Interview with Misti Sandefur
By Terry Freedman

Terry: How do you arrive at the idea for your next book?

Misti: Ideas sometimes come to me in my dreams or while I'm out in public, but most of them come from my own life experiences. I usually take something that has happened to others I know or myself and turn it into fiction.

Terry: What do you see as the advantages/disadvantages of self-publishing?

Misti: By looking into self-publishing just recently I see the advantage of being able to keep your full royalties.

The disadvantages I see to this are many, but I will only list a few. By looking at the disadvantages after my research into self-publishing I quit considering this option. It can be very costly to the author for things such as registering an ISBN number, printing costs, cover design expenses and much more. Not to mention the fact that authors have to fully promote their books themselves without any help from a publisher.

Another disadvantage is that there is a great deal of work to be put into self-publishing a book besides printing, cover design and promotion. Most of this calls for particular knowledge and skills, and if you have the knowledge in publishing, and the time and money to invest then I believe it may work well for any author.

Terry: How do you use technology in your writing process, and why?

Misti: I write using Microsoft Word so that I can check my spelling and grammar when finished, but I still do have an editor take a look at my work as well, because you cannot always trust the spelling and grammar editor programs to be exact. I also use this program so that I can save my work on floppy disk and even create a backup of my writings.

I also use the Internet as a technology in my writing process. I do my research and get facts when needed through the Internet. I used to use the library, but when I got online I found that most of the time the Internet can have much more useful information than I could find in my library. Now some libraries are different, but I am from a small town.

Terry: What would you say is the unique selling point of your book compared to other (similar) ones that are on the market?

Misti: Many people who have read it have complimented me on *Help From Above*, both face-to-face and by e-mail, and when they did they informed me that they referred it to their friends and family members. A referral from one person to another helps it sell the most.

Terry: Name of the book that has influenced you the most.

Misti: Well, I can't really name one certain book that has influenced me the most, and the reason is because most all her books influence and inspire me to write better. In saying "her," I am referring to Danielle Steel. I read her books and study her writing abilities as I do, and this helps me to improve my writing.

Terry: Resource for writers that you would recommend (beside your own)?

Misti: Writing-World.com I believe is a great resource for writers. Their site contains much information for authors. They list helpful articles on writing, links to other helpful information, links to information on copyright, author's rights, contracts and more.

Terry: Any other comments?

Misti: Yes, I would like to add a word of inspiration to other writers that I have learned. I would like to say not to just sit on your dreams and expect them to happen, you must do something about it. You can't just write a book, poem or short-story and let it sit on a shelf and collect dust, this is not the way to act on your dreams and goals. You have to send that work in to be noticed. Sure you will get rejections, even the well known authors do, but eventually the right one will pick it up and give you a call.

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