



Monthly Conversation

Volume 2 Issue 1 January 2015

### Author's Spotlight

#### Meet Sondra Bateman

I have chosen the Historical Fiction Novel for my canvas. It provides me with the most satisfaction, and challenges me to excel at story telling.

I think many things go into my reason for writing, but the love of the novel fulfills my need to write. The longer and more involved the plot, the more joy I find in the daily process. I especially like coming up with an initial premise for a story on my own and then doing the research to find an historical fit for the adventure.



*West of Eden* is a story of slavery and the choices one makes to stand up for their beliefs. It was from this preliminary idea my journey began. Through continuing research and plot structure, a tale of struggle and reality has emerged on the pages.

The reality of the slave trade in England provided the historical backdrop for my novel and provides insight into the core values of man amidst the challenges of the societal scourge of slavery. From this historical reality, I have created characters to play the specific roles history provided, while bringing the central theme to the reader effectively. I cannot place one character over another as they each fulfill a critical part of the story being told.

Choosing historical fiction as my genre does have its challenges. Research into the subject is critical, and molding the words and actions of my characters to fit the historical realities is required.

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<p><i>Have an idea or article for the newsletter...</i></p>	
<p>Be sure to email the <a href="#">editor</a> and we will do our best to get you published... It is all about sharing the word...</p>	

#### About the Book:

West of Eden  
Currently in first revision  
Historical Fiction  
125K words  
Expected Publication - Summer 2015

#### About my Journey:

As a 6<sup>th</sup> generation Texan who lives in the North Texas area, my writing journey began as a little girl by copying down, letter by letter, a favorite book after I learned how to write. It was the love of books, instilled in me by my mother reading to me. Now, with pen in hand, I had the power to create a story of my own.

I find inspiration in everything around me. I have many new ideas at various stages of development. But the biggest joy so far, is setting the final scene in my novel. There is something very special about accomplishing what you set out to do.

Every story starts with a kernel of an idea. Last time I checked, I have close to 14 ideas written down. After mulling it over for a time, I start trying to work out a possible plot. From there, I start researching the subject matter. When I feel ready, I start writing a synopsis of sorts and go from there. I try to write at least one hour a day after I come home from work. My advice to others on this wonderful journey; make time for what's important, whether reading or writing, and make it part of the daily joy of your life!

## *New Year's Resolutions for an Author*

Once again, the shift of seasons brings us to a new beginning of the tried and true (*or is it the tired and troubled*) resolution making ceremony. How will you set the standard for the grand and glorious year of 2015?

***To assure proper disclosure, I, an author, do hereby proclaim that I fully intend to attempt each and every resolution inked within this article. I further affirm that my punishment for non-performance will be meted out by my grandchildren as I subject myself to a one hour tickling session for every broken promise.***

The making of resolutions is embedded in the psyche of the human condition. A powerful internal measuring device to allow us to perceive progress and take control of our individual journey in life.



As an employee or even as an employer, these resolutions affect others and have need for continuing results. As a father, I not only need to set my goals but make sure they fulfill my duty as protector to my family.

As an author, the responsibilities from without are not nearly so important. It is the internal needs that should be measured and here is where I will place my author resolutions for 2015.

*Firstly - I resolve to...*

**Put the pen in hand.** This is a statement of choice rather than process, since there are so many ways to get the written word on paper. If I do not place myself in the act of writing, then all other self-promises will be for naught. Pick up the pen and write. I will endeavor to make use of the gift I have been given, by placing thoughts and ideas, in legible format, so that they can be passed on.

I will make this my first thought upon rising and make it one of wonderful excitement. I will measure only my growing desire to pick up the pen and write. Nothing else can assure me that today will be the gift my life seeks to fulfill.

*Continued on page 3*

## *Today's Encouragement*

Set a schedule...

By the time I was halfway through my book, I realized that I'd be able to pop out 1,000 words in a session on a good day and only about 14 on a bad day. Now I pop out 1,000 words *at least, no matter what*. I'm definitely approaching my writing as a professional would—I don't have time for writer's block.

