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**BEST
BOOKS**

**SEPTEMBER
2023**

[NINA HANN]



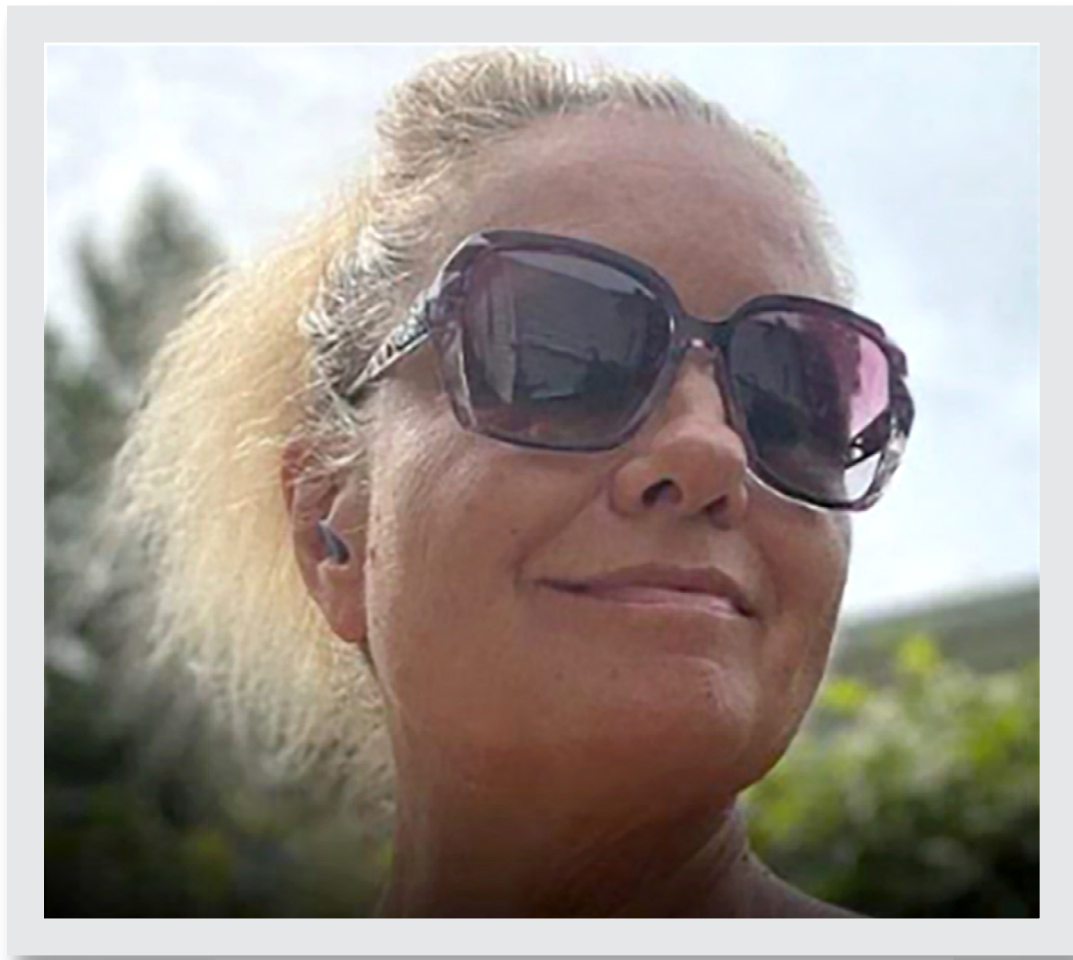
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EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief:	Jay Williams
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Nina Hann



Nina Hann was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where her parents were contractors for the Royal Family of Haile Selassie. At 8 months, she contracted cerebral meningitis and survived the disease, but she became deaf as a result. At 5 years of age, she moved to the United States with her family, was outfitted with hearing aids, and attended speech therapy. Her ability to use her voice enabled her to attend regular and private schools and soon she mastered the English language as well as sign language, which is now her second language. She graduated summa cum laude at Gallaudet University. The temples and ruins she had visited with her family in her childhood, such as Egypt and its pyramids and Teotihuacan in Mexico, motivated her to seek greater knowledge and understanding about their history and purpose. While working as auditor for the

federal government, she used her free time to write a story that eventually became a novel. It is a fictional romance novel based on her life experiences, as well as applying the ancient alien theories prescribed by Erich Von Daniken and Giorgio Tsoukalos.

The story begins with the young Margaux, who is raised by her controlling mother, whose anxieties were fueled by a mysterious event in her past, an event she refused to divulge to anyone for fear of losing her only daughter. Her tight grip constantly frustrated Margaux's efforts to live a life of her own. One day, Margaux rebels and falls in love with a handsome lifeguard, Byron, who takes her on a wild date towards Lake Tallulah. While swimming in the lake, the couple is abducted by extraterrestrials, who examine their bodies, erase their memories, and return them back to earth separately. Neither one of the couple remembers each other and both are forced to go on to separate lives.





Jean Marie Patty

Jean Marie Patty was raised in Anniston, AL. She has also lived in California, Florida, New Hampshire and Atlanta.

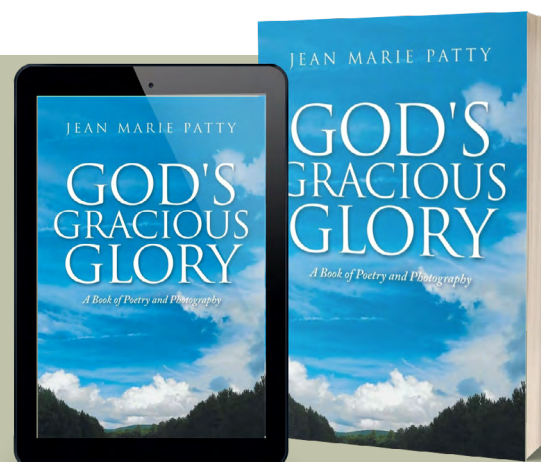
She studied at Florida State University and loved writing and art courses. She also loves photography.

She loves God, family, friends and her cats.

Jean Marie hopes that all who read her book will find inspiration.

- *How long have you been writing or when did you start?*
I have been writing for about 25 years!
- *What, to you, are the most important elements of good writing?*
I don't have elements for good writing, but I do like to rhyme!
- *How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?*
I have now written 4 books and my favorite is my latest, Poetry For God, because it's all about my new life on my own and my autonomy!
- *What inspired the idea for your book?*
I was inspired to write my latest book because of a difficult ordeal that I was going through!
- *How did you come up with the title for your book?*
I always come up with my titles because God inspires me!
- *What advice would you give to a writer working on their first book?*
My advice for writing a first book is to look to your heart and let it guide you in what to say!
- *What's your favorite and least favorite part of publishing?*
My favorite part of publishing is seeing the end result and seeing my book in the finished form! My least favorite part of publishing is all the legwork that is involved in the process!
- *What perspectives or beliefs have you challenged with this work?*
The beliefs I have challenged with my books are my strong faith in God! I hope everyone will learn from my books about how great our Lord is!
- *What do you need in your writing space to help you stay focused?*
To stay focused on my writing, I need a clear mind and a nice desk to write on. I often write at my kitchen table as well!
- *What is the ultimate goal for the book?*
My ultimate goal for all my books is to reach people and help them find faith if they are wavering in their love for God!

