



Count Your Wins, Not Your Losses

By Kathleene S. Baker, Co-creator
Not Your Mother's Book...On Dogs

I take rejection as someone blowing a bugle in my ear to wake me up and get going, rather than retreat.

~~ Sylvester Stallone

I love this quote by Sylvester Stallone. It reminds me of his intensely emotional performance in his career-making role as movie icon Rocky Balboa. After being beaten to a pulp time and again, Rocky's determination always kicked in. Retreat never crossed his mind, and he kept going—eventually, all the way to the Championship!

Writers don't lose boxing matches, but they do dread letters of rejection. I believe that's when some of Rocky's determination is called for. We don't retreat from rejection letters. We dust off our bruised egos and sit back down at the computer.

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**Publishing Syndicate
wishes everyone a
wonderful holiday
season!**



Published monthly by
Publishing Syndicate

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Writer@PublishingSyndicate.com



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Count Your Wins...

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Upon receiving one of those unwanted letters, my reaction might be a bit unusual. I simply refuse to allow a mere scrap of paper to keep me down for the count. Nor would I throw in the towel due to one editor's opinion of my work. Adopting Rocky's attitude in the boxing ring has served me well in the writing world.



More often than not, we wonder why a piece of work wasn't accepted. I remind myself that a rejection from one reader/editor of a particular publication does not mean my story or article is unworthy. Possibly my piece didn't fit their venue, but that certainly does not mean that the work is unsuitable for another market.

When a rejection letter crosses my desk, the most emotion I've ever experienced is a brief moment of "darn the luck." I certainly reassess my work and make any changes I feel might be needed. Upon reading it again, even if earlier I had felt that it was perfect, I usually catch something that just doesn't feel right now. Improvement can always be made—we never stop learning in the wacky world of writing.

And like Rocky Balboa, I don't consider giving up to be an option. Black eyes and a mangled, bloody face didn't kill the boxer. They made him determined to train harder, and he became better at his craft. The same can be said for the craft of writing.

Right or wrong, I convince myself that a rejected piece is one person's loss and will be someone else's gain. It has often proven to be true. At some point, another publication has picked up that exact piece. On many occasions, even other editors have subsequently printed that once rejected story/article, providing me with more exposure and profit. Had I allowed the rejection to become a knock-out blow, I would have been nothing more than a loser. Like Rocky Balboa, I much prefer to win. The only difference is that Rocky threw punches and I wield a pen!

Regardless of where we submit our work, I'm convinced that each editor sees the piece differently and walks away with a different take. I'd go so far as to say that the same editor might possibly see the piece in a different light on another day. While working on *NYMB... On Dogs*, I have sometimes found a new submission just so-so. Reading it again several days later,

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Tips...

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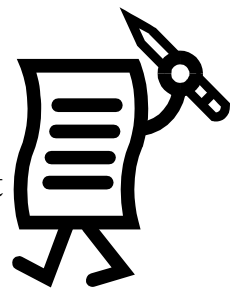
Tip #3—Don't slack off: When filling in the online submission form, complete everything. Many writers submitting their stories opt to leave out the address, etc. While Publishing Syndicate does not require this information, it's frustrating to the individual co-creators to have to go back and request the info from an author after the fact. Be helpful. Fill out the form in its entirety. Make life happier for the co-creator who will be making the first round selections.



Tip #4—Avoid the hyperbole: Remember, the NYMB series does not use sad, happy sappy, preachy or death/dying stories. We leave that up to the “other” anthology series. Our selection process tends to go with more stories than essays, even though that sometimes depends on the book. The biggest mistake made with either writing style is the contributor going on and on at the end of the piece, telling the reader what he/she should

have learned. Ugh! If the contributor did a great job of writing, the reader would have learned the lesson/point without it having to be reinforced at the end.

Tip #5—Be a team player: Our goal at Publishing Syndicate is to put out the best quality product possible. Our name is on the cover, and more importantly, your byline is on your story. Be sure that when your story passes the first selection round, you work with the co-creator on first-round edits, not against the co-creator. Keep in mind that even though you get through those initial edits, there will be at least a half dozen more editors and proofreaders working on your story throughout the entire editing and publishing process. No one is perfect—not us, not the copyeditors, not the proofreaders—and mistakes will be made. What is important at this stage of the process is the tone in which you—the contributor—carry yourself in working through the development of your story and these edits. With the popularity of the NYMB brand growing by leaps and bounds, more stories are coming in, which gives us more options. The story selection is only a part of the process—we also consider the contributor. If you've proved excessively difficult to work with in the past, you'll be out before you even step foot in the ring.



