



Writer's Block

A CINDY BAUER BOOKS NEWSLETTER



Author Cindy Bauer

www.cindybauerbooks.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LUCY A. CAIN

PAGES 2-3

MIRALEE FARRELL

PAGES 3-4-5

BOOK REVIEWS

PAGE 6

AUTHOR RESOURCES

PAGE 6

DECEMBER

CONTEST WINNER

MARY BETH ISAAC OF

NORTH CAROLINA

CONGRATULATIONS!

GRAND PRIZE

CONTEST WINNER

RHONDA MOSS

OF GEORGIA

CONGRATULATIONS!

December 2007 Update

The new year is fast approaching and what a month December has been for me! Whew!

New Year, new look! I've recently redone my entire website. So please stop by and see the new look! As you can see, I've also changed my newsletter format a little.

Due to numerous requests, I've republished my old guestbook. It seems people actually want to sign the darned thing!

My nephew is spending his holidays hiking in far away lands! He left in November and will return sometime in May. He started off in Argentina, has been in Chile and is heading toward Patagonia now, of all places! If you would like to see pictures and up-to-date information on his journey, check out his blog at towncriermedia.com. It's very interesting and one of the most unusual ways to spend your days over the winter. My prayers are with him, but don't worry... mom (my sister) got him a portable GPS system so if he's ever in trouble, he can be found and rescued!

The publisher of the newspaper where I am employed passed away on December 22nd. Her name was Kay White Miles and I will truly miss her! Kay was an exceptional woman, very politically connected and she stood by me 100% while writing my two books. She read the first one in fact, while still in rough draft form manuscript. She is on my

list of acknowledgements in the second book, *Shades of Blue*, but she never got the chance to read it. She did get to see that page with her name and the newspaper's name though! Kay was funny, intelligent and a dear friend.

My contest is over for now, but I will have another one in the near future so check often for updates on that page.

I joined the [ACFW](http://www.acfw.com) (American Christian Fiction Writers) in December. That is a story in itself and an example of true friendship. An aspiring author looked me up once after reading a posting I made on PublishAmerica's forum. We soon became friends. She knew I wanted to join but would not be able to until sometime in 2008. So she sent me the money to join and said "if you send it back to me, it will surely break my heart". I couldn't let THAT happen!

I want to thank my friend and now fellow author, Alice Grant, for her kind gift. Alice's book is now in production with PublishAmerica! Watch for the release of "Dear Mr. President, Please Send My Daddy Home".

One last note. On many occasions, I have been sought out and asked if I know of anyone who does book illustrations. I never did. Until now! My niece, who teaches art classes is available for book illustration **(continued on page three)**

IN MEMORY OF KATHLEEN (KAY) WHITE MILES
MAY 30, 1927 - DECEMBER 22, 2007
YOU WILL BE MISSED!

AUTHOR SHOWCASE SPOTLIGHT



Lucy A. Cain & son, Michael
AllGloryIsHis.com
lucy@allgloryishis.com

Lucy A. Cain:
Writing for God's Glory

BOOK AWARDS:
2007 Gold Medal Award
winner, Best Anthology,
Military Writers Society of
America
www.militarywriters.com

**Secure the Fort
(And Remain Under God)**
Inspirational



If there are any patriotic threads woven into your American heart, you are impacted by the ACLU's efforts to remove "under God" from our Pledge of Allegiance, and "in God we trust" off our currency. This nation was founded on faith in God, and it is this author's opinion that we need to embrace our faith now more than ever during this war on terror.

As a military mother, I feel strongly about this nation remaining "under God." As a Christian author, I felt compelled to write about those feelings when my son joined

the Army Reserves during this current war effort.

What started as a book of military themed devotions, *Secure the Fort* has turned into so much more. God has opened doors and provided more than thirty contributing authors who have expressed their stories of faith, patriotic poetry, and gripping experiences with such generosity it has humbled this author's heart. I am simply amazed at how these stories have all intertwined and fit together like a glove.

Secure the Fort encompasses all branches of the military between WWII and current day efforts. Letters from war bring the heart of our soldiers to the home front. Historical tidbits and famous quotes provide the reader with additional heart-touching facts about our nation and our military.