This book contains poetry and some lovely photographs. The poems are about God, family, friends and animals. These poems are uplifting and spiritual in nature. This book will inspire readers and help them see that there is hope even after much misfortune in life. The poems and photos will encourage one to believe in God and the true beauty of nature and life itself! This book is a must for all animal lovers!



Miami Book Fair

Miami Book Fair will be holding its 40th Street Fair
Friday, November 17 – November 19



Miami Book Fair began as a two-day event in November 1984, when a small group of determined individuals – including educators from Miami Dade College, independent booksellers, and librarians – founded Miami Book Fair International. In the nearly 40 years since, MBF has grown into one of the most significant cultural events in the region, the most comprehensively programmed book fair in the nation, and an internationally recognized model of excellence.

In 2020 MBF quickly reimagined and transitioned all programming online through an innovative new platform, MiamiBookFairOnline.com, built in record time to address pandemic-era shutdowns. That forever changed the way we Book Fair, and we now offer in-person and virtual programs as a hybrid entity. Today MBF is both an annual eight-day festival – typically featuring more than 500 authors, 200,000 attendees, 200+ national and international book exhibitors, and a robust schedule of literary, cultural, and educational events, supported by 1,000+ community volunteers – and a provider of a diverse slate of literary-centric programming year-round.

We are especially proud to have presented thousands of award-winning authors and thought leaders over the years, including Madeleine Albright, Isabel Allende, Dorothy Allison, Carol Anderson, James Baldwin, Russell Banks, David Brooks, President George W. Bush, Sandra Cisneros, Rita Dove, Jorge Edwards, Will Eisner, John Hope Franklin, Jonathan Safran Foer, Joy Harjo, Ibram X. Kendi, Jeff Kinney, Min Jin Lee, Frank McCourt, Toni

Morrison, President Barack Obama, Michael Ondaatje, Jason Reynolds, Esmeralda Santiago, Art Spiegelman, Amy Tan, Helen Thomas, Calvin Trillin, Zoé Valdés, Cornel West, Elie Wiesel, and George Will, among others.

Through our work and collaboration with like-minded community partners and stakeholders, MBF continues to recognize and support the critical value of the cultural arts as a tool for education, community development, establishing genuine connection and understanding, and enriching lives. We consistently strive to provide access to engaging and educational programs that foster lifelong positive impacts for children, adults, and communities, with a special emphasis on reaching those who are underserved and lacking in resources.

For eight days every November, Miami Book Fair presents a literary wonderland in person downtown as well as online, hosting hundreds of diverse, critically acclaimed authors; facilitating conversations about politics, pop culture, and all manner of impactful prose; lighting the fire of curiosity and creativity within children; and welcoming tens of thousands of fairgoers to embrace it all. In-person and virtual festival programs and events include, but are not limited to Author Conversations; IberoAmerican and ReadCaribbean author programs; our Generation Genius program encompassing GGA, the National Book Foundation Teen Press Conference, and Children's Alley; and Street Fair, where fairgoers can enjoy Off the Shelf and the MBF Marketplace.

Why Do You Need A Website?

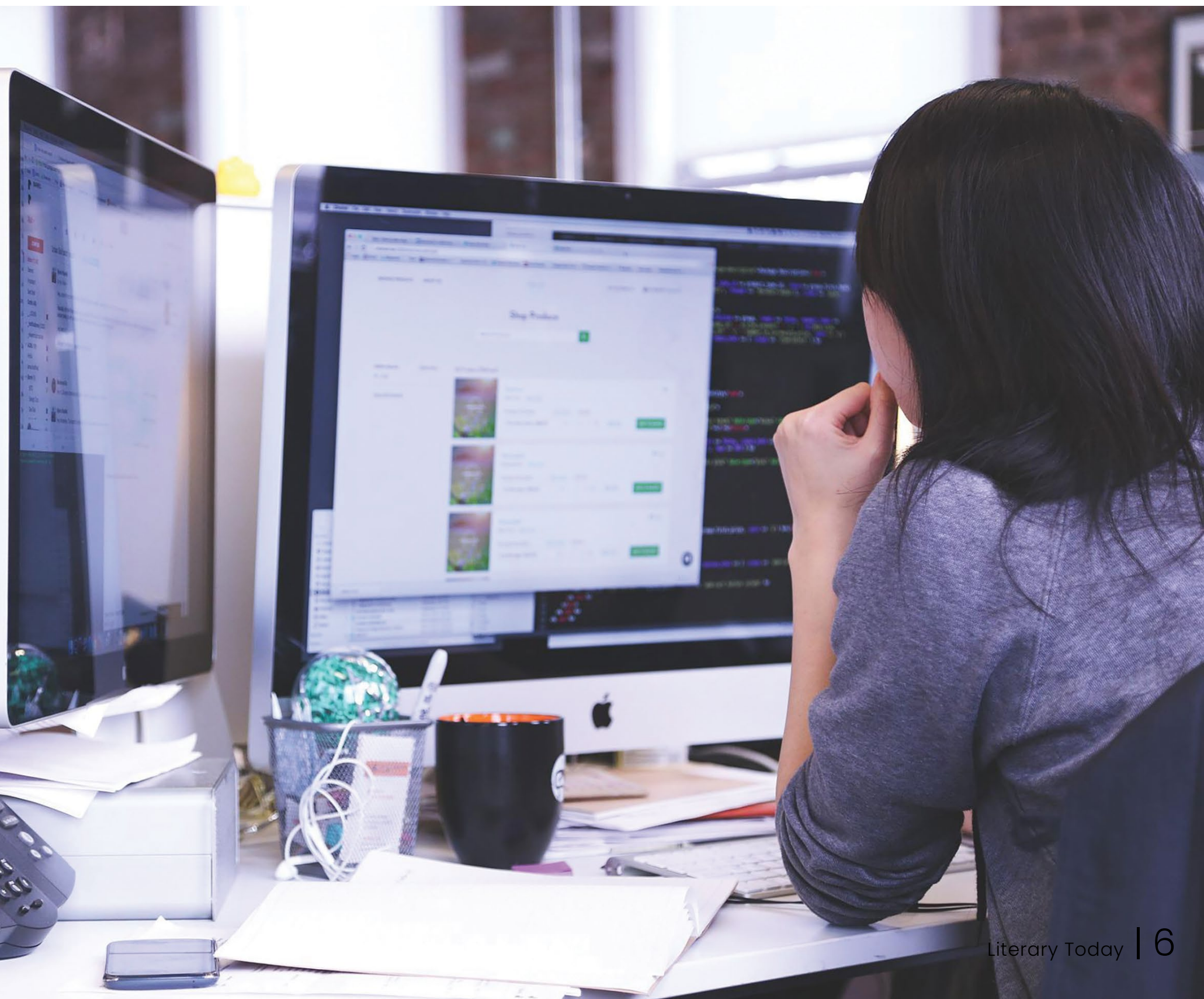
They say the world is now in our hands, and the information is at our fingertips. There are no second thoughts about that. The internet is fantastic and continues to transform the way we connect with people, share information, and live a quality life.

