

Writer's Block is a Myth
By Carol Ann Erhardt

I refuse to believe in Writer's Block when I hit a road bump. It's a cop-out; it's a way to place the blame on something, anything, except the real problem. Just a short time ago, I hit one of those road bumps. I had written over 100 pages of a story that I loved—really loved! I was humming right along, page after page, and then—wham!

It came to a screeching halt. I didn't have a clue what should come next. Even the outline I had written didn't help. My book just fell flat on its face. The nasty little devil on my shoulder whispered that I wasn't cut out to be a writer. I'd written two manuscripts and I'd never be able to finish another. The sad part is, I began to listen to the negativity and accept it. I gave up... for a day or so.

But the story kept bugging me. I knew it was a good one, so where had I gone wrong? I picked up my copy of *BEGINNINGS, MIDDLES, & ENDS*, by Nancy Kress. I flipped to the section titled "Middles." I didn't find the answer to my dilemma there, so I turned to the first page and began to read "Beginnings," and suddenly the answer came to me. No, I didn't find it written inside the book. Instead these words suddenly popped into my mind:

If the story isn't moving with a growing storm, with escalating conflict, building to an explosive ending, then the plot is flat. This will stall the book or bring it to a grinding halt.

I wrote these words on a piece of paper and reread them, and I knew exactly what was wrong with the story. Do I have to throw it away? Nope. Now that I've identified the problem, I'm fixing the plot and I'm back in the groove.

So if you find yourself believing in "Writer's Block" or falling into a slump, don't give up. Try writing my words on a card in front of your computer and when you hit a road bump, read them. Maybe it will help you, too!

~Carol Ann Erhardt is an inspirational romantic suspense writer. Learn more by visiting her website at www.CarolAnnErhardt.com