



Writer's Block

A C I N D Y B A U E R B O O K S N E W S L E T T E R

“Dreams can be turned into reality if one has the courage to try. Failure comes only to those who don’t.”

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A F O R M A L I N T R O D U C T I O N

Welcome to Writer's Block! I'm excited about introducing my newsletter. I'll begin with a formal introduction so we can become better acquainted.

I was born and raised in Davenport, Iowa, the youngest of three children. My father was in the Navy for twenty plus years and my mother was a professional seamstress.

As a child, I was always reading and often dreamt of becoming an author someday. My favorites were mysteries and I still have several of the books that I read back then.

I graduated from Assumption High School in Davenport back in 1975 and married my husband, Robert, in 1976. Due to many career changes and relocations, I left my dream

behind.

In 1983 my parents retired and moved to Missouri and when my mother was diagnosed with a terminal illness,



Author Cindy Bauer

my husband and I moved to Missouri to assist with her care. She passed away in 1988, but we decided to stay and make Missouri our home.

In 2003, the manufacturing company I was employed with

moved production to China and at that time, I accepted a position with our local small town newspaper. It was then that my dream to write resurfaced.

Through encouragement from both my husband and my sister, I began to write and the result is my first novel in a planned trilogy, Chasing Memories. The second, Shades of Blue, will be published later this year. My sister, Debra LaVelle, a former journalism teacher, volunteered to be my editor.

I am currently working on the third and final novel, Crystal Clear. This series is Christian Fiction. Once completed, I plan to write mysteries, which are my favorite to read.

M E E T M Y S I S T E R A N D E D I T O R



Erin, Deb and Justin

My sister and editor is Debra LaVelle. She's a former journalism teacher, married with two children, Erin and Justin, pictured here.

Though we sometimes disagree, I usually realize later she was right and approve her changes in my manuscripts. She is very good at editing and

I'm lucky to have her on board! Her fee is very reasonable, too!

I remember that while growing up, she was always correcting me on my use of the English language. She has since then told me that I write very well and was my main motivation to finally write the book I had always dreamt of writing.

CHASING MEMORIES

Laura and Steven Thompson were the happiest couple, especially when their daughter Annie was born. Life was perfect and they thought they had forever. But in a matter of seconds, Steven was gone forever...

As Laura and Annie are slowly getting their lives back on track,

Laura suffers a freak accident. Now, not only has she lost her husband, but her memory as well!

Laura struggles to recover her past, while living in the present with a daughter whom she no longer remembers and a future filled with uncertainties. Her story is one of tragedy,

survival, courage, and faith. And the ending will surprise you!

Retail Price \$19.95

Amazon

Barnes & Noble



1-4137-9835-7

SHADES OF BLUE

Don't miss what happens next, as all of your favorite characters from *Chasing Memories* return in *Shades of Blue!*

Susan Barnes was finally moving on with her life after landing that great job at the law firm and moving to Kansas City, leaving her best friend Laura and small hometown of Hampton behind.

Full of hope and visions of happiness,

she is about to marry the man of her dreams!

Tom Watson is a handsome young attorney with a promising future, but it isn't long before Susan discovers he's not the man she thought she had married. Behind

those attractive blue-gray eyes lies a secretive side that Susan is completely unaware of and now she's living in an endless nightmare...with no way out!

Coming Soon!

FAVORITE CHARITIES

Since embarking on my writing career, I've had the opportunity to communicate with a variety of readers, hear some heart-wrenching true life stories and make many new friends. As such, I have added a new page to my website titled "Favorite Charities". Since it is a new page, I've only included two entries to date.

The first entry is about another author who is the mother of a child who is

inflicted with cerebral palsy and she has set up a trust fund through her local Easter Seals program and donates a portion of the proceeds from the sale of one of her two books, to help another family who might be encountering the same financial obstacles she was faced with while trying to get her son the necessary surgeries involved with the disease.

The second entry is about a mother who lost her young daughter in a tragic accident

while boarding her school bus, yet she was courageous enough to donate her daughter's organs to save the life of another child, because she felt her daughter would have done so herself, had she been given the choice.

I commend both these women for their unselfish acts of kindness for they are both heroes and truly amazing women. Though their stories have absolutely nothing to do with my

books, I felt compelled to try to tell their stories in some way, and as such, I decided to add the new page to my website.

