

Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

June-July '11
Volume 3, Issue 11

Donna M. McDine
Children's Author



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Quote of the Month:

“And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”

~Sylvia Plath

Welcome to the June-July '11 issue ~ Write What Inspires You!

Happy Summer one and all!

I am determined to set forth a definite schedule of editing my middle grade novel this summer and will do this prior to the girls rising from their slumber each morning. I am a morning person by nature so to get up before the house does is definitely in the cards. And besides what better time to be up when no one is calling my name (I know the cast from Cheers always loved it that everyone knew their characters when entering the bar) but how lovely would it be not to hear "Mom!" for a few sacred hours before the hustle and bustle of social director, or now that the girls are older taxi driver. At least, Nicole doesn't go for her Junior Driving License until mid-August. And that's a whole other ball of wax, when I will most likely be looking back on that being social director or taxi driver was much easier than having Nicole take the car out for the first time without us. Yikes!

What are your plans for the summer of 2011?

Join in on the lively discussion: "School's Out for Summer - Oh no, I've taken on a new identity - Julie McCoy, social director from the Love Boat" at:

<http://donna-mcdine.blogspot.com/2011/06/schools-out-for-summer-oh-no-ive-taken.html>

Without further ado I present to you the June/July feature interview with children's author, Beth Bence Reinke Don't miss the additional goodies: Book Reviews, Reflections or Dreams Column by Nancy Lepri, Dynamic Media Release Service, Newsletters, and Sponsor Ads.

If you are interested, please feel free to submit your name for an interview, an essay and/or your successes to: donna@donnamcdine.com. Please share this newsletter with your peers in the writing industry and encourage them to opt-in as a monthly subscriber.

Wishing you all a safe summer!

Donna

AUTHOR INTERVIEW – BETH BENCE REINKE

As many of my writing friends I met Beth Bence Reinke online throughout the Muse Online Writers Conference several years and I'm thrilled to say Beth's writing career has flourished. I'm pleased to have had a chance to catch up with Beth prior to the release of her latest children's book, *Carla's Cloud Catastrophe*.

DMc: Your children's book career has exploded with two releases in 2010 and now an additional release in 2011. Congratulations! Please share with our readers your

BBR: Thank you, Donna. As you know, I'm a dietitian by training, not a writer. So I took two courses with the Institute of Children's Literature to learn the craft and the "ins and outs" of writing for kids. I attended writers' conferences and read books and blogs about writing. Then I began writing for magazines for both children and adults. I learned about 4RV Publishing at the Muse Online Writer's Conference and submitted a picture book manuscript. To my delight, they accepted it, and eventually two more.

DMc: Please share with us the summaries of your three children's books.

BBR: *In My Bath:* A little boy imagines splish-splashing through his bath with various water-loving animals. When I read this book, kids love to act out what the animals are doing and find the yellow duckie on almost every page. Ages 2-6. Spring 2010.

A Wish and a Prayer: Jason's parakeet flew out a window and is lost. He and his friends try wishing to bring his pet home. Then one night during a thunderstorm, Jason discovers something better than wishing. Ages 4-8. Summer 2010.

Carla's Cloud Catastrophe: When a weather disaster threatens to shut down the town and ruin Carla's birthday party, someone has to save the day. A tall tale about the day the clouds fell. Ages 4-8. June 2011.

All three of my children's books are illustrated by Ginger Nielson and published by 4RV Publishing. They can be purchased from the publisher's online bookstore, Amazon, B&N online, or ordered from any brick-and-mortar bookstore. Autographed copies are available from Ginger's website or my website.

DMc: You have also released the devotional *Fruit Lovers' Devotions to Go* with a second, *Race Fans' Devotions to Go*. Please share the concept and synopsis of both.

