing plan to include notifying the B&N stores in your area when you reach that magic number on your blast day.

A New York Times Best Seller has gotten rave reviews, lots of expensive PR driven promotion and trade support, and usually sells 10,000 copies or more through normal trade outlets, not including internet sales. This kind of effort costs a lot of money to accomplish, and even with the rapid sales, these can disappear once the promos end. Every book has its lifespan, and for some it is a few weeks. For others it is a few months, and for very few it is a matter of years, decades or centuries.

However, in the real world of most books, a best seller is a book that the author can continue to sell for years after publication. Speakers, lecturers, teachers, business trainers and coaches, and authors with the hutzpah to get out and talk about their books can be very successful. This requires making your book your full time job. It requires planning ahead of publication to whom and how you are going to sell your books.

**Question #2:** How can you reach your readers when you don't know where they are?

I would counter that question with, “Why don't you know who your readers are?” A book written without a fore-knowledge of who would want to read it, is a book doomed to sit on a shelf, alone and dusty. Fiction is divided into genre so people who like fantasy don't accidentally pick up a romance novel. Or those who prefer political suspense can find books other than detective mysteries. Children's books have so many iterations, it is nearly impossible to categorize them. Then, of course, there are all the non-fiction books and all the how-to books that fill the shelves of bookstores to overflowing.

An author needs to recognize the job belongs to him/her and no one else. You can hire a publicist for the outreach to publications and radio shows you might need help with, but in the end, you will need to do the talking and provide the copy for the articles. You will need to establish your data-base and keep it

growing. Take those emails, addresses and phone numbers, and then USE them to keep in touch with your clients about your talks, signings, events and new books. Which leads to the next question:

**Question #3:** What can you do to keep your book in the limelight?

Write a second book and market it to your client base. Do a blast for online sales. Give talks locally (in libraries) and regionally. Join a speaker's organization. Write lots of articles and post them online at the many online article sites ([www.ezinearticles.com](http://www.ezinearticles.com) and [www.authorsden.com](http://www.authorsden.com) are excellent) and of course, start a blog, and get involved in at least one social networking site. Keep up the flow of information about your book.

There are as many ways to market a book as there are ideas you can generate about your book. Think outside the lines, and reach out to businesses in your area whose mission may connect with your book. Children's boutiques and educational stores are a place where children's authors can start right in their own areas.

**Question #4:** How does the size of a book affect it in the marketplace?

The nutshell answer goes like this: books that are smaller in size 4x6" mass market publications, and 5x8" or 5.5x8.5" trade paper publications are usually fiction, though some self-help books are small in size. Larger books (6x9 and up) are usually non-fiction or color children's books which can come in all shapes and sizes. Observation of books in the stores will hold true to this, in most instances. There are many varieties of size for all kinds of specialty books. Mostly, I believe size and page count are a matter of what's best for the subject matter, layout and cover design.

If your manuscript is 75,000 words, your book will be about 250 pages at the 8.5x8.5 format.

It will be more like 300 pages in the smaller mass market format of 4x6" normally reserved for high end runs of well-known authors.

If you have lots of photos or drawings, the larger formats of 6x9 and up are better, because they allow for more page space to make the images easily visible.

If you send a manuscript to a publisher and you have 180,000+ words, the publisher is going to suggest two books, volume one and two, since a 700 page book is very hard to market for a first time author. If you develop a marketplace for your writing, then you can increase the length of the book.

Well, there are so many more questions I could attempt to answer, but authors need to realize that they are responsible for the marketing successes of their books, and the effort and money varies widely from book to book. Some authors spend a lot and get nothing for it. Some spend very little and get a lot. It is all about the author's ability to persist in the drive to sell his story, and to work at it diligently as a day job.

## Where Do I Begin...

By Marcella Kampman © 2003

Let's start at the very beginning. A good story starts with an idea, a flash of inspiration, that will take your readers on a journey you hope they'll never forget. That flash, if developed fully, is your premise. But a premise on its own is nothing, you must build up that premise, enhance it until it becomes an exciting, gripping, awe-inspiring tale of... whatever it is you long to tell.

As a writer, a storyteller, that's exactly what you must do. Nurture that spark and build up your premise.

But let's back up a bit before you charge off and start enhancing your basic premise. What you need to understand is why you are writing this particular story in the first place. The first and foremost question you must answer is not *what* but *who* is this story about?

If people want to read about cataclysmic events and jaw-dropping catastrophes and daring, action-packed escapades, they'll read the news. But unless the news is about people, more specifically about a person with whom they can identify, the event or catastrophe or escapade isn't going to hold their attention for very long. People enjoy reading about people.