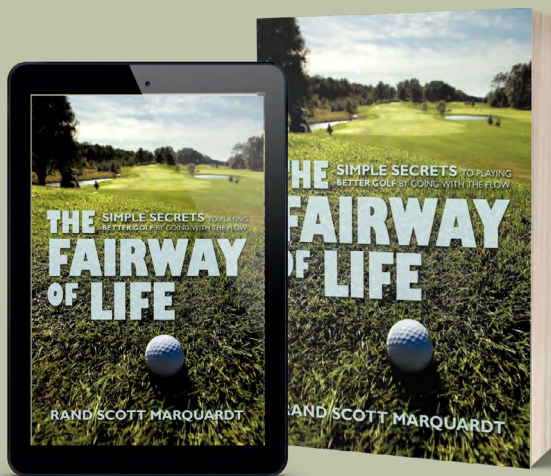
A lot of people spend most of their time on the internet. This could be for buying a product, using a service, reading a blog, entertaining themselves, or for various other reasons.

Considering the amount of time people spend on the internet, businesses too have moved online. Having a website

with a presence on social media has become the need of the hour. If you are an author and do not own a website, you might be losing a lot of potential book sales online. Therefore, knowing the importance of a website is key to growing your credibility exponentially.

Having a website makes it very easy for people to find you, read up about your book, discover what you do, and answer a bunch of questions they have on your title. By having a website people will be able to find your book when they search for the title on a search engine like Google, Yahoo or Bing.





Golf is supposed to be fun! But many people who play don't see it that way. Many golfers, after having spent countless dollars and hours on the sport, find themselves having too many negative thoughts, limited beliefs, and other foolish self-sabotaging behaviors. Is there any hope to this kind of madness?

I get so nervous and scared?

- *I end up choking and "throwing up" all over myself?*
- *I can't seem to control my demons?*
- *I get angry and often beat myself up?*
- *Sometimes I can't even hit the broadside of a barn?*
- *I never seem to get any better? Let renowned mental golf coach Rand Marquardt show you how he went from a frustrated, misaligned ten-handicap golfer to a more confident, connected one-handicap golfer in just one summer-and how you can do it too!*

Don't spend another day being angry, afraid, or frustrated again. Instead, learn to play golf more often in The Zone and how to harness and expand your inner wisdom by going with the flow along THE FAIRWAY OF LIFE.

Rand Marquardt

Rand Marquardt is an author, spiritual life and mental golf performance coach. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Physical Education & Sport / Athletic Administration from Central Michigan University. His specialty is sport psychology. His additional studies are in life coaching and life education programs.



- *What advice would you give to a writer working on their first book?*

The same advice that Neale Donald Walsch, author of Conversations with God gave me. Let the inspiration flow through you and into your finger tips on your computer or fingers with a pencil onto the paper. Keep going as long as the flow is supposed to go and just stop right there. Don't try and finish a chapter or paragraph or even a sentence. Just stop and put it down for now. When you come back you will start off exactly where you left off. It worked. I took off exactly where I left off before.

- *How do you use social media as an author?*

When I first got published I hired a virtual assistant as much as needed to promote my work. Cora was extremely helpful with signing me up for several social media sites and she advised me what I needed to do or post to promote myself and The Fairway of Life.

Cora signed me up to a website, blog articles, along with Facebook and Twitter plus several others to get recognition and move up the Google search results and clicks, etc. It was working. I had the blog, the website, social media, doing coaching telephone calls to large groups, and I was paying my virtual assistant. Not much money was coming in and had to drop it after a few years. It does work.

I also got recognized by a German person who was researching sport psychology for an online mental golf program. I was one of 3 he investigated for a project. I was in communication but the project never launched. I owe it all to Cora.

- *What is a significant way your book has changed since the first draft?*

My first book I wrote was called Spiritual Golf. My journey got very spiritual and I simply applied these universal life principles I was learning about

life to the game of golf. Things like ask, and it is given tapping into one's inner higher Self. Spiritual Golf enhances, expands, and transcends all the traditional concepts within the field of sport psychology. It is the breakthrough to the next level of evolutionary growth in ultimate peak performance.

Along comes Christine, my new editor who was one of the editors for the Chicken Soup for the Soul series with Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen. She took on my project because it had a similar vibe. Christine put me through a complete overhaul – I needed a new book name, case studies, mental processes, more personal stories. Whew!

One must go through the experience and not just read it in a book.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

As I have said before, I attended a few spiritual retreats prior to being a writer. I experienced a transformation of taking a leap of faith into the unknown, which was the scariest and most liberating experience of my life. Author Debbie Ford did spiritual life coaching retreats in San Diego, and author Neale Donald Walsch had his own life education program in Ashville, Oregon, which I attended and graduated. I devoured one spiritually inspiring book after another. Then one evening out of the blue in the dead nuts of winter I tell my roommate at the time, "I'm going to be a 5-handicap golfer by the 4th of July." Chris snickers and proceeds to write down my quote on a piece of paper. Note I had just come off the worst year of my golf life. Even in my prime I hovered around a 6-handicap. Now I'm 50 years old.

By July 4th I was a 4.3 handicap. It worked. I then asked and declared to the universe, okay, I'm going to be a 2 handicap by the end of the season. I ended the year as a 1.3 handicap golfer and the club champion. That summer inspired me to piece together and take notes to write the book, Spiritual Golf, which turned into The Fair way of Life.

- *How important was professional editing to your book's development?*

It was huge and much bigger than what I thought. I must've read my work a dozen times or more in its entirety. I can see why ghost writers could be the way to go once all the information is passed along. But, this one I did myself with the help of Christine to finalize it.

- *If you could spend a day with another popular author, whom would you choose?*

Dr. Bob Rotella, is a sport psychologist who is an author and coach to several PGA Tour pros.

