

Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

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Volume 2, Issue 3

Donna M. McDine
Children's Author



Welcome to the March 09 issue of my FREE newsletter:

Write What Inspires You!

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I hope 2009 continues to be kind to you both professionally and personally. In these trying economic times I know it can be difficult, but we writers have tough skin and I hope we all come out stronger.

Times have been exciting for me! While I have received several rejections on magazine submissions, I have received my 1st book contract offer from Guardian Angel Publishing. More details to come.

I'm pleased to present another jammed packed issue with terrific interviews, a book review, writer's accomplishments, testimonials, and a special contest announcement.

If you are interested, please feel free to submit your name for an interview, an article and/or your successes to: dmcidine@optonline.net

Momentum continues to build on a steady basis and we are currently at 120 opt-in subscribers and are booked through July 2009.

Please share this newsletter with your peers in the writing industry and encourage them to opt-in as a monthly subscriber @

<http://www.donnamcdine.com>

Here's to your inspiration and continued success!

Donna

Quote of the Month:

"You've got to get up every morning with determination if you're going to go to bed with satisfaction"

George Horace
Lorimer

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - KRISTIE SMITH

Kristie and I were first introduced through a mutual writing friend, Ricardo Amado, and we immediately clicked. Her work with blind students is inspirational and she has turned her creative efforts into writing about characters with visual impairments and teaching sighted children how to read Braille. Come along for this fascinating interview and learn how what many perceive as limitations are truly not.

DMc: Kristie, your education and writing background is quite impressive and fascinating. What or whom inspired you to write for blind and visually impaired children?

KS: Thank you for the compliments. One of my biggest inspirations has been a young girl named Yasmine. She was my first totally blind student. I began working with Yasmine when she was five years old, and immediately became so in awe of her generous and kind heart. Even though Yasmine is totally blind and wears prosthetic eyes, she was and is always concerned for others and their needs.

DMc: Before you began teaching blind and visually impaired students, did you teach in a traditional classroom setting? If yes, what challenges did you need to overcome to teach successfully?

KS: Yes, I taught for eighteen years in a traditional classroom setting. The major obstacles that I had to overcome while teaching in a general education classroom where learning how to manage time and the children's behavior while encouraging them to be successful and confident in their school work and in their life. Keeping up with paperwork as well as teaching the children how to problem solve and be successful on the state adopted tests were additional obstacles that were difficult to overcome.

DMc: Your book, "Dottie and Dots Tour Texas Spots," is to be published by Region 4 in Houston, TX. Please share with us the concept of the Dottie and Dots characters and how did you develop them?

KS: Yasmine and her third grade class inspired me. One day when I picked up Yasmine, her best friend, Shay, asked me if I would teach the class Braille. After the teacher's encouragement I picked up a marker and began teaching the children how the Braille alphabet works. Out of the blue I drew two Braille cells to entertain the children as well as to teach them. My mother named them Dots and Dottie after I began writing the series. Dottie's character is patterned after my sister and Dots is definitely me.

DMc: The concept of teaching sighted children to read Braille is intriguing. Why do you believe it is important for sighted children to get a feel for what it is like for blind or visually impaired children?

KS: I have discovered that most sighted children are intrigued and want to identify with a child who has a visual impairment or another disability. Most of the children are so interested in the child who cannot see. They seem to want to mother them and protect them, so I always go into the classrooms yearly and teach

the Braille alphabet and small words in Braille. I also discuss proper ways to treat someone with a disability.

The children are usually surprised that they can learn the Braille and want to read the Braille to their parents and friends. I have often been handed notes that are written in printed Braille by the sighted students. The parents have told me that their child becomes more sensitized to others and their needs after they learn Braille and realize how difficult it can be.

DMc: You have five published books through Flaghouse Special Population Catalog, what made you go the self-publishing route for "Dottie and Dots See Animal Spots?"

KS: Truthfully, I had two publishers consider the books but felt that they would be too expensive to do, so I contacted a self publishing company, Iuniverse. Iuniverse gave me complete control over the books, so I am able to buy my books at a discount and then sell them at conferences. The publishers also sell my books through many distributors. So far, I have sold over 220 books online without any advertisement.

