

**HOW TO WRITE A BOOK AND GET PUBLISHED  
ALL THAT I KNOW ABOUT WRITING!**

by  
**CRAIG LOCK**

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## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Craig Lock was born in South Africa and has been living in Gisborne NZ, his ex-wife's former home town for the last six years. For the last few years he has been writing full-time, rather prolifically since December 1993: a few articles for magazines, but mostly books. To date he has had six books published in the UK. All are on widely different subjects from self development to travel (humour), to novels on South Africa. Craig has also written a number of other works on the mind and other subjects, as well as a manuscript on sports psychology.

Craig is presently working on a number of new projects. He loves living in Gisborne NZ and finds the beauty and tranquillity here very inspirational to writing. Craig ran a successful course in creative writing at the local polytechnic and is doing some other teaching. He has a degree in psychology and has been intensely studying human behaviour for the last few years. He is particularly interested in self development and using the immense power of the mind to help make all our dreams come true. This is the reason for offering this new course to the local community.

Craig's latest effort is Eagle Productions in association with Nugrow Technologies present their all New "Online Creative Writing and Book Publishing Course". [www.creativekiwis.com/course](http://www.creativekiwis.com/course)

## **DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to my dear ex-wife Marie and to my wonderful boys Gareth and Sean. Thanks Marie for all the help and support in enabling me to find my niche in life. To the twins, thanks guys for being my pride and joy and for bringing me so much happiness. This work is also dedicated to my dear loving parents, Ray and Hazel, who have given me so much in life. And dearest mom your creative spirit lives on.

Also to all creative people throughout the world. All of you people have added something to this wonderful world of ours by making it better, no, not only better...but so much more beautiful through the sharing of your creative spirits...because I believe the essence of great art is communication - sharing your heart and touching other people.

I hope to do this in this book by helping stir the creative spirit deep within your heart.

Craig (originally written in 1995 and now many years later in the year 2009 the feelings are stronger than ever)

## **INTRODUCTION**

I want to write a book...but are you sure you want to be a writer? You may think it sounds good and romantic - but I've found over here in provincial New Zealand that the "very down to-earth Kiwis" (New Zealanders) are not impressed one bit. Even back in my homeland, South Africa, no-one believed what I was saying for years - until they had my first book in their hands.

Firstly, a word of warning...

Writing is hard lonely work in probably the world's most solitary occupation. In fact, writing books usually doesn't make one rich - like all creative endeavours. There are only one or two Wilbur Smith's, James Michener's, Frederick Forsyth's and Jefferey Archer's around. Most other writers barely scrape a living. Like me! The situation is far worse in a small country like New Zealand, where the average first print run is only 2000-3000 copies and even their most famous writers earn "peanuts".

Because of it's very small population, I took a broader world view with my work and went for the UK market (population 60 million, as opposed to the 4 million Kiwis). It was very much harder and took a lot longer time - 2 1/2 to 3 years from the time that I finished my first book "How to Survive the Nineties". Never mind, in the end it's all worth it. At least I hope so!

It's a great feeling to hold YOUR book in your own hand, a book containing your unique ideas, thoughts and visions. It's a part of you, which you are sharing a little bit with the world.

But it's not easy. Otherwise everyone would be doing it. All writers have to accept rejection...so be prepared for many disappointments along the way. Then when you taste success, you feel great.

A good book to get you started is

**JOHN PARSONS NEW ZEALAND WRITER'S HANDBOOK:**

## GETTING STARTED

### MAKING A WRITER OUT OF YOU

#### WHAT DO WE NEED TO GET STARTED IN WRITING?

#### THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Anyone with reasonable literary skills can write, but not many people can write really well. Yet we all have the opportunity to use this means of expressing our creative energy. You don't need much: no money - only time and IMAGINATION. To start writing, all you need is a place, a pen, paper and an idea (which comes through the amazing power of the human mind).

Firstly, on to work habits: Organise yourself (my big difficulty in all areas of life!). Decide WHERE you want to write. Which room will enable you to concentrate and lift your spirits the most? I find writing outdoors enables me to be most relaxed and therefore at my most creative with the sun shining on me.

#### THEN

Allocate a few hours a day when you won't be disturbed (very hard to do these days with many "dropped in, dropped out" visitors). Then stick to it with total COMMITMENT (remember the qualities of a writer from earlier?).

What other tools are there to help you?

The local library, dictionaries, like a Thesaurus. What's that? And especially, a dictionary of quotations. Can you start a sentence with an "and"? All of these resources are extremely helpful to a writer. I find the local library especially helpful. Get to know your way around, to find out where things are. Using this resource saves a great deal of time and frustration...and most of all, money - not having to buy books ("El cheaposkate", like me). I am constantly using the facilities of the excellent HB Williams Memorial Library here in Gisborne.

What other resources are easily available?

Dictionaries: Such as the Oxford Dictionaries of Quotations. They'll always come in handy when you're looking for a good quote. Incidentally, good grammar and punctuation, together with presentation, is very important in getting published. I cover more on this subject in subsequent writing. As my English teacher at school said, READ, READ, READ. It develops vocabulary (another nice long word).

Typewriter or Word Processor?

Once you've got this clear in your mind, i.e. place, time, tools (like pen and paper), later comes the decisions about whether to buy a typewriter, word processor or computer. Word processors and computers make life so much easier for writers: you can quickly rewrite by moving words around or simply cutting them out altogether. They even have a spell check for those not too confident in this area. All writers continually revise their work many times to make the words flow better (don't say 'continually' and 'many times' - they mean the same thing!).

Do you need one?

If you want to be published, no editor will consider handwritten work, so you will need to make that decision someday. If you want to write purely for your own pleasure, no "hassle"! My simple advice is to take your time regarding purchasing decisions. Don't rush out and buy now; but wait and see how your writing develops. Perhaps you have an old typewriter in the attic to start on, or you may be able to borrow one from a friend in the meantime ("cheapskate"). This advice is based on what I did. Start off with a typewriter, because all your work should be typed - unless you're writing purely for yourself (or if you have atrocious and indecipherable handwriting like me). Later you can progress to a word processor, if you really get caught up in the writing 'bug'. I bought my word processor just before I left work after being made redundant as a Life Assurance Manager. It was the best investment I have ever made in my life! Then I progressed to learning computers. This was no easy task for me, but now working every day with one, I've become quite good (even if I say so myself!). However, I still use my word processor to work in the hot sun outside. Hedonistic sun freak!