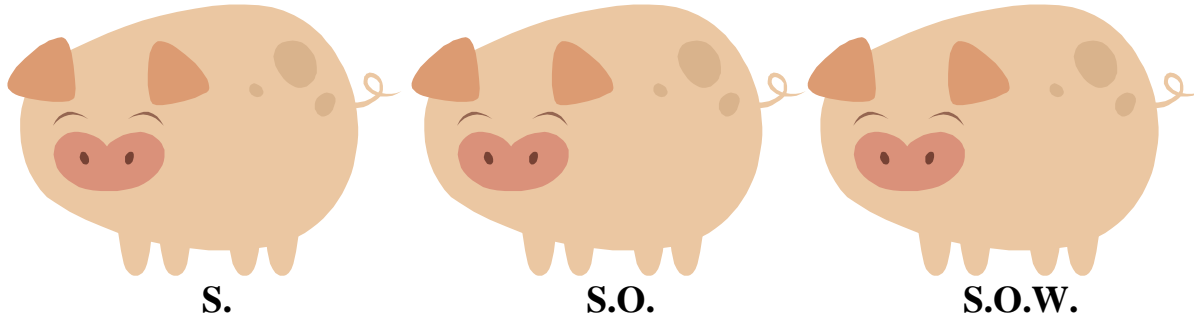


Reject Me, Please! How to be a Warrior Woman Writer **By Kimberly A. Cook**

Ever heard the expression, turn a sow's ear into a silk purse?

Let me introduce you to:

S.O.W. - A Top Secret Formula to Convert Rejection To Success



S = Sulk - Allowed 30 minutes. Turn on the timer. Enjoy. Wallow in it. Then move on.

O = Overcome - Overcome the rejection by asking - So what have I learned from this? You can always find something. Even knowing this is not the right agent, editor, or publishing house for you. There are more out there.

W = Write - So what if you got a call from ? Use the writing technique of what if? What if Tom Selleck, (Johnny Depp, Josh Hartnett, etc.) called to use your romance book for a screenplay? (It could happen) Would you be ready? Would you have the current manuscript reworked? Think about it. You now have time to really polish this book so when Tom, Johnny, or Josh call, you're good to go. Or if an agent or publisher calls. Be grateful for the rejection.

Use Military Strategy:

Plan. Execute. Be flexible. Reassess the plan. Modify the plan. Set new goals. Execute. Plan. Notice the circular path this takes. Eventually you will wear somebody down in the publishing business. Really. It's a game of survivor. Set new goals. Put on your big girl shoes, as Suzanne Brockmann would say. And pack snacks, as I always say.

Embrace Rejection! Here are 5 great reasons you want to be rejected:

1. You are writing and submitting.
2. You're getting a free critique service. You also don't have to agree with it.
3. You actually finished a manuscript. It's a miracle. You are in an exclusive club.
4. Make your accountant and the IRS happy at the same time. A rejection proves you are a working writer. You're trying.
5. You get membership in RWA PRO! You get a special ribbon which allows you entrance to exclusive classes, because you've been rejected. I never got a ribbon and special classes for any dating rejections.

Kimberly A. Cook

Think of five rewards for taking a rejection in stride.

1. Get a bra fitting. You can't be up if the girls are down.
2. Buy a domain name for your book title or business. A cheap \$9.99 a year at www.godaddy.com
3. Make a Brag Book. Instead of pictures of the cat, get a big portfolio and put in all your great publicity, letters, and news clips. It's a great tool to use at a book signing for people to look at AND I can find what I am looking for in the Brag Book when my files are a mess.
4. Buy a new pair of shoes. Enough said.
5. Evasive maneuvers. Figure out a way around the rejection. Morph yourself or your manuscript. Make a battle plan. Be creative and crafty. Be a Warrior Woman Writer.

Pick a Writing Hero to Guide You:

Preferably a cartoon character. While I would like to think the writer's life resembles Bugs Bunny, my writing hero is definitely Scrat from the movies *Ice Age* and *Ice Age 2*. We romance writers are always chasing that publishing acorn, whether we are published or not. But first and foremost, Scrat never gives up.

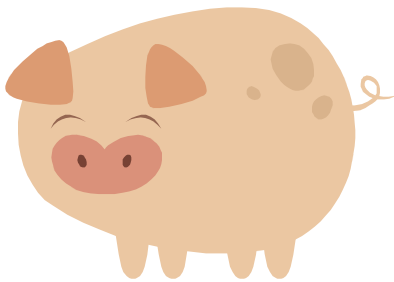
Set one new writing goal.

**Right now. On this piece of paper. (Hint: Notice the large white space below.)
Then....**

Remember the Dancing Pig!

S.O.W. Power!

Over and Out.



Resources: Brag Book = 1 ½ inch ProView Binder by BlueSky, www.blueskyimg.com
Movers & Shakers™ animated pig, Item# 56.31872 www.Department56.com
Milk Chocolate Covered Mint Oreo cookies, 1.800.NABISCO or
www.nabisco.com/chocolatecovered/
www.romvets.com

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