

After “The End”
By Carol Ann Erhardt

So, you plod along through the dreaded middle wondering when you’ll ever finish the book. You are a writer, so you will eventually get there. Word by word, line by line, you draw closer and closer to the final scene. You write your stellar ending and suddenly you’re at “the end.” It’s a fabulous feeling. You did it! Nothing feels as good as the accomplishment you feel at having written a novel.

Over the next few months you work through the edits and galley proofs until you are sick to death of the story and the characters. You want to write something new. But you can’t seem to get your mind wrapped around the new until you finish the old. Finally you are able to say “it’s a go!” You have just given birth to a new baby! It’s such a relief.

But...now what?

If you are like me, you start to feel a let-down. And self doubt sets in. I start rehashing my story and...a scene flashes in my mind...the scene I should have written, but didn’t. My characters weren’t fleshed out enough. And the ending...too weak. No one will like it. Depression sets in and I wonder why I even try to write books. I’m in a total black hole.

So, I take the advice of the experts and start something new to get my mind off it.

For a while all is good. I’m writing. The new story is great. The characters come alive. But...in the back of my mind is that niggling self-doubt about the book about to release. I watch the calendar with anticipation and dread.

Soon the reviews will start to come in. I know the critics will hate my book. I’ll never get another contract. I chew my nails. I edit and revise the new work and it just doesn’t work. Egads! I’m a total mess. My desk piles up with “stuff” and I can’t find my outline. I begin to spend more time online. I read books. I do anything but write. Some days I eke out a few pages. I have two different projects going. I alternate between which is the worst, and I know neither is worthy of publishing.

THEN...I receive my first review.

The reviewer loved the book! “A real page turner”; “characters come alive on the page”; “clever plotting”; “fast pace”; “couldn’t put it down”...and my world centers again. That’s when the real thrill sets in. It’s the reason I write. It’s the reason I can’t stop.

I love to entertain people. I am a writer.

~~Carol Ann Erhardt is an inspirational Romantic Suspense author. Learn more by visiting her website at www.CarolAnnErhardt.com*