

## Submit It and Forget It

By Melissa Face

In July of 2009, I made my first real attempt at publication in a national magazine. I wrote an essay about my grandparents' farm. I noted a bit about the property's history, told a few family stories and expressed my feelings about the farm. Then I drove out to the property and photographed my father working on his 1952 International pickup and took

a few shots of the hilltop farmhouse and the surrounding forests and fields.

For the next few days, I prepared my piece for submission. I entitled my essay, "Back Home Again." I read and reread it. I revised, reworded and reread some more. Then, after I had practically memorized my piece, I sent it and the accompanying photographs to the editor.

Then I waited. I waited and waited and waited.

I checked my email several times each day. I reread the writer's guidelines to make sure I had done everything correctly. Did my essay meet the required word limit? I wondered. I checked and it did. Had I sent them my phone number and my address? I checked; I had.

I obsessed about my essay for weeks. Then, while reading a book for writers, I came across a short little piece of advice. The author suggested that writers use the "submit it and forget it" approach. Adhere to the writer's guidelines, put forth a valiantly creative effort, send in stories, and then move on. It was great advice, and I intended to follow it. I just needed to check my email one more time.

By November, I realized I was probably not going to hear back from the magazine. Editors are often unable to respond to unsolicited manuscripts and I started to get used to the idea of my essay lying in a slush pile on the editor's office floor. After all, four months had passed and I had heard nothing. No email, no phone call, no letter. Nothing.

For Christmas, I made my father a calendar out of the pictures I had taken at the farm. He really appreciated the gift and was glad I had done something with the photos. "You should try to send your story somewhere else," he told me. "Send it to another magazine. It's a really good story. Someone will like it."

*Continued on next page...*

# Submit It and Forget It

I thought about it. But sending it elsewhere would require some serious editing. I would have to eliminate quite a few words and potentially destroy the essay's message. Plus, deep down inside, I still held on to a tiny glimmer of hope that the editor might contact me about my essay.

A few months later, I officially moved on. I no longer hoped for a response in my inbox or a message on my voicemail. I continued to write and sold some pieces to other publications. I added "Back Home Again" to my rejections folder and promised myself that I would work on it again . . . someday.

In July 2011, I left my house to run a few errands around town. Before I backed out of the driveway, I checked my mailbox. I had some bills, an early birthday card, a catalog and an envelope from Reiman Publications.

I opened the envelope and saw a check made out to me. A letter explained that the payment was for "Back Home Again." The magazine had bought my essay and would published it in their August issue. I couldn't believe it.

I ran back into my house, showed my dad the check and jumped up and down until my calves ached. It had been two years since I submitted my piece and it was going to be published. It was one of the best moments of my life.

When the issue came out, I drove to the closest bookstore and bought a copy. Several of my family members bought copies, also. I even photographed my magazine on the rack in the bookstore. I was so excited to have a story in a national magazine.

I still hold on to that snippet of advice that I read several years ago. "Submit it and forget it" is a great message for writers, especially those who tend to obsess about their work. But it is a lot easier said than done—even after two years have passed.

Last year, my dad framed a copy of my story and gave it to me for Christmas. It hangs in my hallway and I walk past it several times each day. I remember the day I wrote the piece, I remember waiting and I definitely remember how I felt when I found out it would be published.

I'm going to keep that framed copy in plain view forever. It is a reminder that in the publishing world and in life, just about anything is possible.



**Meet the author:** Melissa Face is new to the NYMB family. Her first story for the series appeared in *On Being a Mom* and her second story will be in the soon-to-be-released *On Family*, where she shares a funny story about her mother entitled "Farmer on the Dell." An accomplished freelance writer, Melissa teaches high school English in southeastern Virginia.

*Melissa's mom Kim and Melissa*

# *NYMB...On Being a Mom* Signing Event

On May 3rd, Dianna Graveman, co-creator of *NYMB...On Being a Mom*, held a book-launch event at the 6 North Café in Ballwin, Missouri. Ballwin is a suburb of St. Louis.