DMc: What are the obstacles or frustrations you had to work through in getting your first book published?

KS: Since I write for a very small population, several editors have written me and told me that they felt my market was too small for them in a very competitive business. My family laughs whenever I get excited about a positive rejection. My greatest frustration with some of the publishers is that I do not get any feedback. You can tell that the rejection is a general form letter and not personal.

DMc: Did you consult with parents of blind and visually impaired students and the students themselves for input on your Dottie and Dot characters?

KS: Yes, especially at the conferences for the blind. I do presentations for parents, family members and professionals yearly. I have several parents and friends who are visually impaired and other teachers who have given me great input on Dots and Dottie and my new project. My sister and mother are also very helpful to read the books and to give me constructive criticism. My niece laughed really hard when she read my first Dots and Dottie book that Region 4 in Houston, Texas is going to publish. After she read the story, she designed the characters for me.

DMc: What words of advice would you pass along to adults and children encountering a blind or visually impaired person for the first time?

KS: Treat people who are visually impaired just like you do others with appropriate modifications. For example, do not startle a person who cannot see. Let them know that you are there when you approach them, and if they do not know you well, tell them who you are. Never grab a person who is blind's hands. This would be similar to someone grabbing your eyes and covering them up. Always ask the person who has a visual impairment if they need help and then verbalize what you're going to do so that they know what is going to happen. For example, I will say, "Yasmine, take my arm while we will walk down seven steps in the math hall. We are going to pass by the plants and the aquarium and then go back to your classroom." This gives security and confidence to the child about their environment.

DMc: Please share with us your latest project.

KS: I love this question! I have just finished a novel called Out of Sight. Out of Sight is about a girl who is blind named Abby Diamond. Abby is similar to Nancy Drew because she solves mysteries that surround her. Because of her visual impairment, Abby picks up on things that others ignore. She is beautiful, smart and has many friends. She is a typical eleven year old. I wanted to write Out of Sight for all children to read. I've had study groups both of blind and sighted children who have read the book. I'm going to publish their remarks on the cover when I self publish this one in January. Both study groups seem to really enjoy Abby, her friends and the mysteries. One little girl told me that she gets excited whenever she finishes her homework and gets to read about Abby. Flaghouse is interested in publishing Out of Sight, so they may pick it up at a later date.

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Kristie, can you please share one with us?

KS: Oh, my. I have so many humorous stories from my life that this is going to be difficult. I think the most surprising thing about me right now is that I'm getting married for the first time at age 47 in Hawaii. I am so excited. The funny story is that when I went to try on dresses last week at David's Bridal, I walked in the store and saw my sister's niece who is twenty years younger than I am looking for a dress. I told the sales girl that I wanted to try on dresses by myself on the other side of the store so that I wouldn't feel and look like the last rose of summer. She laughed and went to find dresses for me. I asked her to keep in mind the overweight and mature bride when she began looking for my dress. ☺

To learn more about Kristi visit her at: <http://www.kristielsmith.com>

AUTHOR INTERVIEW – L. DIANE WOLFE

Many of the authors I interview I have met by reading their books first. L. Diane Wolfe is the author of the young adult series entitled **The Circle of Friends**. The positive message set forth intrigued me and I contacted the author immediately to learn more about her. The series is unique in that it focuses on the positives of the teenage years, rather than the negatives of self destructive behavior. I am sure you will enjoy learning more about this wonderful author as much as I have and you'll have to read on to find out why her nickname is "Spunk on a Stick".

DMc: I'm curious to know (as I'm sure our readers will be), how did you get the nickname, "Spunk on a Stick"? Who first started calling you that and why? (Hmmm, does it have anything to do with your red hair?)

LDW: I've always been a spunky individual and the name happened by accident. My husband claims that chicken is good, but when you buy it at the fair on a little stick, it's even better. So, he reasoned that if chicken is good, but chicken on a stick better, then spunk is good, but spunk on a stick is even better. Somehow, the name just stuck!

