

From Point A to Point B

A Quick Lesson in Using Effective Transitions

Following is an excerpt of a story submitted for consideration to the NYMB series:

I didn't want to make dinner. Pizza sounded good to me.

A noise came from the upstairs bedroom. I saw he had fallen out of bed.

"We need to put that safety rail back onto his bed so he doesn't do this again," I said to Steve.

What?! Huh?! I don't get it.



That's exactly the response we expect from you, the reader. The story is disjointed at best, written in a haphazard manner and is very confusing.

In storytelling, transitions are mandatory. If a story is being told verbally, the person listening can interrupt the storyteller, asking questions to fill in the missing information. But a reader doesn't have that luxury and must either guess or give up on the story altogether.

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Rumor Control!

Rumor has it that in order to be published in NYMB, you have to use swear words in your story. Nothing can be further from the truth! Our books are similar to a PG13 movie rating or a TV14 rating, and there you will hear occasional swearing. If your story includes a cuss word or two, no problem! NYMB is not a sugar-coated, angel-sweet anthology. **NYMB is daring, different and smart!** And nothing could be closer to the truth.



Published monthly by
Publishing Syndicate

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Writer@PublishingSyndicate.com



From Point A to Point B

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Let's break down the example, paragraph by paragraph.

I didn't want to make dinner. Pizza sounded good to me.

Why didn't the author want to make dinner? Maybe she wasn't a good cook? Maybe she hadn't gone grocery shopping in a while? Was she tired? While a transition is not necessarily needed in this paragraph, knowing why the author didn't want to make dinner would help the story.



A noise came from the upstairs bedroom. I saw he had fallen out of bed.



Now the story becomes confusing. Who heard the noise? When was the noise heard? Where was the person when he/she heard the noise? What about the reference to the "he" falling out of bed. Why was "he" in bed? Who is this person? The last issue is that the author "saw" that "he" had fallen out of bed, but the author never has herself ascending the stairs, walking into a bedroom and seeing what is stated. Maybe she has X-ray vision or is psychic? That would definitely make the story more intriguing!

"We need to put that safety rail back onto his bed so he doesn't do this again," I said to Steve.

Again, no identifier has been made as to the "he" who fell out of bed. And why is the author all of a sudden now back as part of the action, considering she never went upstairs? Then there's Steve—who is he and how did he magically appear?

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From Point A to Point B

Continued from page 3

Read the story again, but this time, it is written using descriptive information to fill in the holes. Plus, we've added much-needed transitions to get the subjects from Point A to Point B:

I didn't want to make dinner. It had been a long day at work, the commute was horrible and when I finally made it home, the babysitter told me she had gotten Jimmy down for his nap later than usual.

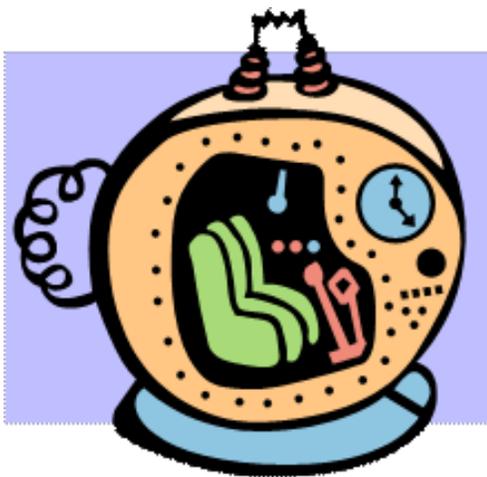
I knew our three-year-old would be grumpy and hungry when he woke up, so taking the family out for cheese pizza—which happened to be Jimmy's favorite food in the entire world—sounded good to me.

My husband, Steve, had arrived home a few minutes after me and headed upstairs to change out of his work clothes. Standing in the kitchen alone, I suddenly heard a loud noise come from upstairs. I stood motionless for a moment, looking up at the ceiling. *Was that Steve?* I thought to myself. But then I heard crying. *No, it's Jimmy!*

I ran upstairs and flew into our son's bedroom. There was Jimmy sitting on the floor, dazed and crying. He had fallen out of bed—again.