Let's use an example to show you what a premise is and how to build it into something else, something better. I'm going to use *"The Wizard of Oz"* by L. Frank Baum because it's a classic fairytale that most people know. If you don't know this story, then I strongly recommend you either read the book or watch the movie because this story has all the elements of great fiction: a sympathetic heroine, a great cast of supporting characters, exciting events, a menacing adversary, a particularly dark moment, clear character growth, and a satisfactory resolution to an unexpected ending (which, by the way, are all the elements for a great plot).

The basic premise of *"The Wizard of Oz"* is this – *a teenage girl gets lost in a storm and wants to find her way home*. Sounds pretty simple, boring actually, doesn't it? At least it gives us the who of the story, what happens to her, and what she's going to try to achieve by the end of it.

Now let's build up the premise – *an angst ridden teenage girl gets blown far away from home in a tornado to a strange new land where she must overcome several obstacles before she learns the true value of family in order to return home*. Much more interesting now, isn't it?

Take your own story. Write down who it's about and what's going to happen to your protagonist before s/he can achieve whatever it is s/he needs to resolve by the story's end. Keep this initial premise simple. Think of your premise as an image or feeling that gives you enough meaning to take your hero/heroine to the goal and where the resolution of that goal will be so necessary that every step of the journey strives to be undertaken. Now, using strong verbs and nouns, enhance your premise.

Remember that your reader wants to become involved in the protagonist's struggle to achieve a specific goal, and she wants to 'worry' about whether or not the hero/heroine can actually achieve that goal.

Now let's enhance the premise even more – *Dorothy, an angst ridden teenage girl, who feels out-of-place in her ordinary world, gets blown far away from her aunt and uncle's farm in a tornado to a magical, strange new land. There she undergoes exciting events where she meets with several characters, who use their various talents to aid her in fighting a wicked witch. She finally meets up with a wizard, but he leaves before he's able to send her back home. Only when she realizes that she has the power to save herself can she finally get home*.

Stories are about people, people undergoing tremendous struggles. "What happens to the characters in the course of the story should be unusual, dramatic, and meaningful. This doesn't mean that you have to write stories about epic wars; it's just that you have to write about events that have impact."<sup>1</sup> Impact upon the characters. Impact that propels your characters into action. Impact that produces change. Dorothy must change, that is, she must grow up, she must learn the importance of family, she must learn that even though she's an orphan she still has an aunt and uncle who love her dearly and want her to come back home. All the unusual, dramatic, and meaningful events in the story steer her in that direction.

How can I build my own premise to that level of impact, you may very well ask? By asking yourself these questions:

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<sup>1</sup> Maass, p.38

1. What if? Use that *what if* question to start your premise, then to escalate the stakes, then to add layers to the plot and characters. What if a young girl didn't feel like she belonged? What if a tornado blew her away from home? What if she realized that she wanted to go back? What if a wicked witch stood in her way? What if she met some interesting characters who wanted to help her but didn't know how? What if, at the end of all her harrowing adventures, the wizard turns out to be a fraud?

2. "What's at stake? Ask yourself this question: "If your hero/heroine wants a particular goal, and if s/he is not successful, then what?" *Well, then what?* That is the essence of defining what is at stake. What would be lost?" Will Dorothy ever get back home again? If she doesn't, what happens? Why doesn't she just live happily ever after with the munchkins? If she doesn't go back, what happens to Auntie Em? How would her uncle and the farmhands feel? How would Dorothy feel if she never saw any of them ever again?

Take your starting premise and build it up. Question yourself as you write your new and improved premise in order to give the enhanced version more detail. Writing a premise may sound a little like making magic, but it isn't. The magic comes not from having a flash of inspiration, but in knowing how to develop that spark into a solid story premise that will make your readers sigh with satisfaction long after they've put your book down.

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*Marcella Kampman has been writing for several years. Under her own name she has had several articles and a short, non-fiction story published. Later this year, Bayeux Arts will be publishing her young adult collection of Ancient Sumerian Myths and Legends. Marcella is a published romance author under the name of Vanessa deHart. Her first two romance novels, Promise Me, and Out of Darkness, are published by Lachesis Publishing and are available at Amazon and Fictionwise. Her third romance book, No More Lies, will be made available soon. To find out more about Marcella (aka Vanessa) check out her web page at: [www.vanessadehart.com](http://www.vanessadehart.com)*

## **APRIL BOOK REVIEWS**

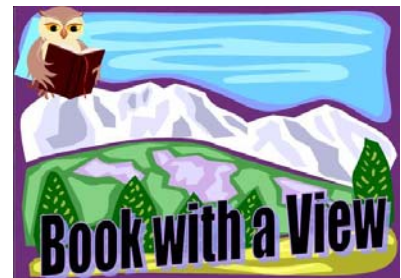
### **Stories at the Edge of Time**

Author: Alan Robbins

Publisher: iUniverse (2007) ISBN: 9780595471072

Reviewed by Olivera Baumgartner-Jackson for Reader Views (1/08)

I'll be the first to admit that short stories usually cannot hold my attention for very long. More often than not I'll read one or two in a collection; then decide that they are all the same anyhow and I'll give up. Well, this was not the case with Alan Robbins' collection of science-fiction short stories *Stories at the Edge of Time*. The nineteen stories held my attention throughout the entire collection and I enjoyed them immensely.



