

Melanie Bowden Newsletter
February 2008

♥ MELANIE'S WRITING NEWSLETTER -
FEBRUARY 2008 ☐

Happy Valentine's Day! Welcome to my now 229 subscribers--thank you for spreading the word.

Lots to talk about this month, including some time-sensitive announcements, so let's get to it:

1) **Free** offer only available **today**: Until 7 p.m. Chicago time today, February 14th, you can download Suze Orman's 274-page book *Women and Money: Owning the Power to Control Your Destiny* for free (print copies are \$24.95) as a pdf file. It took me 5 seconds to download the book. If you need to download Firefox first, you can download it for free at this [link](#).

To download Orman's book go [here](#), then scroll down and click on *Women and Money*. There are English and Spanish versions. If the link doesn't work for you, go to the [Oprah site](#) and click on the prompt for yesterday's show in the left-hand column, then follow the prompts to the book. Happy reading!

2) Never miss a new blog post again! You can now subscribe for free to my blog for new moms [Spit-Up On My Shoulder](#). Whenever I post a new blog entry, you will receive an email containing the post. On average, I post once a week. No new post, no email, and no having to check at the blog to see what's new.

Click on the Subscribe message at the top of the left-hand column of the [blog](#) (sign-up is quick) and you're on your way.

3) I've discovered a new way of submitting book manuscripts directly to publishers. [Creative Byline](#) acts as a [match.com](#) for writers and editors.

Editors fill out profiles indicating what kinds of manuscripts they are looking for. Writers upload manuscripts and, when there's a match, the system automatically notifies the editor, who then can view the synopsis and first three chapters. I would have loved this resource when I was submitting my book to publishers!

Creative Byline's first readers make sure manuscripts meet certain quality standards before they are allowed into the system and sent to editors. They guarantee that your manuscript will be seen by the editor within three weeks of when it's submitted to that editor. While writers can sign up for free until March 1st, it does cost \$19.00 to submit a manuscript once the manuscript is approved by [Creative Byline](#). You can view the writer FAQs about how it all works [here](#).

4) I was selected as the Mom of the Month by [Community Kids Parenting Journal](#) for February. Check out our family picture and the story [here](#).

5) A Friendly Nag - Where are your query letters? Even though I've sold dozens of copies of my workbook *Get Your Articles Published!*, I haven't received one query letter to review. A free query letter critique comes with purchase, so get those letters ready and send them in.

6) Recent article publications: [How To Reduce New Parent Stress](#) and [School's In! California Parents Create Childcare Co-op](#). The second article link downloads a pdf file and you will find my article on page 25.

7) Last month I wrote this in the newsletter: **One of my goals is to line up more speaking engagements this year.** It's amazing what happens when you put the word out there.

Upcoming Presentations:

Saturday, February 23rd, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Davis Senior Center Activity Room: *Get Your Articles Published!* class. Go to the [City of Davis site](#) for class and registration information. Deadline to register is Wednesday, February 20th.

Thursday, February 28th: Guest speaker at the Mom's Book Club (also known as the No-Guilt Book Club) in Davis.

March 8th: Whole Foods Market, Sacramento: I will be sharing a table with the [Valley/Foothill Doula Collective](#) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and speaking on new parent stress at 11:45 a.m., at [Whole Foods Baby Day](#). Come by and say Hi!

March 11th: 1:00 p.m - 2:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker at [Parents Together](#), a support group for parents of children under one. Parents Together meets at 600 A Street in Davis in the Conference Room. We'll be doing some infant massage and talking about new parent issues.

March 18th: UC Davis Breastfeeding Support Group, noon to 1:30 p.m., in the Memorial Union Moss Room on campus. The topic will be, "Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me? True Stories about Mothering and Breastfeeding."

Thank you for all the speaking gig referrals!

8) **Insider Tip** for magazine writers from *Get Your Articles Published!*: I regularly schedule time to follow up on query letters, reprint articles, and article payments. Because of the chaotic pace of their jobs, it can be hard for editors to keep track of all the freelancers they work with. Often a gentle reminder from me will lead to an assignment, a reprint sale, or a check being cut. Don't be afraid to follow up.

As always, please contact me with any questions you have.

I hope you're loving whatever you're doing on this day of love. Boy, that sounded corny. Oh well, if you can't be corny on Valentine's Day, when can you?

Melanie Bowden

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<http://motherhood.booklocker.com>