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Girls Having Fun...



NYMB Woman book signing, L to R: Stacey Gustafson (“Hair Gone Wild”), Dahlynn, Mary Eileen Williams (“Stirred, Not Shaken”)



TV appearance: *Good Morning Texas* anchor Carrie McClure (L, in pink) interviewing Kathleene Baker (*NYMB...On Dogs* co-creator and contributor to *NYMB Woman*, “Three and I’m Out”)



TV appearance: Holding the book: *NYMB Woman* contributor Teri Spilman (“Honey, You’re a Fat Ass,” “W--The Other Scarlet Letter” and “Vajazzle my What?”), with her mother after appearing on *Indy Style* in Indiana. To the right, Terri writes about her experience on her blog “The Laughing Mom” and pokes fun at herself. (Nov. 14th posting, <http://.thelaughingmom.wordpress.com>)



NYMB book signing

Ireta Black signing her story “Scandalous” in *NYMB...On Being a Stupid Kid*. This is Ireta’s first time ever published: Ireta will turn 90 in January. And she just had her story accepted for *NYMB...On Dogs*, too! She’s now working on a story for *NYMB...On Cats*.



Dahlynn and Ireta on *Good Day Sacramento*, promoting the evening’s book event.



L to R: Nancy Withers (*NYMB...On Being a Teacher* co-creator and contributor to *NYMB Woman*, “It All Depends”), Dahlynn and Ireta Black

Funny! Daring! Different!

Not Your Mother's Book . . .



A Collection of Stories from People Like You
Created by Dahlynn McKowen
and Ken McKowen

A New Anthology for a New Century

Not Your Mother's Book . . .



A Collection of Stories from People Like You
Created by Dahlynn McKowen,
Ken McKowen and Laurel McHargue

A New Anthology for a New Century

Not Your Mother's Book . . .



A Collection of Stories from People Like You
Created by Dahlynn McKowen,
Ken McKowen and Kathleene Baker

A New Anthology for a New Century

Available for purchase now,
wherever books are sold!

Release date:
December 11th

Not Your Mother's Book . . .



A Collection of Stories from People Like You
Created by Dahlynn McKowen,
Ken McKowen and Terri Elders

A New Anthology for a New Century

Release:
January 22nd
(book full,
not accepting
new stories)

Not Your Mother's Book . . .



A Collection of Stories from People Like You
Created by Dahlynn McKowen,
Ken McKowen and Pat Nelson

A New Anthology for a New Century

HURRY!

Story submission
deadline is
December 3rd!
Submit stories

NOW!

HURRY! STORIES NEEDED!

Updated 11/25/12

Not Your Mother's Book . . .

A new anthology for a new century!

Nearly 40 titles in the NYMB series need stories! Stories must be written by people age 18 and up. Details on the PS website.

New NYMB Titles!

On Dieting

Working for a Living

DEADLINES, DEADLINES!

On Parenting: December 3, 2012

More deadline announcements will be made next month, but don't wait! Send your stories in NOW to avoid getting stuck in the piles of last-minute submissions.

OMG! My Reality Youth Series

Time to get published!

We are accepting stories for four *OMG! My Reality!* titles: *Kids*; *Preteens*; *Teens* and *Stand Up!* Stories must be written by those age 25 and younger. Please share this information. 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. More info at our website:

www.PublishingSyndicate.com

My Story is Out: High School Years

Created by Lyndsey D'Arcangelo

The nation's newest anthology for LGBT teens!

Attention LGBT teens and college-aged kids! Lyndsey needs stories for her book, so please pass along this information. Contributors who make the book will be paid royalties! **www.MyStoryIsOut.com**



**Dream
of
ThingsSM**

Dream of Things has a great line-up of anthology books. On their website, be sure to click on the "Workshop" tab for a listing of titles. Good luck!

www.DreamofThings.com

Go for it! Get published! 