



Ken McKowen, whose writing career has spanned more than three decades, is an award-winning author and speaker.

A former California State Park Ranger, Ken sold his first article to the travel section of a major newspaper in 1977, the same year his son Jason was born. Since then, his writing career has included several years as the head writer for the California State Parks' marketing and public relations office, penning feature articles for magazines and newspapers, brochure text, speeches, advertising copy and writing state park general plans and technical reports. During this same time, he was a freelancer selling outdoor and travel-related articles and photographs to magazines and newspapers.

In 2001, Ken, with his wife and business partner Dahlynn, launched Publishing Syndicate. The successful business offers writing, editing, and ghostwriting services to publishers and high-profile clients. They also offer a free monthly writing and publishing tips e-newsletter for beginning, novice and seasoned writers and travel writers.

Ken has had several books published, including the acclaimed *The Longstreet Highroad Guide to the California Coast* and *Best of California's Missions, Mansions and Museums* (Wilderness Press). This book took home top honors in one of the nation's most prestigious book competitions—PMA's 2007 Benjamin Franklin award, travel category, thus making it the best independently-published travel guide in the country. He followed with *Best of Oregon and Washington's Mansions, Museums and More*—also for Wilderness Press—as well as *The Wine-Oh! Guide to California's Sierra Foothills*. Under the Publishing Syndicate brand, he released *Wine Wherever: In California's Mid-Coast and Inland Region* and is currently working on *Wine Wherever: In California's Paso Robles Region*. If that wasn't enough, Ken also created a companion iPhone app called *Wine Wherever*. With more than 30,000 downloads, the app, which covers more than 2,000 wineries throughout the country, has been featured in numerous media venues including Mashable.com and *Sunset Magazine*.

Besides travel writing, Ken was a coauthor for *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, creating new titles with series founders Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen from 1999 to 2009. He coauthored *Chicken Soup for the Fisherman's Soul* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Celebrating Brothers and Sisters*.

In 2012, the McKowens launched the *Not Your Mother's Book* (NYMB) anthology. With seven books released thus far, there are another 25 under production, from dieting to sex to military life. Readers will never find any death/dying, sad, preachy or sappy stories in a NYMB book—the “other” anthology can have those stories. All NYMB books are funny, daring, different and smart.

NAME PRONUNCIATION

McKowen = mic-Q-in (accent on the Q)

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