

DH 101: or How to Stay Married and Continue Writing (Curtis & Wooten)

Most of us don't really listen to how we sound to our families when talking about our writing. Join multi-published author, Melinda Curtis, and her husband for a light-hearted, yet serious, look at how each phase of your writing career is viewed by someone other than another writer or a fan!

- I. **Pre-Publication.** There is a lot of haphazard enthusiasm in the Pre-Publication phase. Most important is finally admitting that you ARE a writer. Who better to admit that to than the one you love most?
  - a. We've listed some of our challenges in this phase. Cross out/add your own.

Challenges	She/Author Said	He Heard/He Said
Money	I need to join RWA/chapter	
Book purchases	I'm always on the lookout for new authors/trends	
Finding time to write	I can write while sitting at Aunt Margaret's kitchen table during a family birthday party	
Conferences	Family Reunion v Conference	
Day job/paying the bills	Writing will pay more than my day job someday	
Relationships	I'm not coming to bed, I'm writing	
Other:		

- II. **First Sale.** The First Sale creates an avalanche of pie-in-the-sky dreams that can overwhelm an author, much less an innocent bystander, like your spouse.
  - a. We've listed some of our challenges in this phase. Cross out/add your own.

Challenges	She/Author Said	He Heard/He Said
Money	I need a web site, 5000 bookmarks & pens, an ad	
Book purchases	I'm always on the lookout for new authors/trends	
Finding time to write	I can't write when you're around	
Conferences	A Weekend in Paradise v Conference	
Day job/paying the bills	The day job annoys me	
Relationships	I'm 100 pages behind. How can I relax?	
Other:		

**DH101 Handout (continued)**

III. **Subsequent Sales.** This is when the writing becomes more like a job, bringing new pressures/blows to the ego/dream.

a. We've listed some of our challenges in this phase. Cross out/add your own.

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>She/Author Said</b>	<b>He Heard/He Said</b>
Money	What is the cheapest way to promote this book?	
Book purchases	I'm always on the lookout for new authors/trends, but I can peruse for free while sipping a latte in Borders	
Finding time to write	There's an ebb and flow to my writing but I pace myself now.	
Conferences	Family Reunion v Conference	
Day job/paying the bills	I need those benefits	
Relationships	I need to unwind and reconnect	
Other:		

IV. **Keeping Family in Mind.** Our parting advice.

Harlequin Superromances by Melinda Curtis

- ✓ *Michael's Father*, 1/03
- ✓ *Getting Married Again*, 2/04, , Hot Shot Series
- ✓ *The Family Man*, 11/04, Hot Shot Series
- ✓ *Expectant Father*, 9/05, Hot Shot Series
- ✓ *Back to Eden*, 4/06, Hot Shot Series
- ✓ *Once Upon a Christmas*, 11/06, novella collection with Brenda Novak & Anna Adams
- ✓ *The Best-Kept Secret*, 5/07
  - *Nominated for Superromance of the Year 2007 by RT Magazine*
- ✓ *Count on Love*, 11/07
- ✓ *A Marriage Between Friends*, 7/08 (sequel to *Count on Love*)