Many NYMB contributors live in Missouri; actually, about 25-percent of all submissions to the NYMB series come from there. The “show-me” state is doing a great job of showing Publishing Syndicate that it hosts many terrific writers!

Dianna reported that the event was very successful and everyone had a good time. By the looks of the photo, it appears that Renee Hughes was having *too* much fun!

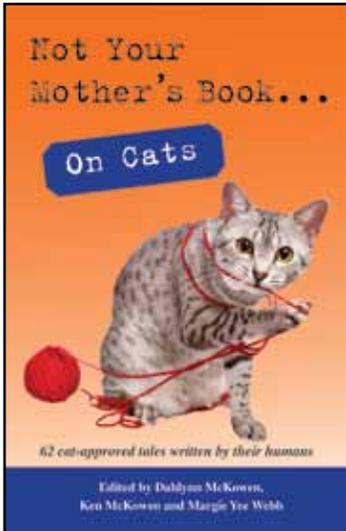
If you missed this event, mark your calendar for Tuesday evening, July 15th, at STL Books in Kirkwood, MO (<http://www.stlbooks.com>). Both Dianna—and co-creator of our newest book Linda O’Connell, *NYMB...On Family*, set to release in June—will be there to sign their books. And, of course, the books’ local contributors are expected to join them again. It will be interesting to see Renee try to outdo herself for this event!



**L to R, back row:** Renee Hughes, Camille Subramaniam, Jenny Beatrice, Candace Carrabus, Donna Volkenannt, T’Mara Goodsell, Marcia Gaye and Laura Graf

**L to R, front row:** Ellie Grossman, Angela Thomas, the book’s co-creator Dianna Graveman, Mary Horner and Kathleen Wade (All shown in the photo are contributors to *NYMB. . . On Being a Mom* except Kathleen Wade, who is Donna Volkenannt’s sister and was included in Donna’s story.)

# Book Updates

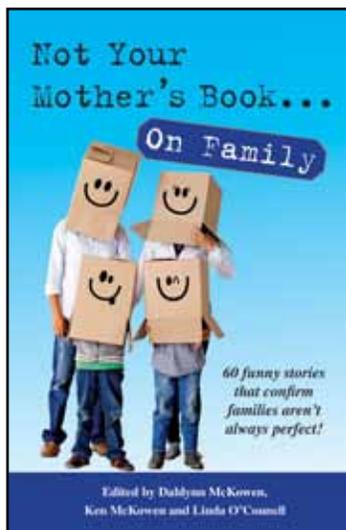
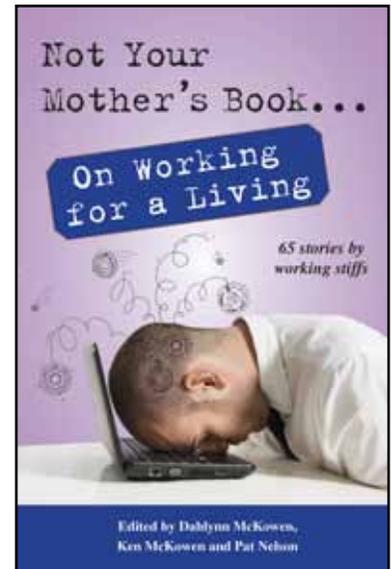


**NYMB...On Cats:** The book is finished and will be sent to the printer next week. Thank you to all who submitted their stories for consideration. Release: September 2014

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**NYMB...On Working for a Living:** The first batch of Permission Release Agreements have been issued. But don't give up hope, as there are still 30 more stories to select. Send in your story for consideration now! Release: September 2014



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**NYMB...On Family:** The book is done and the first print run due to arrive next week. Contributor copies will go out the week of June 16th, but contributors can order additional books now. Contact [Ken@PublishingSyndicate.com](mailto:Ken@PublishingSyndicate.com) for ordering information. Release: June 2014

**Dahlynn and Ken will be speaking at the upcoming Southeastern Writers Workshop, June 13-17, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia**

The McKowens are guests of the Southeastern Writers Association and would love to meet you! The 2014 conference will consist of two independent workshops. The weekend workshop (June 14-15) is dedicated to nonfiction writing. Dahlynn and Ken will be two of the many speakers during the weekend event. The weekday workshop (June 16-17) is focused on fiction writing.