DMc: The Circle of Friends is a five book series. How did you decide what character would be written about first?

LDW: Lori was the first character I envisioned - the remains of the wisp of a dream - and formed a good basis for the entire series. Once I had solidified her character and outlined a story, the other characters came to life and I could see their struggles as well. Sarah is Lori's best friend and a favorite character of mine, so her story was next. James is a friend of Lori's and Mike a close friend of Sarah's, and I wanted to write from a male point of view, so they were next. Heather was last because I knew she would be the most difficult one!

DMc: Please describe your creative process in developing this series.

LDW: The series was created on the idea that everyone needs something to hope for and someone to love. I find most YA novels very negative and devoid of hope. We need hope!

Each of my characters faces a realistic struggle and during the course of the story, I show how they are able to overcome their problems and obstacles.

The actual process of writing each book begins with a detailed outline. I then begin handwriting the story. I am not a fast typist, so I get my ideas out on paper first. I found that if I tried typing it first, I felt pressured to make it perfect on the first try. By hand writing each one first, my creativity flowed better and it helped in creating a more natural dialogue. After so many pages, I input into the computer and print it out in sections. Then I go over each page in detail, making edits & changes. Eventually, (when I can no longer follow my own corrections!), I put the changes into the computer and print it out again. I go over each part of the story perhaps a hundred times in this fashion! My husband also reads through, looking for errors, continuity mistakes, and improper character actions. He's a big help when it comes to the male characters!

DMc: Do you "interview" your characters before you create your story, so you know how your character will react in any given situation?

I create very detailed character sheets on each one, even the minor characters. Everything from their background to their appearance to their looks - and most importantly, their personality! I had previously studied Florence Littauer's book "Personality Plus" and found it to be a great resource. Once one knows a character's basic personality type - choleric, phlegmatic, sanguine, or melancholy - reactions are very easy to gauge.

DMc: Do you have a favorite character you particularly enjoy writing for?

LDW: Yes, Sarah! And Matt. I always claim Lori is who I aspire to be, but Sarah is closer to reality. I really identify with her self-image struggles as a teen and her tomboy attitude. Matt was just such a fun character - light-hearted, slow to anger, and playful on every level.

Of the five main characters, Sarah is the one who actually ties all of the friends together, too.

But I enjoyed all of my characters for different reasons.

DMc: Are any of the characters in the books based on real people?

LDW: No, just real personality types! Sarah might have a couple of my quirks, but I think all of the characters have at least one of my traits.

People are fascinating and I love exploring what makes humans tick, both in books

and through observation. I think it's interesting to watch how each individual reacts differently to a given situation, depending upon their personality and background. So, while none of the characters or scenes are based upon real people, they are real type situations that could occur.

I do have a scene where Matt & Sarah are playing miniature golf, and Matt moves a couple of items to change the course and then laughs as the couple behind them attempts to navigate these obstacles - and my husband's cousin really did that one time! So a few minor things from reality crept into the books...

DMc: What has been the most memorable experience in your writing career, thus far?

LDW: I have to pick one? There have been so many! Every new day brings a memorable event. I was invited to Book Expo America a couple of years ago, and that was incredible! The honor of participating in a panel discussion with Catherine Coulter and Ellen Hopkins stands out. The fan who drove a couple of hours out of her way to come see me and as a result of my posting her photo on my website as a special fan, an old friend contacted her through me and they are now engaged. Receiving the first endorsement for my first non-fiction book from author Darien B. Cooper was a thrill! The chance comment on a list-serve that resulted in a great friendship with author Darlene Wofford, or the exchange of emails that lead to a friendship with author P. M.. Terrell, who is my mentor.

The best experiences are the emails from fans and hearing my husband say that he is so proud of me!

DMc: You have quite the fan base and you encourage feedback from your fans. Is there one particular suggestion from a fan you acted on?

LDW: The clamor for Heather's story has been SO strong - it's really put pressure on me to make it memorable!

But the requests to continue past the fifth book prompted me to outline a sixth story, one that follows all five main characters. Yes, I promise I will write another book in the series!!!!