"We need to put that safety rail back on his bed so he doesn't keep doing this," I said to Steve when he entered the room. He had also heard the *thump!* and thought it was me. But Jimmy's crying told him differently.

Which version makes more sense to you? Which one is more interesting and enjoyable to read? We would hazard to guess your answer is the expanded version.



Before you submit a story, check your transitions carefully. Unless your subject has a fantasy teleporter and that machine is part of the story, make sure you get your subject from Point A to Point B smoothly and seamlessly. Don't leave your reader—and especially the editors at Publishing Syndicate—guessing. A seamless story told with creativity and flair has a much better chance of being selected than one with holes and missing transitions.

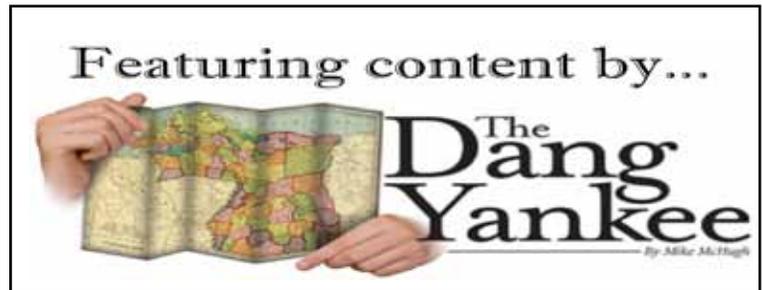


The Wow Principles e-newsletter

Great Ideas from Your Fellow Writers!

There are some very clever people in the NYMB family—of course!—and following are a few of their promotional ideas they are implementing when it comes to NYMB books:

“Here’s a marketing idea I use, one that may also be good for contributors who have a following, such as a regular column in a local paper or a radio show or speaking appearances: To alert regular readers of my column that I have a story in a book, I affix a 1” x 1-1/2” sticker to the book’s cover (to the books I purchase to resell); they realize, at a glance, that I’m in the book and may be more apt to buy a copy. I buy my stickers online at stickeryou.com for a reasonable price; I’m sure there are other suppliers, as well.” ~ **Mike McHugh**



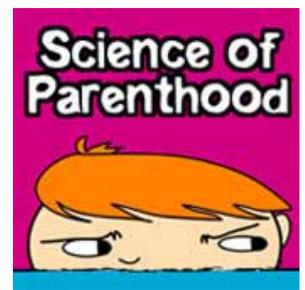
“The Dang Yankee” can be found in *The Louisiana Jam* (formerly *The Jambalaya News*), Lake Charles, LA. Per Mike, “The column gives a zany view of life in Louisiana from the eyes of a transplanted Northerner (I’m originally from Baltimore, MD).” Info: www.thelouisianajam.com or www.thedangyankee.com



Pat Nelson, the fabulous co-creator of *NYMB...On Being a Parent* (and several upcoming NYMB titles), spoke at the Northwest Book Festival, held in late July in Portland. She also sold NYMB books, including *Parent*, as seen here in the photo to the left. (Yes, co-creators get perks, like pre-pre-ordering of books from the printer...but at a cost!) Pat’s booth was filled to the brim with books and fun items and was one of the most visited at the entire event. Watch out! This gal can SELL! Pat’s website: www.storystorm.us



Norine Dworkin-McDaniel, creator of the popular site parenting “Science of Parenthood,” shared with us she was placing *NYMB...On Being a Parent* on her site via the Amazon Affiliate program. For every visitor who clicks through from her site to Amazon and purchases a book, her company will receive a percentage of that sale. To learn more about the Amazon Affiliate program, visit Amazon.com. And please be sure to visit Norine’s site at www.ScienceofParenthood.com.



The Wow Principles e-newsletter

MORE Great Ideas from Your Fellow Writers!

“Our church puts on a fall festival every year. It’s a great way to build community and we often use the funds generated for church-related services. The past few years, we’ve been working toward paying off our building fund for our new church. While I was skimming your tips on signing, thinking of the new cover (which I love!), I suddenly had a thought about *NYMB...On Home Improvement*—wouldn’t stories about building be a great tie-in to benefit the building fund?