In the midst of writing *Secure the Fort*, our family found approximately 100 letters from WWII. These were written by my two great-uncles to their parents. These letters were stored in a little fabric footstool for 60 years – a stool that has been at my grandparents' farm house all these years, unopened. My sister discovered them one day while cleaning. How appropriate to find them at this time! Portions of these letters are now included in my writings. It was an amazing journey to read these historical artifacts

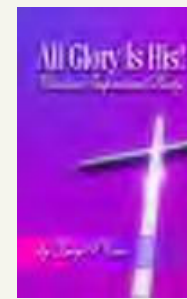
Secure the Fort has a timely message for all Americans. We need to remember and embrace our nation's religious heritage and foundation of faith in God. While we don't want State to rule Church, State needs Church. We need to remain under God and in His watch. We need Him at the helm of every vessel, and guarding every border. We need His strength and His hand of protection. Our military families need His peace in the midst of war, and His courage to fight for lasting freedom from oppression and tyranny.

The battle is the Lord's, and we need Him to go before every soldier's steps. We, as a nation,

should not ask our troops to step into harm's way without praying with them and for them.

It is my hope and prayer that every American will turn the last page of *Secure the Fort* feeling a renewal of Christian patriotism. I hope each reader comes away with a deeper respect of sacrifices made on their behalf. I pray each reader develops a stronger desire to serve both God and country in ways that would let all nations know that America still trusts in God.

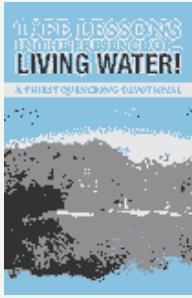
All Glory Is His!
Christian Inspirational



"All glory is HIS!" This statement comes from my heart. This is what I want my readers to understand. I am no different than anyone else. I put on makeup and fuss with hair issues like every other woman. God simply chose to give me a writing ministry! He may give you a ministry of a different kind. We all should have the same focus—bringing others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and drawing believers even closer to Him.

This book of Christian inspirational poetry came about after establishing my first website, www.allgloryishis.com. I discovered that my poetry page was one of my most visited sites. My prayer is that you will find hope, joy, peace, and comfort in the poems you read here. If they bring you closer to the Lord, then all glory belongs to Him!

If you would like to be featured in one of my future newsletters, please contact me at cindybauerbooks@yahoo.com



**Life Lessons in the Presence
of...LIVING WATER!
A Thirst Quenching
Devotional
Inspirational**

Let me invite you to partake in a refreshing devotional that will quench your thirst for the Word of God! "Life lessons in the presence of Living Water" is a uniquely written devotional filled to the brim with sparkling analogies that will tickle your spiritual taste buds and make you thirst for more from the Savior! Easy to relate to devotions will touch your heart, make you giggle, or nod your head. Scriptures, poems, photos and Biblical Truths are all included to enhance various devotionals. Jesus said, "Take, drink, and live!" "Living Water" is written with the following goal in mind...to bring others into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and draw believers even closer to Him. When we are spiritually dried up, nothing is more soothing to the soul than the Word of God! It refreshes. It restores.

It offers Life giving Words to sustain us. "Living Water" makes you think about your own life experiences and how you can draw closer to the Savior through them. Life can be a mixture of emotions from funny to heart-wrenching. Heart-warming to thought-provoking. "Living Water" just happens to include several personal experiences that you can envision as the stories unfold. So grab a book. Sit back and picture yourself on a deep-sea fishing boat with a blubbering idiot, or relaxing by a rushing stream in the Great Smoky Mountains. There's no tell-

ing what you'll discover on the next page! I can promise that you will find Jesus there. He will be offering you a cup of Living Water to quench your thirst for Him. Question is, will you take and drink?

(continued from page one)

tions, so if you are in the market for an illustrator, contact her. Her email contact link is: [Erin Witt \(pandora1929@hotmail.com\)](mailto:Erin_Witt@pandora1929@hotmail.com)

If you would like to contribute a book review you received or wrote, please contact me about featuring it in one of my newsletters or if you have an idea you would like to see in my newsletters, let me know!

Until next time...God Bless!

Cindy Bauer

cindybauerbooks.com
cindybauer.blogspot.com

AUTHOR INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT



Miralee Ferrell

www.miraleeferrell.com

CB: The Other Daughter is fiction based on an actual event. Could you explain that event?

