

Interview with Newly Published Author – Ana Aragon

By Tami Brothers

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When I first thought about writing an article featuring Newly Published Authors, I had hoped it would be a great way to encourage new members as they begin their journey into this crazy unknown world. Little did I know how much it would actually benefit me. Whether you are trudging through the suffocating thickness of writer's block or have lost that excitement for writing that originally lured you into this world (all things I hadn't realized were happening to me), I hope by reading some of these inspiring stories, you will come away refreshed and invigorated as you move forward on your writing journey.

Ana Aragon is one of the first people I met as a new member of GRW and her friendliness is something that kept me coming back month after month. She currently has two books out with *The Wild Rose Press* (TWRP): *Sidelined by Love*, a hot contemporary romance; and *Stroke of Midnight*, a sexy erotic romance. She has a third book in the works that is a sequel to *Sidelined* entitled *Strike Three... You're Mine* and is currently working on her second erotic romance, *Stroke of Genius*.

Ana, thank you so much for taking the time to give us a peek into the life of a Newly Published Author.



Can you tell us about your experience with “The Call”?

Ha! In the e-publishing business, it's usually an e-mail! I did get to meet my editor at Nationals in Dallas, though! I had been contemplating submitting my book, *Sidelined by Love*, to an e-publisher, and finally decided to do it. I wrote up a very nice query e-letter that included the synopsis and sent it to the Senior Editor of the line for which I thought the story would be most appropriate. Roseann Armstrong replied within about five minutes, asking for a partial, and I went crazy! I sent her the first three chapters and within a week, she asked for the full manuscript. That took me about a month to get ready. I sent the manuscript to her and within a month, I had a contract!

How did you go about getting an agent (if you have one) or did you submit directly to an editor? If you have an agent, how long was it before they sold your story?

In e-publishing, it isn't necessary to have an agent, although I know that many agents do consider e-publishers and will submit to them if they feel the book would have a good home there. I'm happy with my current arrangement with TWRP, but I certainly don't rule out any opportunities to take my writing to another level.

What is your take on writing contests and critique partners? Would you recommend an unpublished writer seek them out?

I tried the writing contest route for about a year. Frankly, I got very frustrated, as it seemed the critiques I got from them

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contradicted themselves. What I realized is that you really need to know what the contest focus is, and that's difficult to ascertain unless you're submitting to contests all the time. I prefer a good critique partner or partners who don't have any qualms about telling you what works for them. I also like to take on-line classes with established writers who've gone where you want to be and can offer more specific help on your writing. Winning contests helps pad the resume, but it doesn't necessarily mean you'll get a contract.

Did you have a website or blog before you sold? If yes, do you think it helped to have that up beforehand; and if no, do you wish you had set one up before The Call?

I did have a website up before I was contracted, and I wish I had my new website up now! Publishers want to know that you're helping to grow a following of readers, so a good web presence, social networking, blogging, etc. helps tremendously.

Is there something about this whole process that made you say, "If I knew then what I know now, this would have been much easier?"

I'd been in magazine publishing before I decided to try my hand at writing romance, so I was relatively savvy about the process. One thing I wish I would have done is spent more time promoting myself prior to that first book coming out. I truly believe it's harder to promote the book, and yourself, than it is to write the book in the first place!

Thank you, Ana!!! We all appreciate your wonderful advice and wish you many, many more sales.

You can visit Ana at any of the following places:

www.anaaragon.com

Facebook

www.myspace.com/anaaragonwrites

blogging at

<http://petitfoursandhottamales.blogspot.com/>

Tami Brothers is the Registrar for the 2008/09 Moonlight & Magnolias writers conference, as well as a one of many PROs currently serving on the National PRO Communications Committee. You can read more about Tami on her website at www.tamibrothers.com or at <http://petitfoursandhottamales.blogspot.com/>

