

## **Diary: Writing, First Sale, Publishing**

- 4/\_\_/09 – First ads are appearing for *Out of the Dark*:  
Romantic Times, *Affaire de Coeur*, *Joyfully Reviewed*, All Romance eBooks.
- 4/04/09 – First scheduled book signing, A World of Books.
- 3/23/09 – First public signing (for the local readers group) of *Out of the Dark*.  
Before I autographed only for family and friends.
- 3/19/09 – The local library catalogued *Out of the Dark* and put it on the fiction shelf  
as a permanent feature of the library—not on the romance novels portable  
and temporary shelving. Hurray!
- 2/23/09 – *Out of the Dark* author copies of paperback arrived. Hurray!  
My first book in my hand.
- 2/09/09 – *Matilda's Song* – finished edits on galley and emailed to publisher.
- 1/21/09 – *Matilda's Song* – galley proof of novel received.
- 11/01/08 – *Out of the Dark* – finished edits on galley and emailed to publisher.
- 10/23/08 – *Out of the Dark* – started edits on galley.
- 10/22/08 – *Out of the Dark* – prepared reviews for galley.
- 10/17/08 – *Out of the Dark* – galley arrived for trade paperback release.
- 10/10/08 – *Out of the Dark* – being pre-sold by Amazon for paperback release 3/31/09.
- 10/10/08 – *Out of the Dark* – being sold in Britain by Libresco for its iLiad Reader.
- 9/19/08 – *Matilda's Song* – copyright form submitted.
- 9/16/08 (week of) – *Matilda's Song* placed 9 on the “Top Ten Best Sellers” list  
at MyBookstoreAndMore.com.
- 9/16/08 – *Matilda's Song* – e-released.
- 9/10/08 – *Matilda's Song* – final versions of novel received.
- 8/31/08 – *Matilda's Song* – completed final edits.
- 7/30-8/2/08 – Attended Romance Writers of America conference in San Francisco.

5/13/08 – Mailed copyright form and check.

4/17/08 – Bookmarks ordered for *Out of the Dark*.

3/28/08 – Final Books - *Out of the Dark* – arrived.

3/27/08 – *Matilda's Song* cover art suggestions emailed to editor.

3/20/08 – *Matilda's Song* contract arrived, signed by the publisher.

3/17/08 – Emailed excerpts for *Out of the Dark* and *Matilda's Song* to editor.

3/14/08 – Got news *Out of the Dark* will go into print spring 2009.

3/14/08 – Received the release date for *Matilda's Song*: September 16.

3/07/08 – *Matilda's Song* contract revised arrived, signed and mailed to publisher.

3/06/08 – *Out of the Dark* cover art approved.

2/27/08 – *Matilda's Song* contract arrived.

2/22/08 – Received email that *Matilda's Song* sold!

1/31/08 – Completed rewrite of *Matilda's Song* and e-mailed it to Editor.

1/25/08 – *Out of the Dark* ISBN 1-59998-941-7 issued.

12/27/07 – Completed *Expect Trouble*.

12/07/07 – Created and e-mailed a marketing plan for *Out of the Dark*.

12/06/07 – Received second round of edits.

12/01/07 – Finished first round edits.

11/13/07 – The day after my 69th birthday, I received the first round of edits.

10/29/07 – Received filled out and signed forms re contact information, cover art and blurbs.

10/25/07 – I signed and mailed the Samhain contract.

10/3/07 – Samhain said wanted to publish my novel if I were still interested and asked if June 2008 would work as a publishing date. I said yes and cheered.

8/19/07 – Submitted *Out of the Dark*.

8/15/07 – Novel rejected because editor didn't like the characters, but she liked my writing. Suggested I submit another novel.

8/7/07 – Submitted *Polite Enemies* to Samhain Publishing, Ltd.

Last week of June 2007, received a letter from Authentic Creations Literary Agency canceling our contract because of illness.

2007 – 12/27/07 Completed *Expect Trouble*.

2006 – Completed *Out of the Dark*. Decided to do a paranormal suspense because publisher rejections letters said medieval romances were not selling.

2005 – Completed *Buffalo: The Farmer and the Wood Nymph*.

2004 – Signed with Authentic Creations Literary Agency. Completed *Buffalo: Polite Enemies*.

2003 – *Matilda's Song* got third place in International Outreach Romance Writers contest. Laid off from work when firm went out of business. Began writing fulltime as a retiree. Took programming and multimedia courses at the Berkeley Community College to upgrade my skills for website and marketing needs.

2002 – Looked for and got rejected by agents. Rewrote *Matilda's Song* a third time.

2000 – Rewrote *Matilda's Song* twice.

1998 – Started writing *Matilda's Song*. Thinking toward income on top of social security. Wrote in shorthand on bus to work and on lunch hours. Input from notes when got home in evening. Progress very slow. At same time attended lectures, craft sessions, and took on-line classes to hone writing skills.