

The
Wow

e-newsletter

Principles

Volume 2 No. 9 September 2006

Anthology Writing Tips: Working with Editors and Coauthors

The following is an adaptation from “The Wow Principles #1: Seven Steps to Wow Publishers into Purchasing Your Nonfiction Stories.” The complete e-booklet can be purchased on-line at www.PublishingSyndicate.com. The cost is \$7.95.

Step Seven discusses anthology writing tips, anthologies being mostly books as opposed to magazine articles and stories. In many cases, portions of the following information can be applied to magazine submissions.

If you are notified by an anthology, such as *Chicken Soup*, that your story has been tentatively selected for publication, it then will be time to work with the editor or coauthor. Most likely your story has already been edited to make it this far in the process. One of an editor’s or coauthor’s responsibilities is helping “promising” stories score as high as possible with the many grading readers. This often means shortening the story to a more reasonable length, making corrections and clarifying sentences and paragraphs. As discussed earlier, how you deal with these changes can dictate if your story ultimately sees print. Here are a few things to keep in mind when working with editors and/or coauthors:

If your story is selected for possible publication, your effort isn’t yet complete. Remember the word “possible.” Stories occasionally get cut even in the galley stage (the point where the book’s pages are actually typeset into their finished book format, ready for press).

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OCTOBER ISSUE

Introduction to
GHOSTWRITING

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Almost without exception, editors get paid to “edit” and they will likely “need” to change your story to keep their jobs. If you want to succeed in this business, do not get a reputation as being a pain. While there are rare exceptions, editors are very accomplished at what they do. Work with them; take advantage of *their* skills to help make *you* a better writer. With many anthologies, more stories than are actually needed are often pre-selected for final consideration. Working with the editors to get what they need to complete your submission is crucial to having your story see publication.

Depending on the publication, there may be or should be one or more opportunities for you to review, incorporate or disagree with the changes that your editor wants to make, or insists on you making. Choose your battles carefully. You may think that your story is perfect, after all you did all that editing and rewriting before you submitted your story. If the suggested edits make sense, and most likely they will, incorporate them without argument. Remember, the editor is ensuring that each story meets the editorial style and needs of a specific book; however, if an editor’s change is going to result in an inaccuracy in your story, then it’s time to bring this fact to the editor’s attention.



No matter whether or not you’ve had an opportunity to review your manuscript as it is prepared for publication, if you get to the galley stage, remember that editors and their publishers really don’t like making any more changes unless they are critical. By critical, we mean possibly an incorrect or misspelled name, town or product. This can occur with edits or rewrites that you haven’t previously seen or approved. This, unfortunately, is also the time that many overlooked minor edits and typos come to light; you haven’t seen the manuscript in several weeks or months and with this being a fresh “new” read for you, such problems usually jump up and practically slap you in the face. Beware: Editors and publishers will make such corrections, but they are especially reluctant to incorporate edits at this stage that result in changed page counts (either needing to add or delete a page).

Finally, there is ONE BIG MISTAKE that too many beginning writers make when submitting to anthology series; stories are t-o-o-o preachy, especially at the end. Most of the time, the ending is a paragraph or (ugh) even more, expounding to the reader what he/she should have been able to grasp for his/herself by reading the body of the story. Think about it this way: If a reader were interested only in your explanation of the moral of your story, he/she would just skip reading the story and go straight to your “answer” at the end. 

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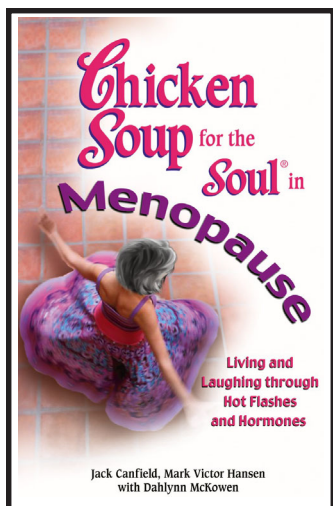
LINKS TO ANTHOLOGY SERIES

Chicken Soup for the Soul – www.chickensoup.com This website is brimming with information regarding current books, back list books and upcoming titles. Be sure to check out the links on the left-hand side; *Possible Books*, *Story Guidelines* and *Submit a Story* are good places to start. It's also a good idea to sign up for the free daily e-mail. You'll receive a new *Chicken Soup* story in your computer mailbox each day, which you can use for your research.

A Cup of Comfort – www.cupofcomfort.com This website is also full of great information regarding current books for purchase and story callouts for upcoming titles. Be sure to check out the links on the left-hand side; *Share Your Story* is the place to go to learn about submission guidelines and the sort.

HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF!

Last chance to submit stories!



The deadline is fast approaching to submit stories for *Chicken Soup for the Soul in Menopause*. The proposed table of contents and sample stories can be found at www.PublishingSyndicate.com. We have plenty of hot flash and night sweat stories; we're in need of stories by men about their significant-other going through menopause, or even by children who have survived their mother's "change." PLEASE, no essays, as we have more than we can use, and that goes for poems, too! Cartoons are also needed; visit the website for submission guidelines for both stories and cartoons. **DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2006**

Chicken Soup for the Red Hat Society Soul

Stories needed by Red Hat Society members, about RHS. Be sure to check the website for detailed submission guidelines and to read sample stories. **No more essays or poems, please!** Deadline: December 1, 2006 -- DEADLINE EXTENDED BY ONE MONTH
Slated Release: October 2007

Go for it! You can do it! Get published!

www.PublishingSyndicate.com