BBR: These two books are part of the "Devotions to Go" series from publisher Extreme Diva Media, the women's division of See Media. There are about 27 books in the series so far. They are pocket-sized, month-long devotionals on a different topics and written by various authors. For example, other titles include *Moms of Toddlers DTG*, *Pink Ribbon DTG* and *Tea*

Lovers' DTG.

Fruit Lovers' Devotions to Go looks at fruit from two angles: edible fruit and spiritual fruit. I believe these two kinds of fruit help women with two daily struggles we all face - planning healthy meals and being sweet-tempered. I mean, seriously, planning nutritious meals and being "nice" all the time are both really hard! Using scripture, personal stories and fruit recipes, I try to offer women ways to become "fruit-filled" in both body and spirit. This book is available from the publisher and from my website. Amazon has it in both paperback and e-book formats.

Race Fans' Devotions to Go, which releases in June, is written especially for female NASCAR fans. In the book, I share observations about drivers and racing scenarios, plus tell stories about my experiences at the race track. Each devotion illustrates a similarity between motorsports and life and ends with a "pit stop" - an idea to make the reader's life more fulfilling. I hope my fellow race fans will find it entertaining and inspiring.

DMc: How did the publishing process differ from your children's books to your devotional books?

BBR: One difference between the two types of books was in the submission procedures. For the children's books, I submitted the whole manuscript with a cover letter. The devotional books were a two-step process, requiring proposals first, then the full manuscripts.

Another difference is that my children's books have an illustrator, Ginger Nielson. So after Ginger completed the illustrations, there was a team approach in proofing the final book file and choosing which images to use for promotion. The publisher, art director, illustrator and author worked together to finalize the book. Ginger's illustrations have a joyful element to them. I recommend visiting her website or blog - it's so much fun to look at her work.

DMc: What are you currently working on?

BBR: Right now I have two other picture book manuscripts in the works. One of them is similar to *In My Bath* but uses a different character and situation. The other is an alphabet book.

I also use my background as a pediatric dietitian to write nutrition articles for *ParentLife*, a national parenting magazine from *LifeWay*. Nutrition for kids is one of my passions.

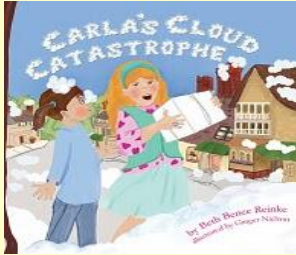
DMc: Where can our readers learn more about you?

BBR: I'd love for folks to visit my website at <http://www.bethbencereinke.com/> whenever they have a spare minute.

What a blessing to spend some time on your blog today, Donna. Thanks so much for hosting me. I appreciate each of your readers, too.

Beth, it's been a pleasure and honor interviewing you and reading your latest children's book. Wishing you all the best!

BOOK REVIEW



[Click here or on the book cover to access the Amazon link](#)

Title:	<i>Carla's Cloud Catastrophe</i>
Written by:	Beth Bence Reinke
Illustrated by:	Ginger Nielson
Soft cover:	24 pages
Ages:	4-8
Publisher:	4RV Publishing, LLC
Print ISBN 13:	978-0-982-8346-0-2
Published:	June 2011
Retail Price:	\$13.99

A joyful birthday celebration long planned comes to a screeching halt when it appears the sky is falling. Not to be stalled by the clouds that have blanketed her town, Carla is determined to make her way home with her special birthday cake.

However, her father, the Director of Transportation has other plans. Taking the lead in solving this unusual catastrophe they join the mayor at town hall for an emergency meeting. Will the adults practical solutions or Carla's imagination solve the cloud catastrophe in time to enjoy Carla's birthday party or will the town stay blanketed by clouds forever?

What better way to spark the interest of science in our young muses but through this imaginative story. Children's author Beth Bence Reinke brings the questions "what is a cloud" and "how do they float" to life in this laugh out loud story, which will surely create lively discussions both in and outside the classroom.

Carla's Cloud Catastrophe would not be complete without Ginger Nielson's vivid and clever illustrations; making Carla's story a true gem for libraries, classrooms, and homes throughout the world.