MF: Sure. About 17 yrs ago an 18 yr old girl wrote a letter to my husband, claiming to be his daughter. It was a shock to both of us, but not to the degree it was to Susanne in The Other Daughter. Susanne had to face taking in a 13 yr old girl with no mother and deal with a husband who'd hidden the truth from her. None of the details of my novel are true and Susanne's feelings don't reflect mine at the time. The surprise yes, the denial and inability to accept the girl, no. We felt she had a

family resemblance and my husband acknowledged the possibility she could be his. She had a strong need to know a father and her mother swore my husband was the only guy she'd been with. We didn't challenge it, but accepted her and remain in close contact today.

CB: How did you feel about your publisher changing the title of the book?

MF: They really liked my original title, Yesterday's Child, but after doing a search discovered several other books by that title still in print. There was only one book by my current title in print, and it wasn't recent. I'd been warned it could be changed and while I was disappointed, I quickly saw the wisdom and became convinced of the strength of the new title.

CB: What made the deciding factor for you in publishing with a traditional publisher vs. self-publishing for this first novel and do you credit that factor to obtaining an agent?

MF: I guess it never occurred to me to go the self publishing route. I was so new and green to the entire book writing process that I don't think I really considered much beyond writing the initial rough draft. After that, I took it one step at a time. I had the help of a friend who is an author and editor for e-books. She did some editing for me and made some revision suggestions. After I'd revised the book about three times, I discovered Oregon Christian Writer's and attended two, one-day conferences, where I began to learn the wisdom of finding an agent, pitching to editors, etc. I submitted a proposal to Writer's Edge and had serious interest from Harvest House, then a request from Steeple Hill for the first three chapters. Not long after the Lord opened the door for me to connect with Tamela H. Murray who became my agent.

CB: Your next book is a spin-off from the first, with a supporting character becoming the main character. Do you plan on making this a **(continued on page four)**

continuing series and if so, how many books do you think will be in the series?

MF: The second book (currently titled *Past Shadows*) is under review with Kregel at this time. I'm working on book three now, which will be a continuation of book two, following the main character and some friends she meets in book 2. And I'm considering a story line for a possible fourth book, but that really depends on how well the first 2-3 books are received by readers. *The Other Daughter* has been getting good reviews, so I'm hoping the next one will, as well.

CB: For those who do not have an agent and/or are self-publishing or using a POD publisher, explain the advantages to obtaining an agent and do you have to pay one upfront?

MF: Never, ever sign with an agent that you have to pay up front. A legit agent may charge for the cost of printing your full MS and sending to multiple publishing houses, but they won't ask for a reading fee or any other up front money. They get paid when you get paid. That's the main reason they must be so selective on what books they choose to represent. They need to believe in your work and be able to recommend it to editors. If it isn't strong and salable, and they can't land a contract, they won't get paid for the work and time they've invested in you and your book. Many agents go the extra mile, reading and editing your work before submitting and often brainstorming with their authors about future work...all without getting paid until they land a contract. One of the most important things for me in having an agent, was their knowledge and ability to place my work with the houses that would be interested and walking me through the contract negotiations.

CB: How did you go about obtaining the endorsements at the front of the book before publication - did you seek them out or did your publisher do that for you - and if so, did you supply the list of people to contact for them?

MF: Had I not been able to find anyone myself, my publisher would have contacted authors and asked. Thankfully, I've been active enough on more than one group, that I had a few people willing to offer. I did put out a request for anyone interested in reading and possibly endorsing my book, with the understanding that if they read it and didn't find they could endorse it, I'd understand and release them. I felt very blessed with the author's who stepped forward and were willing to support my debut novel.

CB: Why did you choose to list your book, *The Other Daughter*, as Contemporary Women's Fiction and not Christian or Inspirational Fiction?

MF: I didn't have a clue when I wrote it what it would be and I didn't list it, Kregel did. They set up all the contacts and sales agreements with Amazon, CBD, B&N, etc., and place it in the category where it belongs. It is women's fiction, in that the entire story revolves around Susanne's deepest feelings and her struggles with what's happening. Yes, David and the kids are brought into the story as well, but it's really Susanne's story. The depth of emotions depicted in the book also place it into the Women's category.

CB: Some of the chapters are very short and some not so short. How did you decide to separate your chapters, or did you leave them as is and the length was the result of editing?

