MAPW Alumni Profile: Sally Kilpatrick

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mapwriting

Part of the Arts and Humanities Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mapwriting/vol1/iss1/12

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in MAPWriting by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.
Sally Kilpatrick

Q&A
Do you have any special stories to share about your MAPW experience?

A memorable moment came in my first class with Tony Grooms. He asked me which draft I was on. I must’ve given him a really puzzled look because he went on to explain the concept of putting aside one draft and starting another from scratch. I had been tinkering with the same set of words in the same document. Putting that old draft to the side and rewriting with a blank document was, and still is, both freeing and terrifying. That said, it’s such an important skill for writers, and I would’ve never been able to publish book two or three without redrafting.

Tell us about your writing projects, either those you pursue independently or those you pursue as a part of your job

I’ve now embarked on a new chapter of my writing career: writing a manuscript on deadline. I sold book four based on a synopsis and first three chapters. Book five I sold totally blind. So, I’m working on Bless Her Heart, a story that centers on what happens when a jilted preacher’s wife gives up church for Lent and then decides to sample the Seven Deadly Sins. I may have discovered that I’m a plotter, but my characters surprise me every day as I draft. Oh, and while I’m thinking about it, do remember to set a personal deadline before your professional deadline because, um, life.

What advice would you offer to current or prospective MAPW students?

I have two more pieces of advice for my MAPW writers. One, keep writing. I started what would become The Happy Hour Choir the spring I graduated from the MAPW program. It took me two years to get an agent and another year beyond that to sell. While I was querying and later waiting while my agent shopped Happy Hour around, I wrote Bittersweet Creek and Better Get to Livin’—that’s how I managed to have three books release in a little less than two years.

The key was that I had already written the first two and three-quarters of the third. Not only did that mean I had enough written for a three-book deal, but it also meant I could take some time to concentrate on revisions, copy editing, and page proofs without simultaneously being under deadline for a novel I had to write from scratch.

More about me:
Website
Facebook
Twitter