I'd suggest developing a writing habit once a day, or at the very least 3-4 times a week, and *sticking with it*. Give it 21 days—enough time for a real habit to sink it—before you change it up.

[Apr 23, 2012 by Nick Thacker](#)



## *New Year's Resolutions Continued*

### *Secondly - I resolve to...*

**Embrace my inner author.** My writings will eventually be measured by the outside world but, in the beginning and at their core, it is the desire to share the words that wells up inside me and shouts for an outlet worthy of the cause. The reality of my individual journey in life is to admit that I matter, and that I have something wonderful to say.

No matter what your ambition or task, allowing the measurement of others to take control of your journey is tantamount to defeat. Celebrate the inner you and the gift, allowing it to flow freely. Time and repetition will find the level of quality, honing your work to meet other's expectations.

### Thirdly - I resolve to...

**Commune with another author.** My immediate reaction to this statement, as it rattled out of my brain, was how did such a hippy dippy thought ever come from my curmudgeon mind? And yet... The interplay of two authors on the writer's journey is such a powerful elixir for life's little problems. Make sure you find ways to connect often and with feeling. The solitary nature of authorship should never block us from the touch of community.

### Fourthly - I resolve to...

**Act on what I can control.** Let the rejection letters and gruff critiques be damned! I choose to write and, therefore, I choose to do what I can to further my goals as an author.

I select this resolution with open eyes. Daily, it will drive me towards an ever increasing discipline of writing and book marketing activities that I must embrace to move forward. I do not want to say that waking up and proclaiming myself an author is not enough but if I truly want my gift, I must participate in it growth.

### Fifthly and Finally - I resolve to...

**Give something back.** The journey of life is filled with many opportunities to provide service to others. Here is this writer's understanding of why we reach out and help another.

I can provide just a little love, a thimble full of love to be exact. Yet, when I cast this droplet of good will upon the waters of life, I receive back buckets full. It is math that goes beyond mere calculation to spiritual regeneration and it is so worth the effort.

My personal byline is "*to write is to place love in the hands of generations to come*". Each day, I attempt this feat in the world about me. As an author, I pray that my writings will pass on thimbles full for generations to come.

*r.e.joyce is a dusty old gentleman with a west Texas drawl who can be found prospecting for good yarns and talking to his mule, Gertrude.*



*Dream Writer Press*  
*Writing Your Dreams*



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I ♥ A MYSTERY

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***Submission Guidelines:***

1. Submissions must conform to our editorial policy: no kinky or explicit sex, no excessive language. No "f" word. No gore.
2. Include your real name and your real address. They will be kept confidential.
3. Stories must be submitted electronically in Word, using Times New Roman 12 point (no PDF submissions).

[send to: submissions@estherluttrellbooks.com](mailto:submissions@estherluttrellbooks.com)



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Meetings for Write Away and other important engagements

Meeting with Link	Key Topic	Date & Time
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	<a href="#">Sun Jan 11, 2015, 3:00 PM</a>
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	<b>Carol Factor Speaking on "showing not telling"</b>	<b>Sun Feb 8, 2015, 3:00 PM</b>
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	Sun Mar 8, 2015, 3:00PM
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	Sun Apr 12, 2015, 3:00PM
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	Sun May 10, 2015, 3:00PM
<a href="#">Write Away HEB Writers Group</a> ~~Engage, Encourage, Enjoy!	Monthly Club get together	Sun Jun 14, 2015, 3:00PM

Have a meeting you want to advertise that will help our members and advance their writing dreams please contact our [Newsletter Editor](#) and we will review and post as appropriate. Remember this

*Monthly Conversation* belongs to you.

## Pilcrow & Dagger

Tidings, Tidbits & Tomfoolery For Writers

In January 2015 we will publish our premier issue of the Pilcrow & Dagger journal. We are inviting writers nationally to submit a short story, poem or essay to be published in the journal. The submission

guidelines and themes are available on our website:

<http://www.pilcrowdagger.com/submissions/>

We hope you have an opportunity to visit our site and hope your *WriteAwayHEB* members will consider submitting!

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