

Make It Happen:
Ten Tips to Breaking in or Breaking Back In

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Reclaim your power to “make it happen” in your life and your writing career!

- 1) Self-Evaluation
 - a. Evaluate your rejections—what are they telling you?
 - b. Better yet, what is your inner voice telling you?
 - c. What do you want? No, really.

- 2) Thinking outside the box.
 - a. When it’s not working, do something different. (The definition of insanity means doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.)
 - i. Maybe it’s not your idea, it’s your execution.
 - ii. Maybe it’s not your execution, it’s your presentation.
 - b. Find a new approach.
 - i. Change subgenres of romance or change genres altogether.
 - ii. Become creative – write non-fiction that will help to make that fiction sale a reality.

- 3) Retaking Control. (Don’t rely upon other people to make it happen for you.)
 - a. Contests. (Yes, they can work!)
 - b. Networking. (Sometimes, it really is who you know.)
 - c. Volunteering. (Another way to get your name out there!)
 - d. Take a writing class. (Feed the mind, nurture the soul.)
 - e. Teach a writing class in your area of specialty. (How could your knowledge about your day job/other passions help other writers?)

- 4) Set the stage for success. (Because, ultimately, the only thing you can control is your response to adversity.)
 - a. Set realistic goals—and meet them.
 - b. Stay focused on the writing. (Meaning, WRITE!)
 - c. Did we mention “positive attitude?”

- 5) Take Baby Steps. (Do one little thing every day to make it happen.)
 - a. Positive attitude – each and every day.
 - b. Writing a page, researching a fact, entering a contest—all support the goal.
 - c. Celebrating the little stuff keeps you motivated.

- 6) Following Your Own Path.

- a. Stop comparing yourself to your friends. (Don't fall for the "Why is SHE selling and I'm not?" trap.)
 - b. Look at your voice. (Are you writing in the best genre for you? Have you tried anything different?)
 - c. What fires your soul?
- 7) Find a team partner.
- a. Critiques/Brainstorming—it's all good.
 - b. Writing partnerships/PR partnerships—find someone whose strengths counterbalance your weaknesses.
 - c. Again, think outside the box!
- 8) Ignore the Fear
- a. Motivational reading and other ways to fight off fear.
 - b. Fear of change/failure is normal—get over it.
 - c. Believe in yourself—you really can do anything!
- 9) Become your own publicist
- a. The best PR is word of mouth—put yourself on the water cooler radar!
 - i. Generate positive press.
 - ii. The awesome power of a "thank-you" note.
 - b. Stay open for new opportunities.
- 10) Know the difference between being driven and being obsessed. (Knowing when you're running on empty and when it's time to refill your soul with some TLC.)
- a. Balance is important.
 - b. Knowing when it's time to fine-tune your approach.