- *What is the ultimate goal for the book?*

While having my book made into a movie sounds rather Chivas Irons from Golf in the Kingdom spiritual, ultimately my hope is that it may just touch and better another's life in some way, form, of shape. I recall being on a golf coaching call with several on the line and one friend wanted to thank me because of how this is helping with his relationship with his parents. It's funny one never knows how a deeper reflection plays out from being real, being grounded, and being radically honest with oneself. It's a bonus if one begins to play better golf, enjoys themselves vs. being frustrated strolling along the fairway of life smelling the flowers. One of my coaching clients reminded me that because of all our discussions he's able to leave work behind and tell himself, paraphrasing, 'I'm out here on this beautiful golf course, and I'm going to enjoy myself.' Just a slight shift in the mind can make all the difference.

By the way, there are several movies that have similar vibes to my book and I wrote them into it. The Greatest Game Ever Played, Baggar Vance, Peaceful Warrior, and Seven Days in Utopia to name a few. Will Smith starred in Baggar Vance and Nick Nolte in Peaceful Warrior.

I'm now watching a real person, a former student pursue his dreams of playing on the PGA Tour unfold. His name is Joey Garber. Joey recently had a strong finish on the Korn Ferry Tour to make it into the finals and keep his status for 2024 while pursuing his dream to play once again on the PGA Tour. Gotta have a dream. We become what we think.

Bookstore Endorsement

5 GUARANTEED LOCAL BOOKSTORE

During

- ✓ 5 Guaranteed Physical Bookstore Placement - We will pitch your book to elite physical bookstore owners.
- ✓ Copies of Books
- ✓ Marketing Materials
- ✓ Book Representatives
- ✓ Photo Documentation
- ✓ Post Fulfillment Report

St. John Fisher College Bookstore, in Rochester NY

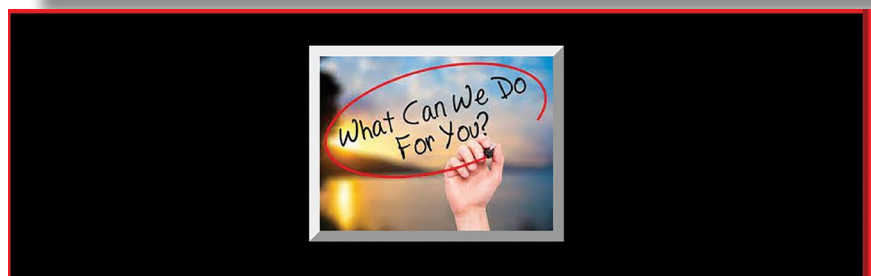
Mix Bookstore, Newark OH

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Give your book what they deserve! Getting your book to be physically displaced on bookstores!




GUARANTEED BOOKSTORE PLACEMENT LOCATION

ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE




St. John Fisher College emphasizes the liberal arts, offering programs in traditional academic disciplines as well as more directly career-oriented fields. The College is composed of five schools: the School of Arts and Sciences; the School of Business; the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. School of Education; the Wegmans School of Nursing; and the Wegmans School of Pharmacy. Each school is accredited by regional, national, and/or international accrediting bodies. Learn more about accreditation. Fisher offers undergraduate majors in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, business, education, and nursing, as well as several pre-professional programs. The College also offers a variety of masters and doctoral programs; a fully online program and several online courses are part of the curriculum mix as well.

the BOERNE BOOKSHOP



The Boerne Bookshop is an exciting new bookstore in the heart of historic Boerne. We focus on a high-quality experience with books that appeal to all readers. Having a wide range of topics and an eclectic mixture in all areas is a point of pride for us. We want to both provide the books our customers are seeking and expose them to books that will intrigue them. To this end, we seek to engage with our customers on what they read and the topics that interest them. And if we don't have something you want, we can get it.

Kicks Mix



Kicks Mix Bookstore is your local destination for new & used books, vintage books, children's books, used DVDs & CDs, and old vinyl records in the Newark area. We do special orders and also teach classes to create book art. We have 3,200 square feet of awesomeness and would love to be your local bookstore. Plus, we have a cat. Stop in today or contact us for more information!



Snips from Publishers Weekly

September 25, 2023 issue

News

The State of the Printing Industry

Book manufacturers gathered recently to take stock of the sector in the wake of the pandemic, and to look ahead

Questions surrounding the future of book printing drew a capacity crowd of 155 publishing professionals to the BMI (Book Manufacturers Institute) Book Manufacturing Mastered conference, held September 14 at Penguin Random House's New York City headquarters. And though the book manufacturing sector was booming during the pandemic, economic conditions have softened and costs for most materials are continuing to go up. Still, speakers at the conference said book printers are generally in a good place, albeit with a host of challenges ahead of them.

In addition to rising costs, topics discussed at the daylong conference included the renewed postpandemic threat of work moving off-shore, sustainability concerns, the shift from offset to digital printing, and labor shortages.

"We're basically where we were back in 2014," said Marco Boer, v-p of IT Strategies, in the opening presentation. "We haven't lost all that printed book volume that people were worried about when e-books came in, and so we all say this is okay. People are continuing to read and print, and that's great."

But a deeper look at the numbers and trends reveals some challenges to be addressed, Boer continued, noting that, after some strong years during the pandemic, the printing market is not stable. "Yes, we've had a great 2022. But it's getting a little bit more complicated as we go forward." He pointed to logistical challenges, uncertainty over how Amazon will impact the market, and rising paper costs, citing a projected annual 3% decline in supply.

In addition, Boer pointed to another key factor that portends change: the end of the megabestseller. He attributed that trend in part to increased competition from other sources of entertainment, pointing out that the Harry Potter series (whose final volume was published in 2007) were the last to sell tens of millions of copies. "Last year, the bestselling titles were by Colleen Hoover, and she sold 2.75 million books."

Still, Boer said that unit sales in 2022 were stronger than they were in 2019. "So again, things are not bad," he noted. "But [the instability] means you have to get more efficient."

On two follow-up panels—one featuring printers and the



Marco Boer of IT Strategies kicked off the BMI conference with an industry overview.

other publishers—speakers noted that pressure from publishers and consumers for printers to become more environmentally responsible will also add to pricing pressures. For one thing, they said, the cost for postconsumer wastepaper needed for making recycled paper is the highest it's been in years. But the printers agreed that the book manufacturing sector needs to invest in an environmentally sustainable future. Todd Roth of Thomas Reuters's core publishing solutions business (which prints about 30 million books per year) said his company's goal is to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% by 2030. Linnea Knollmueller of Penguin Random House said her company has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030 and continues to up its use of certified paper (as of 2021, 96% of PRH's paper came from certified mills).

Roth was one of several panelists who agreed that labor costs for book manufacturers will continue to rise, noting that his company is paying premiums for people to work on second and third shifts as a way to try to attract new talent. The company is also using younger employees to recruit much-needed workers.

