

Local author publishes children's books, & provides helpful information for starving writers!

by Rumor Hall

Cuyahoga Falls – A local writer emerges with not one, but *three* children's books in time for the holidays! Kimberly D. Goodyear, a 1988 graduate of Cuyahoga Falls High school and longtime resident of Cuyahoga Falls, turns her dreams into reality and professes that it *isn't* out of reach for anyone!

"I have *always* wanted to write a book," Kim says, "but like all new writers, I had no idea of how to attempt the publishing process. For weeks at a time I would comb through the libraries and research countless avenues on the internet, only to find the same information time and again. Submitting to a literary agent or paying out the nose for an a la carte 'vanity press,' was supposedly, the only way to go. There was quite a bit of helpful information out there, like how to make your proposal, and how to appeal to the right agent, but the information given sounded stringent and uninviting; an unappealing approach for someone who is going to supplement their paycheck!" Kim laughs. "I felt the prognoses on my success looked bleak to say the least, but I knew I had laid out some good material and that's what ultimately drove me to look in other directions. It's kind of like when you're first starting out and you're broke. You will find the cleverest of ways to ration meals, and get what you need. It's all about being flexible and creative."

Like many hopeful writers, Kimberly joined countless literary forums and message boards to gain insight on this **writer's epidemic**, only to find they were littered with lost hopefuls and people who had been scammed.

"I wondered how anyone got published in this world full of books, with guidelines being as stringent as they are. Some people on these message boards had success stories, but the majorities was clearly fed up with their "letters of rejection," and spend all their spare time forming alliances to provide tips, and support for each other, instead of promoting themselves." Kim says. "I feel like this is a good outlet for writers to have access to, but there has to be some point where you think, "Well, this isn't doing me any good," and move on. Instead, people are living their lives on these boards, complaining about how tough they have it. We all have it bad at one time or another. I say, go in another direction if you run into a wall! It isn't easy, but you have to keep finding ways to re-invent yourself."

So why is it so hard to get an agent? Unfortunately, the harsh reality to the **writer's epidemic** is true. Although literary agents scatter *this* Country and others like seeds, most writers are lucky to get their foot in the door without the ever imperative *name dropping* to add to a flattering list of credentials. There's no doubt that bulking up your portfolio with pro-bono articles and short stories could make you look better in the eyes of someone who matters, but as with anything else in this world, the competition is staggering. In fact, it's widely known that with the hundreds of thousands of manuscripts being submitted to any given agent on a daily basis, even the most legitimate agents in this country are fortunate to find publishers for even a handful of them, annually! This wreaks havoc on the big picture, for a writer!

"I've turned in my share of submissions that took hours to format to perfection, only to receive my gratuitous rejection letters or no responses at all. I felt I was running out of options and wasting my time to a group of people who would either have their secretary evaluate my work or get to my manuscript sometime next year, only to reject it! I knew I wasn't alone in this notion, and refused to give up. After rooting around, I discovered that my daughter's teacher was having an old friend of his that now worked in sales for **Random House Publishing**, coming in to read an excerpt from the new book at the time called, "Small Steps," by author **Louis Sachar**. Upon hearing this news, I immediately contacted my daughter's teacher and asked him to have her call me, and she did! Her name is **Stella Galatis**, and instead of using her name to better myself, I will share with you what this insightful woman shared with me. Firstly, she told me a true story about **Christopher Paolini** who wrote the book, "**Eragon**," which has recently been made into a movie. Paolini began writing *Eragon* at age fifteen and self published it to retain financial and creative control over the book. He then found a local grocery store that agreed to carry his book in their small literary section among the Hot Rod magazines, and Harlequin novels. By chance, a man from **Knopf publishing** was shopping there with his son, and steered him towards the humble corner of books, telling him to pick a book or he'd have no summer. (Apparently his son didn't like to read.) And as luck would have it, his son chose, "Eragon." Random House was the second publisher that contacted Paolini, and there is no question as to how it progressed from there. This story is what gave me the inspiration to ultimately finding **lulu.com**, a **free** self publishing site where all you need to do is follow simple instructions to format your work into a professional result. **Ms. Galatis'** message was to "just get it out there." Whether one finds a publishing house to *re-publish* your work is all based on luck (agent or not) and your work is doing nobody a bit of good collecting dust." Kim says with a grin. After your work is published, you will need to do the advertising yourself, as you would per most publishers, but lulu will help you do that, too, as well as providing you with a storefront to display your work. I encourage every writer to get off the shelf and put their futures back into their own hands.

And so there it is. No longer do the future upcoming writers of America need to save their dance cards. By self publishing your work, you can take control of your own future, and give it the look that you want. As in the words of **Louis Sachar** about a character in **Small Steps**, "The happy ending for the character is not just hoping to get the girl and live the celebrity life, but taking his small steps and making a life of his own." ~

To view Kimberly D. Goodyear's books, please visit;

<http://www.lulu.com/kimberlygoodyear>

Helpful links:

<http://www.lulu.com/kimberlygoodyear>

<http://www.lulu.com>

<http://www.absolutewrite.com>

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