MF: I broke the chapters where I felt they needed to be, and the editors at Kregel didn't change them. At first all my chapters were rather long, then I decided I needed some shorter ones to move the action along more quickly, and broke a few of them into two chapters. I also tried to end chapters on a note that might pull the reader on into the next chapter.

CB: You wrote the rough draft in only 5 weeks. How long did it take you to write the rough draft for your second book?

MF: It's harder to really gauge the second one, as I set it aside many times to work on the edits and marketing for #1. I had nothing distracting me when I wrote *The Other Daughter*. I had no places where I struggled at all...I just flew through the rough draft. Not so with #2. I'd let it sit sometimes for 2-3 wks at a time, when life got busy or my first book had to take precedence. If I have to guess, I'd say the second one took a total time of about 3 months for the first draft.

CB: During the editing process, did you hire an editor or did your publisher supply the editor?

MF: The publisher supplies the editors, plural. It went through four different types of edits, including the proof reading at the very end. An initial edit that was more general in nature showing me places that needed a little strengthening. An in-depth substantive edit that pointed out places that needed to be expanded, shortened, characters who needed tweaking, etc., then another edit that was more of a line edit as well as checking for time line inconsistencies.

On *Past Shadows*, the book currently being reviewed, I paid a free lance editor to go over the MS before sending it to Kregel. She looked for plot holes and any other weaknesses, as well as doing a line edit, but I'd already self-edited twice before sending it to her.

CB: What part in the editing process, did your editor play? ie: Did your editor do any rewriting or did you do all the rewrites per the editor's suggestions?

MF: My editors at Kregel never rewrote anything, just made suggestions. There was very little that I took issue with...I felt their suggestions were very valid and sensible. They pointed out areas that needed tweaking and left it to me to make the changes.

CB: From start (rough draft) to finish (published novel), how long did the writing and publishing process

take in all?

MF: Again, that's hard to define, as there are always lag times during the process where nothing is happening. But I started writing the book in Sept. 2005, completed the rough draft in mid October, let it sit for a couple of weeks, then started rewriting and editing, which went on for 3-4 months. I contracted with my agent at Hartline that following May and the book was submitted to Kregel and several other houses the end of August/early Sept. (one year after doing the rough draft) I received a contract offer in December, signed the contract in January, and the book released the following Oct. So, two years to the month from when I started writing it, until it released. Very fast, from all that I've learned.

CB: Does your publisher help promote your book and if so, what part does your publisher play in that role?

MF: Oh my yes, they're wonderful! That's one of the reasons I'd personally never consider self publishing. POD's can be put on Amazon, but traditional royalty publishing houses put it in Christian retail stores across the nation, place it with CBD, have sales teams out promoting it, promote it at ICRS, blog about it, set up radio and news print interviews/media release announcements and more. I've also done a tremendous amount of marketing but I'd never have had the contacts for all the markets where Kregel placed it.

CB: For those of us who are not positive of the definition, please explain the difference between a novel and a novella.

MF: I don't have the exact specs you need for that, having never written a novella, but I think the average novella runs between 30k-40k words. Most full length novels are a minimum of 75k to 100k words.

CB: What length was the book prior to publication as opposed to the actual published length?

MF: When I sent Kregel my manuscript it had just under 97K words. When it was published, it ended up being about 96K words. Really amazing considering I wrote 4 new scenes after they got it...but we also cut occasional unnecessary sentences and tightened a few scenes.

CB: Your book is under consideration for a possible movie contract. How did this occur - was it your publisher or agent, or did you submit it for review?

MF: The first studio who contacted my agent saw it a brief blurb about it in Publisher's Weekly and felt it had the potential to make a family movie. They requested a MS and read it, but haven't made a final decision. The second studio asked someone who read my book (who belongs to several book clubs and runs a huge Christian book store) if she'd give them a list of books she felt might be strong family movies and mine was on her list. They're in the initial investigative stage at this point.

CB: Do you plan to make writing your full-time career now?

MF: Not in the sense of ever earning full time income. I guess I don't look at it as a money making career as much as a potential ministry. My real calling is to minister to women and this is another avenue I believe the Lord has opened for me to do that. I'll continue to write for as long as the Lord gives me story ideas and prompts me to do so. My desire is to bring people closer to Him and hopefully bring healing to the hearts of my readers in one area or another.

CB: Any parting advice for future novelists?

MF: Just that there is no "typical or normal" in the writing industry. You may have been writing for 5 yrs without being published...possibly longer....and be discouraged when you see others getting contracts, feeling that you're being left behind.