While the consensus from the printers' panel was that prices will have to rise as costs do, the panelists were cognizant that too many increases would negate some of the gains

The Weekly Scorecard

Print Sales Down 5.7% in Mid-September

Unit sales of print books fell 5.7% in the week ended Sept. 16, 2023, from the comparable week in 2022, at outlets that report to Circana BookScan. The decline came despite a host of new releases landing among the top 10 bestsellers. The adult nonfiction category had the smallest decline, with sales down 4.2%. The category had the week's #1 title: *Elon Musk*, Walter Isaacson's biography of the business magnate, sold more than 92,000 copies. Seven of the category's top 10 titles were new books, with *Build the Life You Want* by Arthur C. Brooks at #2, selling more than 62,000 copies. Those totals easily beat last year's top seller, Jeanette McCurdy's *I'm Glad My Mom Died*, which sold more than 45,000 copies. Adult fiction sales dropped 6.6%. *Holly* by Stephen King stayed in first place, selling more than 43,000 copies. The newest Vince Flynn novel, *Code Red*, was the best-performing new release, selling more than 23,000 copies. The #1 title a year ago was Alaina Urquhart's *The Butcher and the Wren*, which sold more than 67,000 copies. Sales in juvenile fiction took a big hit, falling 13%. Sales were down in all subcategories, with the two largest, education/reference/language and history/sports/people/places, seeing declines of 14.1% and 11.9%, respectively. Juvenile fiction sales fared better by comparison, down 4.8%. *Stinnetgers 2* by R.L. Stine was in the top spot, selling just over 53,000 copies, followed by Matthew McConaughey's *Just*, which sold almost 25,000 copies in its first week.

TOTAL SALES OF PRINT BOOKS (IN THOUSANDS)

	SEPT. 17, 2022	SEPT. 16, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Total	13,985	13,188	-5.7%	-4.1%

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY CATEGORY (IN THOUSANDS)

	SEPT. 17, 2022	SEPT. 16, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Adult Nonfiction	5,441	5,211	-4.2%	-5.2%
Adult Fiction	3,390	3,167	-6.6%	0.1%
Juvenile Nonfiction	1,101	958	-13.0%	-9.9%
Juvenile Fiction	3,240	3,086	-4.8%	-5.9%
Young Adult Fiction	536	496	-7.4%	-3.6%
Young Adult Nonfiction	77	65	-15.6%	-4.4%

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY FORMAT (IN THOUSANDS)

	SEPT. 17, 2022	SEPT. 16, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Hardcover	3,811	3,655	-4.1%	-4.1%
Trade Paperback	8,284	7,719	-6.8%	-3.9%
Mass Market Paperback	521	449	-13.9%	-17.3%
Board Books	898	891	-0.8%	-0.6%



SOURCE: CIRCANA BOOKS CAN AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BOOKSCAN'S U.S. CONSUMER MARKET PANEL COVERED BY REPORT BARELY 80% OF THE PRINT BOOK MARKET AND CONTINUES TO GROW.

News

achieved during the pandemic in bringing back work from overseas, particularly from printers in China. David Hetherington of Business International said printers need to work together to convince publishers to support domestic book manufacturing.

A member of the audience noted that it isn't just rising printer costs that are making publishers reconsider moving manufacturing out of the U.S.—higher trucking costs combined with much lower shipping costs from overseas is another factor.

Speakers on both panels agreed that one effort to control costs that has gained traction among printers and publishers is limiting the number of paper types and sizes used. Ken Miller of specialty paper manufacturer Pixelle said it is now offering about seven standard products, noting that educational publishers in particular have been amenable to the idea of more standardization.

Publishers and printers have also been working to better predict first printings to control costs. There is a growing appreciation of the "total cost of ownership"—i.e., the cost of printing and of storing excess inventory. The best way to keep costs down, said Roger Naggar of Macmillan Learning, is better communication between publishers and printers in order to "get as close as possible to the perfect order." He added that "there's nothing more wasteful than pulping books."

Other panelists spoke to a similar theme, acknowledging there is merit in debating whether or not it makes financial sense to chase every sale at the cost of overprinting. There was also agreement that forecasting print runs is very difficult. One way to improve forecasting is to move more printing to digital inkjet printers, which bring books to market more quickly while also having the ability to do smaller print runs. With e-books outselling print for Rutgers University Press, Jennifer Blanc-Tal, a production and art director there, said she is always looking for printers that can do quality short-run printings.

Boer of IT Strategies, which works with digital printers, estimated that inkjet technology accounted for 19% of all book pages printed in 2020, rising to 25% in 2022. By 2028, Boer predicted that inkjet will account for 39% of all pages. But even as inkjet printers take market share from offset printers, offset will still account for the most printed pages for many years to come. "Offset is not dead," Boer said.

—Jim Millot and Andrew Albanese



Carol Romeo

Carol Romeo is an author, speaker, and a well-known experienced marriage and family therapist. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology and her master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Azusa Pacific University. Carol has a master's degree in Practical Ministry from Wagner Leadership Institute.

She is passionate about her goal to bring emotional, psychological, and spiritual healing to individuals, couples, and families.

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Website: <http://carolromeoauthor.com/>

“While thinking about how I want to present myself and my works to you, I was reminded by the Lord that the contents of my books are really a journey. First of all, they are my journey. Each book describes my struggles during that part of my life and how the Lord healed, delivered me and ushered me into a new me. This is a process whose stages are dictated by Christ and Him alone. It is a process designed for each of us individually because He alone knows our needs and what we need from Him to transform us into the new whole persons we were meant to be.”

- *What advice would you give to a writer working on their first book?*

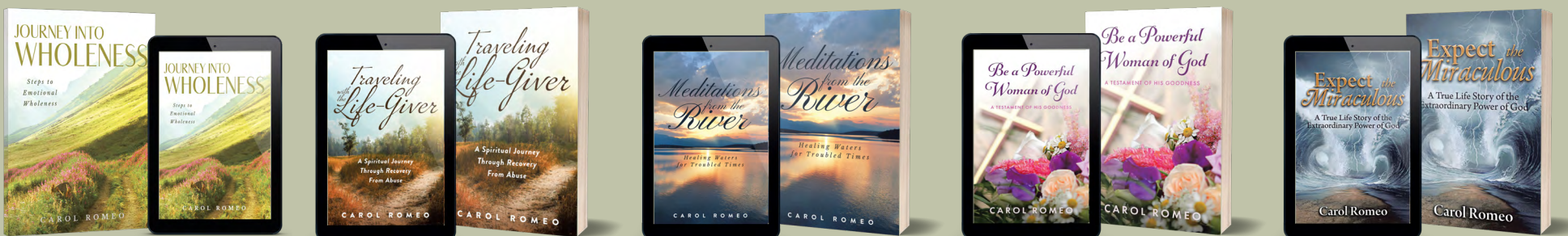
Advice to a writer working on first book: When you are beginning to write your first draft, don't pay attention to your spelling or grammar. It will only slow up or hinder your story-line. Pay attention to your audience. Write as though you are speaking directly to them and that will pull you out of your performance mode.