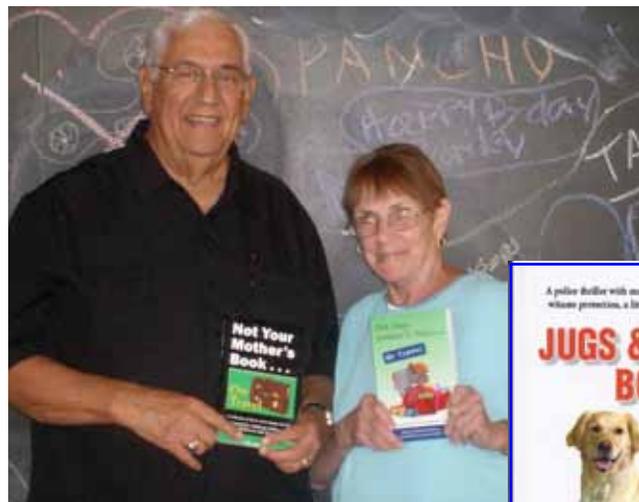
I contacted my church and signed up for a booth. I explained that I would be selling and signing books and donating half the proceeds to the building fund. Since I am making the donation, there is no charge for the booth. So the building fund gets money, I get a chance to build my book-signing skills, and *NYMB...On Home Improvement* builds momentum in a wonderful community! That’s a lot of building! ~ **Cathy Hall**

OMG! You’ll never guess what NYMB contributors **Stacey Gustafson, Camille DeFer Thompson, Risa Nye** and **Tracy Winslow** are planning for their San Francisco Bay Area *NYMB...On Home Improvement* book signing! But you’ll have to wait until next month to find out.

Send us your unique book promotion ideas. We can’t guarantee we can include everyone’s submissions in the WP newsletter, but we will try our best. Also post at www.Facebook.com/PublishingSyndicate. Thanks!

Co-creator News!

NYMB co-creators Nelson O. Ottenhausen (L) and Terri Elders (R) recently met in Spokane, WA, to discuss Nelson’s winning ways, as detailed in his story “A Touch of Luck” in Terri’s book *NYMB...On Travel*. They also talked about Nelson’s upcoming NYMB book: *On Military Life*. He still needs stories! You’ll find [suggested chapter titles](#) on the PS website, as well as a really funny photo of one of the founders of Publishing Syndicate, circa 1971.



NEWSFLASH! We just learned that Nelson’s novel, *Jugs and Bottles*, will begin film production in January 2014! Congrats, Nelson! You can read the book before the movie comes out; click on the book cover and you’ll go to the Amazon listing.

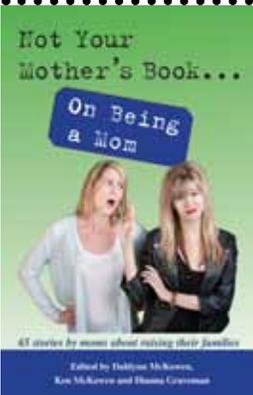
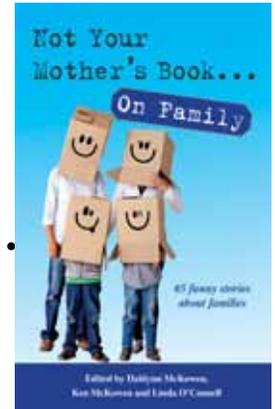


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Book Updates...

NYMB...On Family: The manuscript will be delivered to PS very soon. Story selections have been made, but we need to add one or two more.