The stories are diverse and extremely engaging. Most of them seem to deal with time, be it the passage of time, the relativity of it or some other aspect of it. They are all fresh and very different from each other, yet linked by superb writing and boundless imagination. It would be a tough call to decide which of the stories could be my favorite. Part of me would be in favor of "Sudden Insight," the story of a mathematician on the brink of a huge discovery – which never happens. Or maybe it could be "The Dead Got It Good," of the "suave detective and hard-nosed dame" genre that I've always enjoyed so much in the vintage detective novels. But wait, we cannot forget "The Time Phone!" Would it not be nice to be able to telephone into the future? Or would it be? Then we have "Uncle Jack Eats a Mummy," a very insightful story about immortality. If this one does not make you stop and think, you are probably beyond help. While all of those stories I've just named, as well as all the rest of them, enchanted me, amused me and made me wonder, I would probably pick "The Edge of Time" if I truly had to pick one only. As an avid reader I love the premise of stories and reading being able to change our fate – and that's exactly what happens in "The Edge of Time."

So – pick *Stories at the Edge of Time* and immerse yourself in it – I am pretty certain that your universe will experience a little shift as well.

## Book Promotion... Are You Ready?

By Mary "Lynn" Lewis

Congratulations! Your book is in print. That's a major accomplishment, so go ahead and pat yourself on the back, sing from the rooftops, or just do a happy dance in your kitchen.

Now what?

If you're very fortunate, your publisher will do everything it can to promote your book – for a limited time only. If you self-published, it's all up to you. Either way, if you want your book to sell, you'll have to handle some portion of the marketing and promotion yourself.

Some statistics to consider:

- somewhere around 120,000 books are published in the U.S. every year
- according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll, one in four adults read no books at all in the past year
- a successful fiction book sells 5000 copies
- a successful nonfiction book sells 7500 copies
- 70 percent of books do not make a profit

If you Google book statistics, you can find more information. The numbers can be daunting and discouraging to a hopeful author, but there are ways to get the word out about your book. The internet has become an invaluable tool with the advent of social/business networking sites and blogs.

I asked a couple of authors about their experiences regarding the marketing and promotion of their books. Their answers are below.

*"These days, publishers rarely send authors out on tour, as it's simply not a cost-effective way to sell books. Neither is advertising. Further, fewer and fewer newspapers run reviews of novels. So what's left? Not a lot, I'm afraid.*

*The good news is that the Internet an invaluable tool that lets you spread word about your book far and wide. I use it pretty aggressively, and do a ton of work on my own with it, in addition to my publisher's efforts.*

*I think many authors would agree with me that Internet marketing can make or break book sales, especially for a debut author." -[Ellen Meister](#), author of **Secret Confessions of the Applewood PTA***

*"My publisher does a huge amount for the book in the initial phases—getting it into stores, getting good placement in stores, buying ads in the major publications, sending newsletters, supporting authors at conferences with give-a-ways. They really do what they can. But what they can do is limited, so that's where I come in. I spend about an hour a day doing marketing chores; more when the book is about to release. That includes blogging, maintaining lists and newsletters, maintaining my website, writing articles, speaking at conferences, signing books, etc. I was surprised how much work it was—and how much money it could be if you let it. That would be my number one piece of advice to authors: don't spend your money. Figure out what you can do free and go with that." - [Diana Holquist](#), author of **Sexiest Man Alive***

Many of the authors of books I've reviewed at [Virtual Wordsmith](#) have [MySpace](#) pages, websites and blogs of their own. Connecting with the reader is paramount to book sales. If the reader feels a connection to the author, their curiosity will lead them to reading the book. Raised awareness is an important promotional tool. If the average book buyer has seen a picture of your book cover online, it will jump at them when they see it on the bookstore shelf.

So, use the new resources available to you. It's all here at your finger tips!  
<http://blogstopbooktours.wordpress.com> and <http://virtualwordsmith.blogspot.com>

*Mary Evelyn Lewis is the woman behind Blog Stop Book Tours. Blog book tours are a new, and cost effective, way to promote books and their authors. It's a form of viral AND word-of-mouth marketing. People talk. Don't you want your book to be what they're talking about? Mary is also a writer, a mother, a wife and an avid reader. If you'd like to know more, see her website at [www.maryevelynlewis.com](http://www.maryevelynlewis.com).*



Jessica Dockter with *L.E.E. Design* is the graphic designer for the Writers in the Sky Creative Writing Services team. As the designer of this newsletter, she is also available to assist you with your graphic design needs, such as:

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