- *How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?*

I have written five books. It is difficult to say which book I like the best because I pour myself into each book and become attached to my reader and what I am bringing to them. That process always brings me excitement. If I had to choose the book I like the best, it would be “Expect the Miraculous” because I love speaking about the wonders that God imparts to us.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

What inspired the ideas for my books. I am inspired by God. He is always my Master Planner. Sometimes He gives me a prayer burden for a particular population and the issues they may be struggling with. Sometimes the inspiration comes directly from my life, my experiences, and the way in my experience impacted my life.



Larry Rhodes



Larry Rhodes received a PhD from LSU in Analytical Chemistry in 1979 and taught Freshman Chemistry at LSU prior to entering the oil and gas industry, where he worked on many Major Capital Projects and authored many technical standards and documents. He was involved in process analytical instrumentation and was a Global Knowledge Management focal point, a global Knowledge Management Focal Point and coordinator of 36 Technical Discipline teams prior to moving into the process safety area. He was a member of the American Chemical Society and authored technical standards for the Instrument Society of America and the American Petroleum Institute. He transitioned from technical writing into screenplays and eventually to mainstream and science fiction novels. He enjoys photography and lives with his wife in Houston, Texas.



- *What do the words “writer’s block” mean to you?*

To me it means a problem in the story that prevents me from continuing with its development. In my latest book, at about the midway point, I couldn’t continue the story as the reader would not be sympathetic to the problems the main characters faced, or how they dealt with them. It required a significant change in the story to that point, that allowed the development to continue and the book to be completed.

- *What is the most difficult part of your writing process? How long have you been writing or when did you start?*

Finding something that I can get into and want to develop into a novel, which is much more work than a short story or even a screenplay. While I was still working, I wrote many technical papers and a few technical books. With time, this evolved into writing screenplays and eventually into novels. My first book was published about 25 years ago.

- *How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?*

I’m currently working on my fifth book “Draconis”. Currently my fourth novel “Graphene” is my favorite, but the fifth may turn out to be my favorite, once it’s done.

- *What part of the book was the most fun to write?*

For any book, it’s fun to add humor to the dialogue.

- *What is a significant way your book has changed since the first draft?*

There was a major change due to a “writers’ block” that made it difficult to continue (would not be believable by the reader). Once the story was changed, the rest went quickly.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

In science fiction, aliens are always seen as destructive or menacing. What if they could be portrayed as friendly or even need our help?

- *How did you come up with the title for your book?*

The title will change a number of times during the development of the book. For example “City Under the Sea” became “The New Atlantis”, “Helios” became “The 25th Colony” and “Stardust” became “Draconis”

- *What is the ultimate goal for the book?*

I would rather say my ultimate goal as a novelist is to be picked up by a traditional publisher. I once told someone that my dream was to fly somewhere and see one of the passengers reading one of my books.

Before airplanes crossed the oceans, gigantic gas-filled airships cruised serenely between Europe and North and South America. The horrific 1937 crash of the Hindenburg, the pride of Nazi Germany, ended that phase of passenger travel, and more than twenty years passed before heavier-than-air passenger airliners could cross the Atlantic again. In Graphene, Alexandra Shultz’s dream of reviving that lost age of air travel comes true when she enters a proposal for a Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) cruise ship into an entrepreneur’s contest, and billionaire venture capitalist Max Brita becomes a believer. Together they take the LTA concept and the miraculous new material Graphene into products and vessels the original dirigible designers never would have dreamt of.



Erik D.J. O'Brien

Facebook: <https://www.erikdjobrien.com>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kurs_rage/

Website: www.duaredheimstaffsaga.com



Erik D. J. O'Brien was born in Salt Lake City in 1966. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1989 and then volunteered for Army service in 1990. After serving with the Third Ranger Battalion at Fort Benning, Georgia, from 1991 to 1993, he was honorably discharged in 1994. Returning home, he continued his education in creative writing at Emerson College. He is a lifetime practitioner of martial arts, and his other hobbies include illustration and a love of the outdoors. Kur's Rage, part 1 of the Duaredheim Staff Saga begins the grand tale of adventure and continues with The Drums of Doom, The Last Admiral, and reaches its epic climax in Part 4, The Ice Moon. Erik currently lives in Norwell, Massachusetts.

Captivating entertainment is the ultimate goal of Kur's Rage. An Old Gnome narrates the story by firelight in the local tavern. With his words, medieval adventure, mysteries, and bold characters with a purpose come to life in amply described scenes. Kur's Rage introduces Carmen's Rangers and begins their harrowing evermore difficult quest.

The first draft of Kur's Rage was primarily narration. After a few years I had a story, but it needed massive revisions, so I started over. The final draft was ten years in the making, and my focus had changed to a dialogue driven model that was vastly more effective in conveying the action that I wanted to capture.

I am both a plotter and a pantster. In most cases, I already have a plot outline, set points where I need the characters to arrive at in order to end up with a cohesive story. After that, I usually pick a scene and then write it from one character's perspective. If I like what I created I usually go with it, but if not, I will pick another character and give them a go. I allow my mind the freedom to work, to shift the scene where it naturally wants to go and most of the time, it just happens. More often than not, I achieve my plot points and once in a while, the story takes a

surprising turn that I had not before imagined and that is great too.

My writing location is flexible. I wrote the rough drafts for Kur's Rage and The Drums of Doom entirely in the laundry mat. The sound of the washers and dryers whirring away in the background put me in the "Zone," instantly. I wrote some killer scenes while folks folded their clothes and wondered what this guy was doing. I just need a quiet space, enough sleep and something to capture my words on.

If I were to spend a day with another author, it would be Stephen King. I would love to learn something about his personality and hear him talk about future stories that he has yet to write.

If Kur's Rage were a movie, I would like to see a dynamic cast, some known actors, and many new ones. Emily Blunt would be a fine match for Carmen, the leader of her company, and Brad Pitt would bring the Ranger Tariq Longstride to life as well. Most of my characters are young adults when Kur's Rage takes place, but as my world is a Dungeons & Dragons styled one, with Elves and all manner of fantastic characters, the possibilities are endless!

Stand on the parapets of Highcrest Garrison as the characters prepare for battle against a demon lord and his fiendish minions. Feel their sorrow in the tour's aftermath as they decide to reunite in search of new adventures. A chance meeting with a mysterious wizard compels them to undertake a scouting mission. During their journey, they encounter an enemy army and must discover the motivations of its dark commander. Join them as they face dire wolves, Red Orcs, and supernatural foes.





Importance of Marketing

Writing is not limited to jotting down your experience or thoughts on paper and just putting it out. Every author needs to remember that it needs to be valuable and provide insights to its own readers. It should be able to carve a lasting remark, the process of which begins way early than even writing itself. Book marketing is very salient for authors.