For more info, including the workshop schedule, speaker bios and, most importantly, to register, visit this website: [http://southeasternwriters.org/Writers\\_Workshop.html](http://southeasternwriters.org/Writers_Workshop.html).



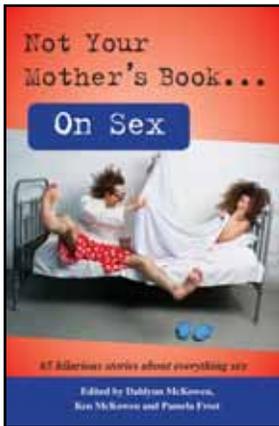
# Last Page! Last Page! Last Page!

The “Last Page” features contests and story opportunities from Publishing Syndicate and other companies—but only those call-outs that do not compete with PS’ books will be posted.

## *Not Your Mother’s Book . . .*

Stories needed for these books. NYMB caters to mature readership, thus, submissions must be written by people age 18 and older. [Click on book cover](#) for more info or visit the PS website for other books.

### **UPCOMING DEADLINES**

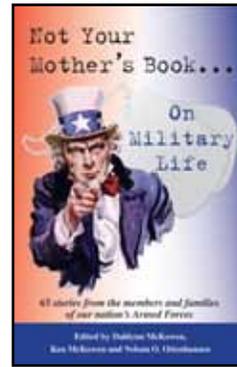
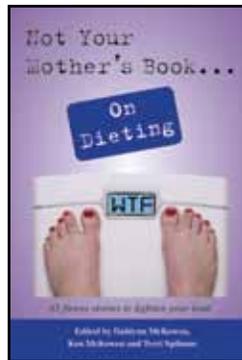


**NOW!!**

#### *On Sex:*

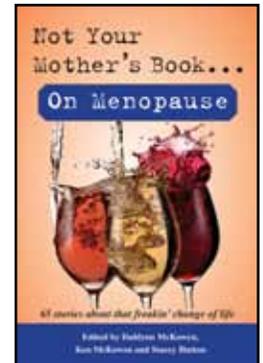
This title will start production as soon as *On Working for a Living* is done (mid-July). Submit now, as first-round selections will begin soon.

*On Dieting:*  
July 1, 2014



*On Military Life:*  
Sept. 1, 2014

*On Menopause:*  
Sept. 1, 2014



**Submission guidelines at [www.PublishingSyndicate.com](http://www.PublishingSyndicate.com)**

This just in from [www.WritersMarket.com](http://www.WritersMarket.com):

### BOOK PUBLISHERS LOOKING FOR WRITERS

WritersMarket.com lists hundreds of book publishers for writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, writing for children and more. Here are three open to submissions:

- **Academy Chicago Publishers** publishes 10 titles per year. They publish literary fiction and nonfiction. Submit a query with 3 sample chapters and outline.
- **Chronicle Books** publishes 90 titles per year. The editors say, "We're always looking for the new and unusual." Prospective authors should submit a cover letter with a proposal package.
- **Lee & Low Books** publishes 12-14 titles per year. The house currently emphasizes fiction and nonfiction for 5- to 12-year-olds. Prospective authors should submit a complete manuscript by postal mail.

WritersMarket.com lists more than 8,000 publishing opportunities, including listings for contests, magazines, book publishers, literary agents, conferences, and more. Log in or sign up today to start submitting your work. [www.WritersMarket.com](http://www.WritersMarket.com)



## *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

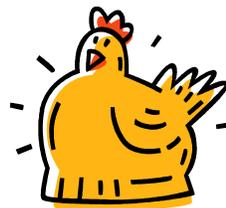
More info: [www.chickensoup.com](http://www.chickensoup.com)

*Touched by an Angel:* Deadline: May 30, 2014

*Christmas in Canada:* Deadline: May 30, 2014

*Stories ABOUT Moms:* Deadline: Sept. 30, 2014

*The Power of Forgiveness:* Deadline: June 30, 2014



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