Autographed copies are available through Beth Bence Reinke's website:

<http://www.bethbencereinke.com/>

Illustrator: Ginger Nielson

Website: <http://www.gingernielson.com/>

Blog: <http://www.gingerpixels.blogspot.com/>

Publisher: 4RV Publishing <http://www.4rvpublishingllc.com/>

Direct from 4RV Publishing: <http://4rvpublishingcatalog.yolasite.com/children-page-4.php>

REFLECTIONS OR DREAMS



A Day in This Writer's Life

By Nancy Carty Lepri

Many people ask me, "What is your day like as a writer?"

"Good question," I answer, for I never know what my day will be like. How I'd like it to go, and how it actually does go, is another story.

I would love nothing more than to spend the whole day in my office writing after breakfast and my shower, but that's not likely to happen.

My day usually goes like this... I get up around 9:00 a.m. and grapple with what I'll have to eat. Then I'll sit at the kitchen table immersed in either HGTV, "Dr. Phil" or "Regis and Kelly." Now, that's sure to get one off to a great start...yeah, talk about procrastination!

Then about 10:00, I'll make my bed and take my shower, determined to get to work. If I'm not doing laundry or some other mundane household chore, my husband is asking me to go out somewhere or other. So much for working.

If and when I have a day where I'm not acting as a domestic goddess or running to the grocery store, I plunk myself down in front of the computer with my "to do list" determined to pump out several pages. Of course, I have to check my email first, play a game of Free Cell then see what's happening on Facebook. Did I also mention I am addicted to Bejeweled?

Before I know it, it's mid-afternoon. Have I written the tons of pages I've promised myself I would? Heck no! I've been too distracted with other things. Argh!

Usually my creative juices don't kick in till about 3:00 p.m., and if I'm lucky enough to have the discipline and determination to not let anything prevent me from writing, I'll go strong until it's time to make supper. When I look at the clock, I groan...another day with nothing or next to nothing accomplished.

After supper, I head back to my computer, but by this time I'm involved with working on an edit for an author, a critique for one of my group members or writing book reviews, so in a "good day" I'm lucky if I get two hours of uninterrupted writing done. I turn off my computer 7:30 then crawl into bed with a good book hoping for inspiration and ideas.

I've already heard a writer's life is a lonely one and how true. If only I could keep myself from the many distractions that plague me, I'd be fine. Nevertheless, that's something I need to put on my "to do list."

Meanwhile, I keep plugging along and treasure those days when I do find several hours where I can be alone, concentrate and actually manage to get some of my own writing done.

Visit Nancy at: <http://www.freewebs.com/nancycl>



Guardian Angel Kids Ezine for children expands the publisher's mission to provide safe, healthy entertainment for ages 2 to 12. It features games and activities from Guardian Angel books and characters. GAK is currently taking submissions for September through December 2011.

Visit today for submission guidelines <http://www.guardian-angel-kids.com/submissions.htm>



Overwhelmed? Don't have time to write and post your media releases. Let the panic settle and don't fret any longer. Let Donna take the pressure off. Writing a media release requires a certain technique and online media distribution can be quite time consuming. Coupled with her Publicist experience at the CWCC and as former Marketing Manager at Stories for Children Magazine, Donna is uniquely positioned to help provide you with a top notch media release.

You'll discuss your good news and happenings to get a clear indication of your direction. Your valuable information will then be written into a dynamic media release. Even if you don't

have publishing credits under your belt, announcing guest interviews or your topic of choice will help draw traffic and recognition to you and your writing blog.

Testimonials:

"If you are too busy to write and distribute a press release about your book, or simply aren't sure how to go about it, I can whole-heartedly recommend Donna McDine's publicity service. She writes excellent press releases. Best of all, she's fast! Two days after Donna posted the Slippery Art of Book Reviewing media release it went higher in the ranks on Amazon from the 200,000s to the 14,000s!"