I'd urge you to consider writing for the Lord, rather than for publication. Do it for His glory and allow Him to use what you write in whatever way He chooses to do. If you believe God directed you to write, then don't stop until He tells you it's time to stop, and never, ever give up.

The Other Daughter **Contemporary Women's Fiction**



The girl standing at the door took a deep breath, pulling her suitcase a little closer to her trembling legs. "My mama's dead. He's my daddy."

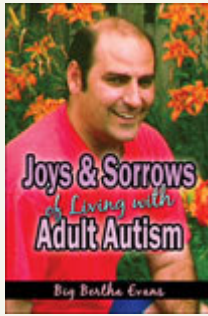
Susanne Carson knew that she could trust the love of her life—her husband, David—until she discovered a strange, unkempt young girl on their doorstep, claiming to be David's daughter.

Not that their marriage had ever been perfect—David's decision to embrace the Christian faith had strained their relationship. Susanne may not have agreed with his beliefs, but at least she trusted him. Had David been hiding this not-so-little secret from his past? Her husband wanted Susanne to believe in God, but believing hadn't done much to keep David out of another woman's arms. What else could her husband be hiding?

As David confronts the truth of his past, Susanne must face her own moment of truth as her marriage is taken to the breaking point and the life of one young girl is left in her hands.

Available at: Amazon.com, CBD and your local bookstores now!

BOOK REVIEWS



Joys and Sorrows of Living with Adult Autism by Big Bertha Evans

[www.freewebs.com/
bigberthaevans/
bigberthaevans.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/bigberthaevans/bigberthaevans.htm)

From the cover:

Everything bad you can imagine had happened to me as a little girl, so when Brian asked me to marry him after four days of dating...I said yes! After all I had been through, life could only get better. It is truly a miracle how God brought two broken people together to make us one.

Joys and Sorrows of Living with Adult Autism tells you from my point of view what it is like to deal with all of the joys and sorrows I have gone through in our first six years of marriage.

My life has never been boring. Brian keeps me going all the time. I have to watch out for him just like you do a child. He is like a two-year-old stuck in a man's body.

Our marriage has been quite an exciting journey! Put on your seat belt. You're in for a ride! I love you most! But God loves you more!

My review:

The Joys and Sorrows of Living with Adult Autism is an amazing story and a good read. The author, Big Bertha Evans, states at the beginning that she is not a writer and she doesn't type. Her husband, who is autistic, did the typing for her. If you accept that for what it is and consider the grammar, punctuation and writing level as part of the mes-

sage, the book itself is undeniably a good read.

The miracle is the strength and faith in God that this family retains through challenges and struggles that would destroy most.

Available at Amazon.com

Giving the story content 5 stars and the writing 1 star, I believe this unique book deserves 3 stars overall. ~Cindy Bauer – author of *Chasing Memories* and *Shades of Blue*

AUTHOR RESOURCE LINKS

Below you will find some new links I have run across in the last month that I'm sure you will want to check out!

www.booktour.com

www.westonbooks.zoomshare.com/

www.webspawner.com/users/pwriter/

www.goodreads.com/author

www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=92966

facebook.com

tomstream.blogspot.com/2007/11/my-book.html - free ebook

Bug Me Not (www.bugmenot.com)

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES!

I still have several openings yet for either the Author Showcase Spotlight or Author Interview Spotlight in future editions of *Writer's Block* if anyone is interested. You can be featured in both, just not in the same month's issue.

Also, if you would like your book's review featured, I have openings there as well. **Below is my schedule lineup for the showcase and interview sections**, all 2008 issues are open for book reviews. Contact me if you are interested in any of these positions and specify which month(s) you would prefer and I'll see what we can work out!

Remember these are to help promote your work, not to promote my own, as I enjoy helping others and I know how difficult it is to get your name out there to the public. Some methods will work for you, some will not, but you should try every way imaginable to find out what works for you.

Author Showcase Spotlight

Feb: Jennifer Allee

Mar thru Jun: Open

Jul: Bonnie Leon

Aug thru Dec: Open

Author Interview Spotlight

Feb: Melani Cassidy

Mar: Lucy A. Cain

Apr: Jennifer Allee

May thru July: Open

Aug: Bonnie Leon

Sep thru Dec: Open