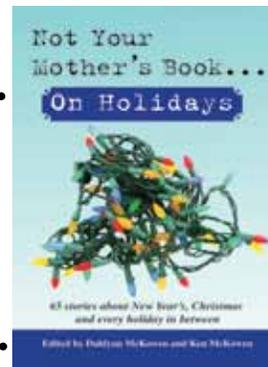
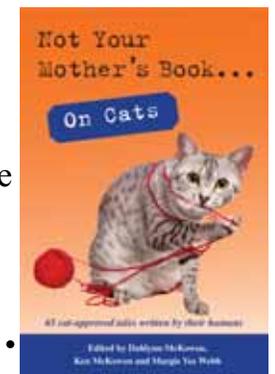
Release: March 2014



NYMB...On Being a Mom: Legal PRFs have been issued for the majority of the book, but not all the slots have been taken. Due to the last-chance story call-out, more than 60 stories have been submitted for approximately 12 spots in the manuscript. As of the release of this newsletter, those stories are still being read, with the goal of issuing final PRFs the first week of September, if not earlier. Release: March 2014

NYMB...On Cats: The publication of *Cats* has been pushed back until Summer 2014. We need more entertaining and irreverent stories—please do not send death/dying stories, dedications or rambling essays about why your cat is the best cat in the world. Study the NYMB style by reading *NYMB...On Dogs* (print/ebook).

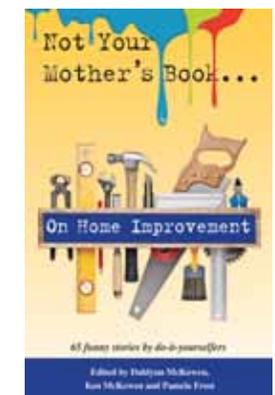
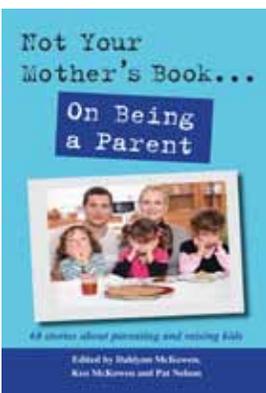
Deadline: December 1, 2013



NYMB...On Holidays: This book is in production. All PRF documents have been issued to those authors who stories we are considering. Our goal is to have it out by December 3, 2013. Thank you for your patience.

Both of these wonderfully funny books are available now, wherever books are sold!

A big “thank you” to all who submitted stories for consideration. The books turned out great! And congratulations to co-creators Pat Nelson (*Parent*) and Pamela Frost (*Home Improvement*) for all of their hard work. Great job, ladies!



SEND IN YOUR STORIES!

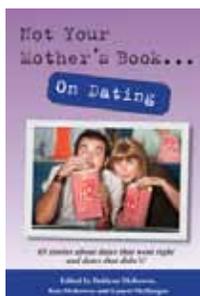
Updated 8/28/13

Not Your Mother's Book . . .

A new anthology for a new century!

Stories needed for 30+ new books. Must be written by people age 18 and up. Details and submission guidelines on the PS website.

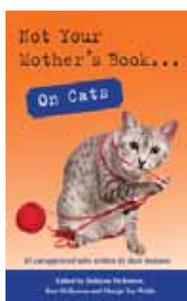
HURRY! DEADLINES! HURRY!



On Dating:
Oct. 1, 2013



On Pets:
Nov. 1, 2013



On Cats:
Dec. 1, 2013

What's next?
Find out next month!



Submission guidelines at
www.PublishingSyndicate.com

OMG! My Reality! Youth Series

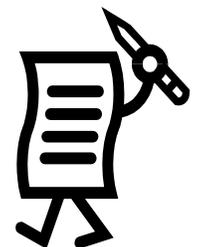
Time to get published!

We are accepting stories for four *OMG! My Reality!* titles: *Kids*; *Preteens*; and *Teens*. Stories must be written by those age 25 and younger. Please share this information with everyone. Thanks!



Do you know a teenager who loves to write? Tell him/her to submit stories to the upcoming *OMG! My Reality! For Teens*. **Being a published author is great for college and job applications.** With the fall 2013 release of *Stand Up!*, an anthology with stories from 75 of the nation's and world's most amazing young activists, we'll be swamped with even more submissions. So don't delay! Send now!

Help young people become published authors!



My Story is Out: High School Years

Created by Lyndsey D'Arcangelo

The nation's newest anthology for LGBT teens!

We are looking for humorous, heart-warming, wistful and inspiring stories written by straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals **of all ages** about high school life. More info at www.MyStoryIsOut.com.