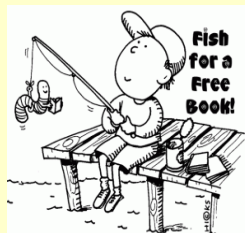
~ Mayra Calvani - <http://www.MayraCalvani.com>

"I've worked with Donna in more than one capacity over the past few years. Most recently, I hired her as a PR Intern for the National Writing for Children Center and the Children's Writers' Coaching Club. Donna has done excellent work in this regard. She's one of the most organized people I know and she works well without having to be told every little thing to do. She's a pleasure to work with and she's very creative when it comes to PR. I highly recommend Donna to anyone looking for a PR person or a VA."

~ Suzanne Lieurance - www.suzannelieurance.com

Don't wait. Let Donna take the pressure off you today. References furnished upon request.

Contact information: Donna McDine / donna@donnamcdine.com / 845-359-6646
<http://www.donnamcdine.com/dynamicmediareleases.html>



Ever wish you had a go-to place to find all the latest children's literature give-aways on the web? Look no further! Lori Calabrese has started a new monthly meme (if there's enough interest, it might possibly become a weekly meme) in which she links to book giveaways around the Kidlitosphere and web.

If you are hosting a children's - young adult book-related giveaway, sponsoring a giveaway, or just found a really awesome giveaway that you'd like to share, please leave it at Fish For a Free Book! <http://lonicalabrese.com/category/giveaways/fish-for-a-free-book-meme/>

NEWSLETTERS



Looking for the latest children's literature news? Don't have time to scour all of the blogs out there (and we know there are a ton!), but would like to be pointed in the direction of some of the best articles and gossip?

Be sure to sign up for *The Book Bugz Newsletter* from [Lori Calabrese Writes!](#) *The Book Bugz Newsletter* flutters your way once a month and covers all of the latest children's book buzz-everything from the latest children's literature news, things happening throughout the Kidlitosphere, book reviews & recommendations, book giveaways, and tips for writers on writing and marketing.

Lori is so interested in what other writers and bloggers have to say. After becoming inspired from the wealth of information out there regarding children's books and children's literacy, she wanted to create a newsletter that not only highlights what's happening at [Lori Calabrese Writes!](#), but also highlights the recent news being talked about throughout the kidlitosphere.

The subscription is FREE and subscribing is easy. Just visit the *NEW!* [Lori Calabrese Writes! blog](#) and subscribe at the top right sidebar. Then we'll be buzzing about children's books in the November issue of *The Book Bugz!*



MOVEMENT AND RHYTHM NEWSLETTER

Attention all educators, home schooling parents, and librarians!

Kathy Stemke, Freelance Writer, Author, and Educator has a fantastic newsletter jammed packed with tips and activities your students and children will surely be thrilled to join in on. To become an opt-in subscriber today and to learn more about Kathy visit:

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

At <http://educationtipster.blogspot.com/> you will also find important information on movement activities, book reviews, and parenting tips which will help parents and teachers teach children phonics, math, writing and science! All this at your fingertips and in your email in-box...you surely can't go wrong.



At SFC Newsletter for Writers, we believe writers naturally want to help along those starting out. I know you will enjoy this monthly newsletter loaded with helpful information, fun stories about the writing life, and the successes of fellow writers. **Voted one of the 101 Best Websites for Writers by Writer's Digest 2009**

<http://storiesforchildrenpublishing.com/SFCNewsletterforWriters.aspx>

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If you'd like to become a published children's book author yourself, join the Children's Writers' Coaching Club like I did, at the National Writing for Children Center and get the help you need to succeed ~ <http://www.cwcoachingclub.com>



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****We DETEST spam and we do not share or sell our mailing list****
To unsubscribe from this newsletter, simply send an email to: donna@donnamcdine.com with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject line and you will be removed.

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