To Build a Personal Brand - Book Marketing is not just about the branding and promotion of a book but also the promotion of the author itself. It's as accurate as every breath that readers today have become keener and more conscientious about the author and the book itself. Wherever a reader searches about the writing of his favorite genre, he googles the author, goes through the reviews and checks out the experience and background of the author. The impact of

writing, the understanding of language, and the connection with a reader play a significant role in creating a wholesome reading experience that can be built and enhanced via personal branding.

To Understand the Readers Behavior - There is an infinite number of books available in every genre, so how does the author recognize his reader base? How does the author bridge the gap between his book and readers? In understanding the reader preference, book marketing plays an essential role.

To Build a Genuine Reader Base - Along with the fathomless books, the count of readers is also not any resting stop. So, contemplating the narrow road is much better than shooting arrows in the open air. The return on the book will be bounteous only when it reaches its actual readers.

Kenneth J. Sousa

Kenneth J. Sousa was born on March 20, 1947. He is the oldest of 10 children. He began getting up and writing down his dreams in High School. He also received an A in creative writing class. He received three scholarships upon graduation and attended Bridgewater State Teachers College in 1965 but left after failing Math. In 1966 he entered Northeastern University taking four liberal arts courses at night. At the same time, he joined Local 17 for a four-year apprenticeship in the sheet metal business and joined the 513th Maintenance Battalion an army reserve unit. In 1967 he married his high school sweetheart. In 1968 the 513th was activated and the unit was sent to Vietnam as direct support for the One Hundred and First airborne division in northern South Vietnam. Upon returning home Ken first saw his first child and went back to school and the sheet metal business. In 1969 he bought his first house at age 22 and had a second child in 1970. In 1972 he and his wife separated and in 1973 he was laid off from his sheet metal job due to a recession. Soon he was called back to the sheet metal job to draw plans for a school. Ken refused to go back. He told them he would not go back to work unless he knew what he wanted to do. It took three months to decide to become a writer. He began by writing poetry in a notebook and moved on to a novel on an old portable typewriter.

In 1974 a friend showed her husband's boss some of Ken's writing. He loved it and invited Ken to San Francisco where he was given an apartment and a typewriter and told he could finish his novel. The company built and sold bread making kits but also had a small publishing arm. Through the company Ken met a lot of crazy people. Soon the manager came to Ken and said they did not have enough money to publish the book but did Ken know anyone back east who could sell some cocaine. Ken had a cousin connected to the Winter Hill Gang run by Whitey Bolger. Ken called his cousin and the beginning of a deal was set up. While that was all going on the world was being disturbed by the comet Kohoutek which was supposed to be the brightest ever. The cocaine deal never went through and the manager got 6 months in a work camp. Ken decided he could not go home without finishing a book and wrote what he called a mind movie called I MUST TELL and returned to Boston. A month after Ken returned his cousin was murdered by Whitey Bolger.



Back in Boston Ken finished his second mind movie called CAMPBOY in 1976. He could not get the books published and started a publishing house and published them himself. He also wrote a Christmas story told to him by a Christmas tree. He eventually produced it as a plaque and still sells one occasionally. He then started a new novel called KOHOUTEK WAS A BUST about his trip to San Francisco.

Ken is not only a writer. He is also an avid reader. In the seventies he read much about Edgar Cayce, a healer and seer. One could tell or write Cayce a letter about their illness and Cayce would go into a trance and diagnose the illness and tell them what to do about it. In the trance he would also tell people about their past lives. He told many clients they had past lives in the lost continent of Atlantis and what Atlantis was like. He also told them there was evidence of the lost continent at the base of a pyramid in Central America. The chance of finding proof of Atlantis gave Ken an idea and he traveled to Central America in 1976/77 in a quest to find proof of Atlantis. Ken traveled to many pyramids but found no proof until he visited a pyramid in Palenque Mexico. Deep inside the pyramid he found a beautiful carved sarcophagus with a carving of a Mayan flying a rocket ship. He had found his proof.

After his nine-month trip Ken arrived home and got a job picking apples in NH in order to rent a tiny apartment in downtown Boston. There he continued on two more drafts of Kohoutek. In 1979 he took another break from the book and decided he needed the adventure of being

a male exotic dancer. He found an agent put together costumes and music and went on the circuit until 1980. He then completed his last draft of KOHOUTEK WAS A BUST. By the time he finished the book he got a small disability for injuries received in Vietnam. With the money he took his two kids and ex-wife around the country for two months and nine thousand miles. When they go home his disability allowed him to go back to school for a degree. Ken spent the next four years at Boston University getting a degree in communications. He graduated in 1985. During his time at BU Ken received a national award for an audio-visual program he produced about his PTSD from Vietnam. He also received a ten thousand dollar grant to write direct and produce an anti-nuke drama which aired on Boston TV. He also met a woman who needed a stripper to advertise her Broadway Babes telegram program on a half hour interview on WBZ in Boston. Ken thought it would be great to sell his books and did a great job in the interview.

In 1984 Ken and his family bought an old fishing lodge in New Hampshire to renovate and turn into a bed and breakfast. Many of his summers than were then used to fix up the fourteen-bedroom house. In 1986 Ken moved to Florida for the winter and bought a small house in WPB and began a children's book called I'M BORED. He also got a night job as a bartender in Palm Beach. When finishing I'M BORED Ken started another novel about his wartime story in Vietnam called KILL A COW. In the summer he was back at what was being called the Inn in NH. Then winter came back south again and so did KILL A COW in Florida.

By 1991 Ken got married again and worked on his novel. Unfortunately, the marriage ended in six months but the novel went on for a few more drafts. In 1998 he got married a third time and bought a new house where he started the novel MAN-DAR OF ATLANTIS. The house was on a lake and Ken observed two birds called moorhens for three years. They acted so human Ken spent two years writing the novel BLACK MENACE about them. He published the novel in 2019. Ken then went back to finishing MAN-DAR OF ATLANTIS, the first book of a MAN-DAR series. He published MAN-DAR in 2021 and is now more than half way through the second book of MAN-DAR called ATLAN.

Kenneth J. Sousa has also traveled the world and lived in several different countries. His website is kennethjsousa.com



- *What is the most difficult part of your writing process? How long have you been writing or when did you start?*

I find the most difficult part of writing for me is to begin writing along with dialogue. It seems my body will do anything to stop me from doing the work. And I have been writing since 1973.

- *What is your writing process like? Are you more of a plotter or a pantser?*

My writing process is pretty methodical. I write out a plot of what I want the story or book to be like and then I spend six days a week pantsing it out.

- *What do you need in your writing space to help you stay focused?*

I need to work in a small room with no distracting windows.