DMc: If you were not a writer, what would you be?

LDW: A professional photographer! I've actually done that since 1990 and it was a goal I set at the age of fourteen. But book signings and appearances took

precedence over weddings and portraits, so now I mostly shoot for fun - something I have not done in a very long time! So, if I had not taken the path of author, I would've pursued my photo career even further...

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Diane, can you please share one with us?

LDW: I enjoy puzzles! Our family tradition involves spending New Year's Eve, just the two of us, putting together a puzzle and watching football. It may not sound exciting, but we treasure that time together!

Visit L. Diane Wolfe, Author & Professional Speaker at:
www.thecircleoffriends.net or www.spunkonastick.net

ILLUSTRATOR INTERVIEW - SARAH ACKERLEY

Sarah and I first met at JacketFlap, while I was cruising through the talented illustrators on this social networking site. Sarah's artistic talents are breathtaking and I knew I had to contact her for an interview. She graciously accepted and without further ado I present illustrator and writer, Sarah Ackerley.

DMc: Not only are you an illustrator, you are a writer. Please share with us your creative process. What comes first, the writing or illustrating?

SA: For me the writing usually comes first, but as I write I am visualizing the illustrations. I generally have one or two very vivid mental images that the story sort of evolves from. In the case of *Patrick the Somnambulist*, the image was of this sleepwalking penguin being caught in the middle of the night by his parents while he is sleepwalking in the bathroom. I pictured the penguin wearing a plunger on his head and sporting other bathroom accessories while his parents are leaning around the bathroom door, looking at him like he has lost his marbles.

DMc: Please share with us your road to publication of "Patrick the Somnambulist."

SA: I wrote the book and did the illustrations as a sort of post-art school project to keep my creative juices flowing. I didn't have any intention of trying to get it published, but I showed it around to family and friends for fun. I happened

to meet a published illustrator through my work as a caretaker who encouraged me to pursue children's books. I felt encouraged by her confidence in my abilities, so I joined SCBWI and began going to meetings. At one event, I met the art director of Blooming Tree Press. I showed her the dummy of *Patrick the Somnambulist* and she offered to take it to Blooming Tree herself. Two months later I got a contract!

DMc: What project are you currently working on?

SA: I have a few new stories in progress, but I'm mostly working on building a well-rounded illustration portfolio. I've done a lot of new work since Patrick. Check it out at www.sarahackerley.com

DMc: Your parents were instrumental in providing you with a love of reading and picture books. Who else or what inspired you to pursue your children's book author/illustrator career?

SA: Definitely not my professors in art school! Children's book illustration was not highly regarded in school, and it took me awhile to recognize it as the exciting art form it really is because of my fine art background. Mary Sullivan, the illustrator who encouraged me to pursue publication, was a source of inspiration. Also the Bologna Annual Children's Book Fair puts out an annual book of these amazing illustrations that never fail to get me excited about children's books.

DMc: What piece of advice would you share with an aspiring writer/illustrator?

SA: Don't write or paint what you think the market calls for. What is really needed is your unique way of looking at the world, and that will never be truly expressed if you are imitating or trying to fit a perceived mold.

DMc: Do you have a favorite medium or style?

SA: I prefer to paint in oil on masonite. Oil paints are so versatile and I love the saturation of color you can get with them.

DMc: Do you conduct school visits? If yes, how is a typical visit structured?

SA: Yes. I typically speak to groups of kids in the school library. I have a Power Point that is fun and interactive, I do a drawing demo (complete with dressing up one of the kids as a plunger-wearing, sleepwalking penguin), and I do a small writing activity with the whole group. The talks are silly and fun and informative. The goal is to actively engage the kids in the experience and to get them feeling like authors themselves.

DMc: Please name a couple of your favorite children's illustrators. What intrigues you about them?