If you have a few moments, please take the time to visit my website and click on favorite charities. I will be adding more charities that I endorse, so please check back often.

God Bless!

AUTHOR SHOWCASE SPOTLIGHT



Sami Cowsert

www.TammiAndHerDragon.com

Sami Cowsert was born in Anchorage, Alaska, the fourth child of eighteen children. Her father was in the Army and they moved around a lot. Their main home was in Missouri. Sami is married and has one daughter. After living in Florida for twenty-three years, she returned to Missouri where she currently lives with her husband, James.



\$12.95 each

Amazon

Barnes & Noble

TAMMI AND HER DRAGON

Tammi is a little girl who befriends a magical dragon named Winston. Winston takes Tammi to far away places, introduces her to an odd assortment of his friends, and helps Tammi understand some things she has trouble with while growing up. In the process,

she has a lot of fun with her new friend, Winston, and learns some very valuable lessons in life. Tammi and Her Dragon is a compilation of ten short stories I wrote while raising my own daughter. Whenever she would encounter a problem, I would write another story to

help her learn how to handle the problems of everyday life. She enjoyed my stories and I was able to teach her in a fun, yet educational, way.

THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF TAMMI AND HER DRAGON

Tammi and her dragon, Winston, continue their adventures to far away places. Tammi meets the Tooth Fairy, some mermaids and visits a volcano! She meets more of Winston's odd assortment of friends and learns

some very valuable lessons in life. The Continuing Adventures of Tammi and Her Dragon is a compilation of ten short stories I wrote while raising my own daughter. Whenever she would encounter a problem, I would write another story to

help her learn how to handle the problems of everyday life. Whether fact or fiction, she enjoyed these stories and I was able to teach her in a fun, yet educational, way.

AUTHOR RESOURCES

There are a lot of websites you can visit and get information to assist you in your marketing endeavors. For instance, on my own website I offer my services in designing business cards, bookmarks and flyers for a very reasonable fee. I have several samples shown on my website's promotional tools page. So if you are having trouble designing them, take the time to check out some of the

designs I have shown. They come in PDF format and are printer ready. At first I went with full color designs, then realized it wasn't very cost effective, so I changed to more white and less color to save on printer ink. Or, you can take the PDF file to your printer of choice.

The business cards come ten to a page and you can buy the perforated blank cards from any Wal-Mart

store and print them out yourself.

The bookmarks are designed so that you can print both fronts and backs on one page and the borders match up perfectly. Then cut them out and laminate them if you prefer. I stopped doing that once I started printing mine out on cardstock, but if you choose to do so, you can buy rolls of clear shelf paper for very little cost, when com-

pared to actual lamination sheets that only come with about ten sheets to a package!

The flyers can be designed to suit your preferences and needs, but I have several samples shown on the page that you might like.

Each month, I will try to list a few more websites. I have spent numerous hours doing research, so I hope these can assist you in some way.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES

- www.fictionfactor.com
- www.bookbusinessmag.com
- www.absolutewrite.com
- www.ezinearticles.com
- www.bookwire.com
- www.writersdigest.com
- www.publishersmarketplace.com
- www.literarymarketplace.com
- www.sfwaweb.org
- www.newsletters.org/literarylincs.asp
- www.pw.org
- www.firstwriter.com

GET YOUR NAME OUT THERE!

- www.published.com
- www.searchramp.com
- www.edgeio.com
- www.oncewritten.com
- www.thepoetsanctuary.com
- www.authorsden.com
- www.booksie.com
- www.writesight.com
- www.writers.net
- www.editred.com
- www.writers-pen.com
- www.writing.com
- www.shoutlife.com
- musesreview.org
- www.cindybauerbooks.com

MISCELLANEOUS

- www.fookes.com/ezthumbs/
- www.meritline.com
- www.cooltext.com
- www.lighthouseliteraryreviews.com

AUTHORS SHOWCASE PAGES

In case some of you were not aware of it, I have an addition on my website for other authors to showcase their books. I do this by dedicating these pages to their book covers, book synopsis and link back to their websites.

Getting your name out there is the name of the game when it

comes to promoting your book. If you are an unknown or fairly new author, that task alone can be very overwhelming.

