

Break into Fiction

Media Questions for Dianna Love and Mary Buckham

Where do you two live?

Mary Buckham is in Port Townsend, WA (near Seattle) and Dianna Love is in Peachtree City, GA (near Atlanta)

How did you two start working together?

We met in Boise, ID at a writing conference where we'd both been asked to speak on the same panel. We hit it off immediately, realizing we both approach writing the same way – in an analytical manner.

What is different about your book on writing from all the others?

The first major difference is that more than just telling someone how to write a solid story *Break Into Fiction®: Power Plot Your Novel* allows the writer actually work on their “own” story from the opening chapter to the end. This book is laid out in a logical pattern that teaches a writer the building blocks to a good story. Answering the questions about the characters and events in their story will show the writer how to go deeper and layer.

Who does this book target?

Unpublished writers, published authors, plotters and pantsers (those who write “by the seat of their pants” rather than plan ahead). This book will help a new writer figure out what comes first, second and so on in a book. The more experienced writers who receive “unique story, unique voice and interesting characters, but not for us” rejections will find out what is missing or not working the editor or agent doesn't have the time to explain to them. Published authors must be efficient to be prolific so having a way to plot a better story faster for the plotters or to locate weak points and plot holes for the pantsers is a huge benefit. An experienced author knows if their story has a sagging middle, but not always how to fix it.

Why did you decide to put this program in a book?

Because we receive daily requests to teach this program from both cities in the United States and in other countries. With our writing and travel schedules we can't possibly meet the need for so many in private retreats. This book will allow anyone to work on their own to write a book or for critique groups and local writing organizations to help each other create better books.

How do you think the 2008 downturn in economy will impact new books getting published?

Publishers will always need books to meet the demands of readers, but they will become even more discerning about how they spend a budget for new books. The single biggest myth about publishing for brand new writers is that if they write a book an editor will “edit” or fix the story problems. Editors do not have that kind of time. They are looking for a book that is 95% ready to publish and this means more than perfect grammar and spelling – the story and characters have to be fully developed. Editors may really like a story that is interesting, but due to a character's recurring motivation issue they will pass on it, because they do not have the time to start working with a writer who has not learned the basics of good plotting on their own. This puts the responsibility on the writer to assure their book is ready when it's submitted.