SA: I really like Jaime Zollars, Catia Chien, Maurice Sendak, Lizbeth Zwerger, Alexis Deacon, Shaun Tan....I could go on and on! I like these illustrators because they are so unique. You can look at any book by Maurice Sendak and know it's him. He has his own way of drawing people, his own distinct palette, etc. There's no one else like him. I also am drawn to illustrators who lean toward a darker, richer palette for some reason. I love dark, saturated color, contrast, and a black line.

DMc: How long does it take for you to illustrate a book?

SA: It depends on the book, but I'd say about 2-3 months.

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Sarah, can you please share one with us?

SA: Because my book is about a sleepwalking penguin, I hear a lot of stories about sleepwalking. Kids love to talk about their sleepwalking escapades and the sleepwalking adventures of others. One child told an auditorium of students that his dad sleepwalks around the house in his red undies!

Visit Sarah at: <http://www.sarahackerley.com>

EDITOR INTERVIEW - VIVIAN ZABEL

Come along on this insightful and behind the scenes interview with Vivian Zabel, President and CEO of 4RV Publishing. I first met Vivian through the Muse Online Writers Conference and have always been amazed by all she does. Not only does she run 4RV Publishing, she is quite the accomplished author in her own right. Don't miss this opportunity to get inside the mind of this editor...it's terrific! And who of us writers wouldn't mind learning how an editor thinks!

DMc: You are the President and CEO of 4RV Publishing. What inspired you to create your company?

VS: I saw a gap between the major publishing houses and self-publishing and vanity presses (not that self-publishing and vanity are the same). Self-publishing receives a bad reputation because often the books are not well edited. Even the most professionally published books contain errors at times, but too many are found in most self-published volumes. Vanity presses just wanted the money from the writers, never mind if the work was well-written or not.

Major publishing houses have become fortresses that authors cannot breach unless they have an agent, an "in" with the publisher or a relationship with someone who does. Of course some books made their way to publication, but not many, even really good books.

Two other women and I decided to try to bridge that gap and to work one on one with authors and artists. With our company, the author has a say in which illustrator does his or her picture book. The illustrator has input as to what goes into illustrations and covers.

DMc: Do you find it difficult to edit across the genres? Or does it challenge you in a creative way?

VS: After teaching Freshman English and grading papers of all types and levels of quality, editing anything isn't difficult at all. Since I read most genres, I enjoy working with different ones, too.

The other 4RV editors have strengths in different genres and areas, which makes the end result much better.

DMc: How many submissions do you get each month and what is your procedure for dealing with them?

VS: We have been inundated with so many submissions we have had to suspend accepting any for at least six months. The procedure, though, is an acquisitions editor gives the first approval. Then at least one other editor goes over the manuscript. If we accept the submission, we offer a contract, and the thorough editing begins.

DMc: With the ever changing world of publishing, what are your thoughts on e-book publishing versus traditional publishing?

VS: I don't think e-books will ever replace a book in hand. I'm sure we'll start putting our books in electronic format in time, but for now, we're concentrating on print books. In time, e-books may be more accepted by readers, but personally, I like a book.

DMc: What is a typical day of balancing 4RV Publishing and your own writing career like?

VS: Chaotic? *sigh* one reason we have to cut back on the number of submissions we accept. For me, I find it hard to put aside what is needed for other authors and do what I need to do for my personal writing projects.

A typical day starts anywhere from 7 AM to 10 AM, depending on how late or early I found bed, and it continues until 1 - 4 AM the next morning. In the late (early) hours, when no one bothers me, I do most of my work.

DMc: Please share with us your words of advice to the writer who is yet to be published?

VS: Never give up, never stop learning, and never stop refining your work. I've been studying writing for over 40 years, and I taught it for 27. While I taught, I attended workshops, clinics, and classes each year to help teach my students and to hone my own writing skills. I'm still learning by attending writing conferences and reading. I proof, edit, revise my own work at least twenty or more times before it goes out for publication, not counting the revisions after six different editors tear it apart.

DMc: For a picture book submission can a writer recommend an illustrator or does 4RV Publishing assign an illustrator from their pool of resources?

