

## THE WRITING LIFE

by Bobbi Linkemer

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### Resolutions

Is this the year you are finally going to take that writing class, keep a journal, send a query letter to a magazine, or write your book? Much as I hope so, here is a suggestion: don't, repeat, do not, resolve to do it.

Remember last year ... and every year before that? Did you keep your resolutions? Probably not. I haven't met very many people who got past January.

Well, actually, I made one once and did a pretty good job of keeping it, but it had nothing to do with writing. It had more to do with being "glamorous" for a whole year. That word, of course, is subject to interpretation. To some people it might mean *really* glamorous; to me, it meant going the extra mile every day to be sure my earrings coordinated with my outfit, even if my outfit was a warm-up suit.

Now, writing your book, after putting it off forever, is a whole other matter. In truth, it has more to do with timing than with perseverance.

I had a student in one of my recent writing classes, who told us she had been working up to starting her book for five years. She had taken several other writing classes, kept files of ideas, and worked on mini-chapters the whole time. But, as it so often does, life happened, and she just kept getting sidetracked.

I have no idea what was so magic about this particular class. Nothing, I suspect. It was just the right time, and she was ready. So, she rolled up her sleeves and did the assignments. Everyone else was quite impressed, but she assured them that they, too, might get to it in five years. I really hope they don't wait that long!

The class ended last summer, but she is still working away. Recently, she came by to show me a draft of her proposal. Since I think a book proposal is almost as important as the book, and had said so at least 500 times, I was very proud of her.

She never actually *resolved* to do it, by the way. ■