

Jumpstart Your Publishing Dreams



by **W. Terry Whalin**
WTW Press, PB,
275 pages,
\$19.95
Order from
www.jumpstart
yourpublishing
dreams.com.

Reading *Jumpstart Your Publishing Dreams* is like having a seasoned professional guide you through the publishing maze. In this valuable resource, Whalin shares insider tips from more than 20 years of experience in the industry. His roles as writer, magazine editor, book author, book-acquisitions editor, and literary agent give him a unique perspective that benefits both beginning and advanced writers.

The first half of the book covers topics especially useful for new writers. Whalin offers practical help to get started, set writing goals, and increase productivity. He advises writers to gain publishing experience with or without pay and to participate in critique groups. One chapter includes 12 characteristics of successful authors, while another encourages writers to keep reading to enrich their lives and improve their writing. Whether you want to write magazine articles, strengthen your storytelling with interviews, or gain input on writer's organizations, you'll find a wealth of information to guide you toward success.

Later chapters, geared for more experienced writers, include ways to advance your career. Whalin gives tips to build a platform, create an online presence, benefit from conferences, and hire a literary agent. You'll also find chapters on book writing, coauthoring or ghostwriting, and marketing. I particularly appreciated his

innovative ideas to repurpose previous writing and speaking content into different products, such as audio CDs, teleseminars, and blooks (e.g., serialized blogs).

Each of the 20 chapters ends with two sections to help writers grow in their craft. "Dig Deeper" lists additional resources, such as books and Internet sites, and "Awaken Your Dreams" shows readers how to apply that chapter's content.

Plus the book comes with a listing of more than \$84 of e-books for free.

Whalin's easy-to-understand writing and pertinent examples held my interest from beginning to end. Since this motivating read includes more information than I can implement at once, I'll keep it handy to reread and refer to often.

Whether you write fiction or nonfiction, write for children or adults, Whalin's inspiring guidebook offers a gold mine of wisdom to help you succeed. Those who apply its teaching will undoubtedly jump-start their publishing dreams.

Lydia E. Harris has accumulated hundreds of bylines by writing magazine articles, devotionals, book reviews, recipes, and her popular column, "A Cup of Tea with Lydia." She has contributed to numerous books, including The Write Start and Daily Devotions for Writers.