

TAYLOR'S TIPS for a productive writing career...



Dear Fellow Writer,

Do you have a best friend?

I have 21.

Yup, that's right. Twenty-one. And one of them, Sallie, is in the picture with me above. I wish I could have had all 21 of my best friends in the *Guideposts* new feature that premiered in March this year called Best Friends. But they were looking for just one best friend and they wanted contrast....and Sallie and I are just that...different on the outside (so we gave the editors what they wanted--a lot of dressy difference for the picture). You might not believe it, but we're more alike on the inside than you could imagine. She's soft and gooey when it comes to emotions and children and feelings (just like me) and tough as bamboo shoots when it comes to business and work ethics (also like me).

Now where did I find a best friend like Sallie? Where did I find the other 20 best friends that I have? They're all members of my three writers groups. And I love each and every one of them to pieces.

Not only are we *friends*, we're much, much more. These writers group women have become more to me than writing buddies who encourage, support, and motivate me. We discuss markets

to submit to, nonacceptances that we receive, celebrate successes of publication, dry tears when a manuscript doesn't make a final cut, share lessons learned at conferences, read our work out loud to each other, constructively offer comments and critiques to help to make the writing better, look at someone else's writing with as much fervor and excitement as we do our own because their success is just as thrilling as our own. Don't believe me? Try it and see.

Do you have best friends? A buddy from high school, a neighbor down the block, a coworker? Do they understand you as a writer (like only another writer can)? Do they commiserate when you are waiting on pins and needles to hear back from an agent or editor? Do they understand the high you feel upon acceptance after you've worked and reworked your manuscript until you think your fingers are going to break right off? Do they get it?

If they don't, find yourself some best friends who do. I guarantee you, a good writers group is as good as gold. Gold as in money....**greenbacks**...stuff you can spend at the store. Because when you are in a writers group that really works, you'll become a better writer, you'll submit more, and you'll become accepted more. It naturally happens.

Find yourself some new best friends today. You'll love that you did.

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

What's Happening...

Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference – I leave Thursday morning for the conference and I CAN'T WAIT! It will be exciting to be teaching this year on Writing for the Guideposts Contest. I think they still have openings if you want to come. Check it out. And if you don't make it this year, start putting away \$20 dollar **greenback** bills in an envelope marked "Mount Hermon." If you start early enough, you can save the conference fee up by Christmas (even ask for some help for the funding as a Christmas gift -- what better gift to give a writer). Dates for this year: April 3-7, 2009 (always held over Palm Sunday weekend). <http://mounthermon.org/adult/professionals/writers-conference>

Mom's 80th Birthday Party - Later in April I'll be flying to Wisconsin to help my mom celebrate. We'll gather family and friends for a rip-roaring good ole Wisconsin fish fry, some swimming in the hotel pool, probably a pizza party or two, a good movie with popcorn and soda, and some long, lingering chats catching up. That's another one that I CAN'T WAIT for. Nothing like family. Love every one of 'em.

New website in the works - in the next day or so my newly designed website will be up and running. I hope you don't mind, but I'm going to send you a separate email with the new site address so you can poke around on it if you want to. There's going to be new stuff there all the time. I hope you like it.

Follow your dreams...

B.J.

Author of :

“The Complete Guide to Writers Groups That Work”

Available on Amazon.com or <http://www.buybooksontheweb.com/product.aspx?ISBN=0-7414-4099-7>

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