- *Are there therapeutic benefits to modeling a character after someone you know?*

I find it difficult to use someone I know as a character except for me. It is difficult to put thoughts into the minds of people you know.

- *What advice would you give to a writer working on their first book?*

On your first book or any book, you need to start with a paragraph of what the book is about. Then you must explode the paragraph into a somewhat decent outline. Then you can figure out the characters you need and decide what they should look like and what type of dialogue they would use. Then you can put together your chapters for the story or book.



MAN-DAR of Atlantis is the first book in a trilogy about the adventures of MAN-DAR. It begins in the present time with Manny Silva traveling to Central America to locate proof of Atlantis in the Mayan pyramids. Manny becomes ill, and in a delusional state, he enters an adventure as MAN-DAR. This takes readers to another time and place, with Manny, now as MAN-DAR, flying an airship to rescue a barbarian priestess who is being held by the evil High Priest of Inanna. With the help of his slave and local peasants, MAN-DAR reaches the underworld and rescues the barbarian. The High Priest follows MAN-DAR out of the underworld with an unearthly army, but MAN-DAR causes their demise. MAN-DAR escapes across the Forbidden Causeway to Atlantis with his slave, whom he promises to set free, and the barbarian he has fallen in love with.

Kohoutek Was A Bust is a mix of adventure, romance, paranormal, world phenomenon story which starts off as an innocuous tale of a hopeful twenty-six-year-old unemployed construction worker turned actor-writer who receives a letter from a publishing company stating that they want to publish his first novel. Over the next nine months, he encounters interesting people and situations that eventually progresses to unlock an ability that may lead to saving the world from some future cataclysm.



Of all wading birds, moorhens are among the most vulnerable, though they are also beautiful, small and black, with hard red beaks that extend all the way up their foreheads. Without webbed feet, they bob forward and back when swimming, and with short wings, they can barely fly. They are fiercely territorial, and mate for life. Mik the moorhen has grown up knowing how fragile life can be, but he never imagined the horror that would confront him as he watches his family being devoured by an alligator. The youngest of a family of six, he is now alone. Mik sets out to live up to his nickname, "Mischief," and shatters the moorhen stereotype. Cocky, but with low self-esteem, he must battle predators on a wilderness lake... but not even his tricks are enough to stand against Greybeard, the evil great blue heron who is controlled by the Black Menace. But life has hope in store for Mik, along with the tragedy he's already endured. A wise great white heron, the Sage, becomes Mik's mentor, and through mindfulness introduces him to his mate, Bek. Follow along with Mik, the Sage, and Bek as they assemble an army to do battle with Greybeard, the Black Menace and overturn their reign of terror!

I'm Bored is an exciting story seen through the eyes of a dog. He is locked into his fenced in back yard and is constantly teased by a pesky neighborhood cat. The dog believes he must escape his caged in environment for a look at the wonders of the outside world. The dog eventually escapes his compound and must live with what occurs outside his yard. Though the dog is outside adventures a child or preteen learns the hard lessons of attempting to live outside of everyday home life. The book is a fun and credible example of why a youngster should never run away.



Claudette Betty

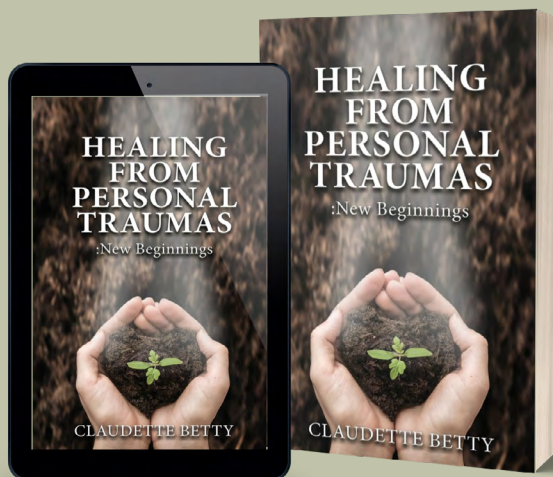


- *What is the ultimate goal for the book?*

My goal for writing my books was to share my healing journey from a traumatised child to a transformed woman. My family, friends and co-workers were shocked after reading my books. They could not believe that I was the same person who I wrote about in my book. I never revealed anything about my past life to them. They admired my ability to be authentic.

- *How did you come up with the title for your book?*

I came up with the title of my book after undergoing fifteen years of intensive therapy to heal from several traumas that I encountered throughout my life.



While working as a Registered Nurse and Addiction Counselor in the field of Drugs, Alcohol, and Psychiatry, I discovered that my clients' traumatic experiences were familiar to me. I realized that I couldn't be effective in healing others until I dealt with my traumatic experiences while living with an alcoholic father and five brothers who were bullies. I married a man whose abuse of alcohol caused me to experience mental and emotional trauma. Along my healing journey, I became a Reiki Master, Holistic Nurse, and Shamanic Practitioner. I received intense therapy for fifteen years helping me to become a transformed woman. My goal is to share my healing experiences to help others heal traumatic experiences.

My name is Claudette Betty. I began my healing journey when I was forty two, after experiencing problems with my husband's behavior while under the influence of alcohol. His behavior was familiar to me because my father was an alcoholic who exhibited the same behavior whenever he was intoxicated. I was concerned that my husband was becoming an alcoholic.

I read self healing books for two years before I began private counseling. Louise Hay's book "You Can Heal Your Life" became my bible for healing throughout my life. My counselor informed me that I needed to stop reading these books and apply what I learned from them in my everyday life. She told me that I had developed academy award survival skills to function in my dysfunctional home which consisted of my parents and four brothers who were bullies. I needed to identify negative thoughts, irrational beliefs and suppressed emotions in order to develop effective coping skills to change my behavior. Once this was accomplished, she told me I needed to practice my new coping skills and let go of my survival skills. I was warned that this process may instill fear in me because I had become dependent on my survival skills. Whenever I attempted to use new coping skills, anxiety would set in and I had panic attacks. I began to understand that I was dependent on my old coping skills and trusted them to keep me safe. Eventually I began to trust the coping skills my counselor taught me when I noticed that my life was changing in a positive manner.

Throughout my healing journey, I became a Registered Nurse, B.S. Addiction counselor, Certified Holistic Nurse, Reiki Master and Shaman Practitioner.

I was introduced to Adult Children of Alcoholic Group Therapy, Gestalt Therapy, Family Therapy and eventually Intensive Therapy in which I dealt with the suicide deaths of two brothers, and my father. While undergoing therapy, a repressed and traumatic episode with my mother when I was five years old surfaced. I will be sharing all my traumatic experiences and recovery in my book.

Traumatic events affect the body, mind, emotions and behavior. They are classified as witnessing or experiencing the sudden or violent death of a loved one or others you care about. Also serious physical injury, molestation, sexual, physical, mental, emotional abuse by family members, spouse or person in society.

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