VS: Any author can pay for and provide illustrations for his/her book IF the illustrations meet our standards. However, if a submission is offered and we provide the illustrator, we offer a chance for all our illustrators to submit samples of art work for books. After the deadline for samples, we send those illustrations to the authors (anonymously so that the author doesn't know who drew what). Authors and artists then know who will illustrate books and who the authors are.

DMc: What is the most common mistake you see with submissions?

VS: The most common mistake is the author does not follow the submission guidelines. Another major problem is a writer submitting a manuscript full of errors. Good grammar, punctuation, and coherency are musts.

DMc: Do you recommend a writer have their manuscript professionally edited before submitting?

VS: Yes, as long as the editor knows the ends and outs of writing for publication, which requires more than knowing correct grammar - although correct grammar is extremely important.

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Vivian, can you please share one with us?

VS: I have had a long life full of surprises, some good, some not so good. Children, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren always bring humor to life.

One thing that many people who know me find surprising is my ability to get into the minds of rather twisted and/or evil villains. One young woman, one of 4RV's authors, has known me for many years. She challenged me to write about someone completely opposite from what I am. What I wrote scared her. She says I'm not the nice bland, goody, goody she thought.

I can write about things I could or would never do. That's why I was given a vivid imagination: take a pinch of twisted personality and a dash of strangeness and mix well with imagination.

Visit Vivian at: <http://www.4rvpublishingllc.com/> or learn more about her writing career at: <http://viviangilbertzabel.com/>

BOOK REVIEW



Title:	The Circle of Friends ~ Book 1 ~ Lori
Written by:	L. Diane Wolfe
Soft cover:	368 pages
Ages:	Young Adult
Publisher:	Dancing Lemur Press, L.L.C.
ISBN-13:	978-0-9816210-0-5
Publication:	March 2009

From all outward appearances Lori has it all. Beautiful runway model looks, perfect grades and one of the best competitive swimmers in her region with the goal of competing in the Olympics. At times her peers feel she is standoffish, not realizing the real reason is her own insecurities and extreme shyness. Until the chance meeting when the star quarterback comes to Lori's rescue. Emotions and determination bubble to the surface for Lori and over time she attempts to break from her shell and reach out to the ones she loves most.

"They left you by yourself a lot, didn't they?" he asked. When she did not reply, Jason pulled her closer. "That's why you don't like being alone isn't it? Why don't you ever want to talk about it?" Lori raised her chin, their eyes meeting briefly. "Because I don't want to dump on anyone," Lori answered firmly. "And I don't want to ruin tonight."

Will Lori be able to overcome her insecurities and childhood loneliness in time to become an official Olympic champion? She must believe in herself above all else to achieve her lifelong dream. All the while Lori finds it easier to believe in her friends and is their number one encourager for their dreams.

L. Diane Wolfe expertly combines the social interaction between teens and realistic problems that face our teens today for a genuine feel good novel.

Visit author, L. Diane Wolfe at <http://www.circleoffriends.net> to learn more about her writing and professional speaker careers.

Reviewed by: Donna M. McDine



PROCLAIM YOUR SUCCESSES!

Lori Calabrese is happy to share:

- ❖ "Getting Their Feet Wet," accepted by Boys' Life for their News & Notes section.
- ❖ "Maria Agnesi: Girl Power," September 2009 issue of Applesseeds Magazine.

Mayra Calvani:

- ❖ "New blog, Pets and Their Authors. The response has been so overwhelming, in two days I gathered enough interviewees for 4 months! In the blog, my dog interviews authors' pets--so you get the lowdown on your authors, he, he... The link is: www.petsandauthors.blogspot.com

Donna M. McDine:

- ❖ Signed my first book contract with Guardian Angel Publishing for my manuscript, "The Golden Pathway" ~ release date to be determined.

Dawn Phillips:

- ❖ "Alexis and Ralph the Dragon," by Bernard Kowalski and illustrated by Dawn Phillips (2009 Release Date) and book trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBOGoO4TekM>
- ❖ "What If You Give A Child A Letter," Book Trailer - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tZoWWXmU4>

Dixie Phillips:

- ❖ "Stubby's Destiny" was chosen as Children's Animal Story of the Year for 2008 by Books and Authors ~ <http://www.books-and-authors.net>

Kim Chatel:

- ❖ "A Talent for Quiet," is a fiction picture book illustrated with stunning photography. It includes several pages of tips for kids to take better pictures ~ Coming February 2009.