I found that after having my first book published, the promoting of it took far more of my time and I have spent literally hours upon hours coming up

with new ways to do that.

So, having that said, I've always been one who enjoys helping others. If you would like to have your book showcased on my website, just send me an email with your information to my inbox at: cindybauerbooks@yahoo.com.

*Each week
I will
feature one
author from
my
showcase!
pages!*

AUTHORS MESSAGE BOARD

We've covered the fact that I like to help other authors as I know how difficult it is to get your name out there when you are just starting out. You've written

a wonderful book, but how do you tell the world it's out there?

So, in addition to the authors showcase pages, I've added an authors message

board. This is an interactive page where you can post your book reviews, upcoming event schedules and news announcements!

All you have to do is

register and you can begin posting immediately. Like the old saying goes, when opportunity knocks, open the door and let it in!

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Okay, so you're having trouble coming up with ideas on how to get your name out there so people will buy your book and read it.

One way to do that is whenever you receive a bill in the mail, when you pay it, slide one of your business cards into the envelope along with your payment.

Another way is to submit

your website url to search engines, such as google and yahoo.

You might also consider joining some writing communities. Most of them will let you post your book cover, synopsis, website link and more, for free!

Booksigning events and lots of them. Don't forget to contact your local library, also.

They usually host great events with media coverage, refreshments, etc. Of course, you have to purchase your own books for such events, but the results are usually favorable.

Bookmarks. Definitely pass out bookmarks! Hang flyers wherever you can. Definitely get a website set up and make sure your book is returnable for obtaining events from bookstores!

*"Today is our day.
Yesterday is gone
and tomorrow may
never come, but
always there is today.
And today is an ever
present opportunity to
make ourselves and
those around us, truly
happy!"*

...Kolly Kobbie

AUTHOR INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT

“Booktalking” April 2007

www.davenportlibrary.com

Chasing Memories: Danielle White Interviews Cindy Bauer

DW: What is Chasing Memories about?

CB: Laura and Steven Thompson were the happiest couple, especially after their daughter Annie was born. Life was perfect and they thought they had forever. But in a matter of seconds, Steven was gone forever. As Laura and Annie slowly get their lives back on track, Laura suffers a freak accident. Now, not only has she lost her husband, but her memory as well! Laura struggles to recover her past, while living in the present with a daughter whom she no longer remembers and a future filled with uncertainties. Her story is one of tragedy, survival, courage and faith. And the ending will surprise you!

DW: Why did you decide to write this kind of story?

CB: I wanted the book to be based around a memory box, such as mine, and

the importance of having one. I knew that before I began writing it. I started my memory box right after my grandmother's death a few years ago. As I was writing it, I already had the ending in mind. Most of the story content was already in my head though, before I began the book, but putting it into words on paper, was not as easy as I first thought it would be. When you are writing fiction you are telling the story of someone's life who does not exist. So keeping track of that person's life proved to be quite challenging. I wanted the book to have a reason for being written. I think I accomplished that.

DW: Why did you want to be a writer?

CB: I always wanted to be an author. I read constantly when I was little. You never saw me without a book in my hand. I loved

Nancy Drew, Trixie Beldon, Meg Parker and Robin Kane. My source for new books growing up was the Davenport Library Bookmobile, which came to our section of town once a week.

DW: What future plans do you have?

CB: I have completed the second book in my trilogy, *Shades of Blue*, and my sister is editing it right now. I had planned on having it out in late 2006, but it took longer than the first one. I've begun work on the third book, and also started a children's book. Once those are completed, I plan on writing what I love to read most—mysteries!

DW: Why a trilogy?

CB: *Chasing Memories* did not start out to be a trilogy. Laura Thompson is the main character in *Chasing Memories*, and Susan Barnes is a supporting character along with Laura's daughter, Annie.

To be able to put the whole story into better perspective, a trilogy was inevitable, and I'm finding it's comfortable to continue with the same characters, whom I know very well.

DW: Where can people buy your book?

CB: It is available to purchase direct from my website, cindybauer-books.com, or can be found at amazon.com.



Cindy Bauer

“Each month I will feature a new author interview spotlight feature, only I will be conducting the interviews. If you would like to participate, send me an email and I will add your name to my list.”