Lisa Lipkind Leibow:

- ❖ "Double Out and Back," Red Rose Publishing.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!
CHEERS TO YOUR CONTINUED SUCCESS!**

CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Refer an opt-in subscriber to the "Write What Inspires You!" Newsletter and automatically be entered in the drawing for:

"Writing Kit: Everything You Need to *Get Creative, Start Writing, and Get Published,*" From the Editors of *Writer's Digest Books*.

- ✓ Make sure the person you refer includes their name & email address and your name & email address in the opt-in box at the top of my website:
<http://www.donnamcdine.com> or within their email to: dmcldine@optonline.net
- ✓ Contest ends: April 30, 2009
- ✓ Winner Announced: May 2009 issue of the "Write What Inspires You!" Newsletter



Stories for Children Magazine Announces Its *First Annual "Best of" Anthology!*

Stories for Children Magazine is proud to announce the release of its first annual anthology, *Best of Stories for Children Magazine* Volume 1. Come take an adventure in the World of Ink and let the SFC Contributors and Stanley Bookman show you how your imagination can be your guide.

There has always been an enchantment about reading a good children's story. Children take pleasure in having a story read to them anytime or anywhere - whether it be around a campfire, under a starry night, in their beds wrapped up tight in snuggly blankets, beneath a shady tree on a hot summer's day, or in front of a roaring fireplace on a cold winter's day. Children love to listen to a story being read and this can go as far as adolescence. *Best of Stories for Children Magazine* Volume 1, is a collection of over 20 poems, stories, and articles published by leading children's authors.

At Stories for Children Magazine the World of Ink is a place where imagination is everything and everything is only your imagination. Stories for Children Magazine has been inspiring children, parents, librarians, and teachers for well over two years with their monthly online magazine. Now with the release of *the Best of Stories for Children Magazine* Volume 1, children, parents, librarians, and teachers can enjoy the top stories, poems, and articles from Stories for Children Magazine's first year of publication over and over again.

The Best of Stories for Children Magazine Volume 1 can be purchased nationwide from any bookstore, or online through several internet websites including Amazon.com, LuLu.com at <http://www.lulu.com/content/4892856>, and the SFC Bookstore at <http://www.storiesforchildrenmagazine.org>

Come visit the SFC Team and SFC Contributors in the World of Ink at Stories for Children Magazine! There are many wonderful articles, stories, and interviews with leading Children's Authors or Illustrators in each monthly issue.

To learn more about Stories for Children Magazine visit:
<http://www.storiesforchildrenmagazine.org>

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TESTIMONIALS FROM SATISFIED READERS

"Your newsletter is a great way to get interviews out to writers and illustrators. I really enjoy it. Keep up the good work and thanks."

Linda Andersen

Landersen74@yahoo.com

" Thanks for the enjoyable 'breakfast break' this morning. Good reading to go with my healthy breakfast."

Kristi Holl

www.kristiholl.com

<http://institutechildrenslit.com/Writers-First-Aid-blog>

SUPPORTER ADS



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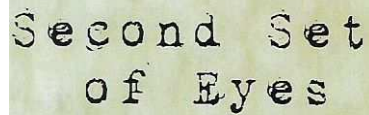
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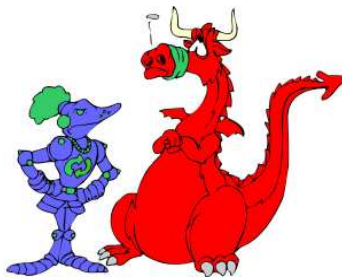
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My heartfelt Thank you to Stephanie Hoina (stefhoina@hotmail.com), my critique partner and friend for taking on the responsibility of proofreading the Write What Inspires You! Newsletter. As writers we all know how difficult it is to proofread on our own!

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