



Writers on Fire  
Writing the Publishable Novel or Memoir

**Writing the Publishable Novel or Memoir:**  
*An Intensive Ongoing Workshop in Transformational Writing*

Have you always wanted to write a memoir or novel, but didn't know where to begin? Or do you already have a draft, but want to deepen and polish to the next level? Maybe you stop and start, overwhelmed by the feelings that come up, and now you're ready to break through. Whatever your starting point, be prepared to dig deep, obtain new insights, and experience an exciting personal transformation that translates to publishable writing. Bang out your book draft in only 10 meetings!

In this intimate all-women workshop, we will provide a safe place for you to peel back the layers. Time to let go and drop any internal censors! Your instructor, memoirist and novelist Rachel Resnick, will help you get honest on the page. Rachel will provide a demanding and inspiring working environment. Think of this more as a creative retreat stretched over four months, with tons of personal attention, where you will devote yourself to the art of compelling narrative.

In this workshop you will:

- \* Broaden your understanding of the art of memoir and of the novel.
- \* Hone craft techniques – including voice, point of view, structure, language, character building – everything you need to shape your memories and imagination into a readable, compelling narrative.
- \* Learn methods to better access memories and imagination.
- \* Discover the core of your story, as well as the most specific, interesting and ultimately saleable angle with which to tell it.
- \* Develop ways of counterbalancing the challenging emotional intensity of the task with mindfulness exercises and group rituals to keep things positive and stimulating.
- \* Meet one-on-one for three personal coaching sessions with the instructor.
- \* Produce a vivid blueprint for the whole project, including a description and chapter outline.

\* At the end of the cycle, you should find yourself with the basis of a book proposal and more – a description, a chapter outline and drafts of two sample chapters. You'll also have a roadmap to guide you through the project, and take-home exercises and an inspirational reading list to keep you going.

**Three reasons this memoir workshop is like no other:**

\* It includes three hours of solo, one-on-one coaching. You'll meet with the instructor three times, privately, once at the start of the cycle to set goals for your writing path, once in the middle to check in and keep the momentum going, and once at the end to evaluate.

Size will always be kept intimate – about half the size of the typical writing workshop.

It meets for five focused hours at a time. Most workshops only meet for three, but five hours allows for thorough workshopping, in-depth personal feedback, and plenty of writing exercises. And lunch! Writers On Fire provides excellent food throughout the day.

\* It has a philosophy of healing that may help you move forward with memoir as well as novel. While this is a writing workshop, not a support group, it makes time for breathing exercises and relaxation rituals at the start of each session to help each writer feel at ease with her material.

\* What if you don't want to stop after four months? Then welcome back! This workshop renews itself in four-month cycles. On rare occasion, a Saturday may be skipped due to the instructor's professional commitments, if that happens, the next class meets as scheduled and a makeup class is added at the end of the cycle.

## Workshop Details

WHEN: Meets biweekly for four months

START DATE: November 21st ; 12/12; 12/26 ;1/9; 1/23; 2/6; 2/26; 3/6; 3/20; 4/3, 4/17 and 5/1

MEETING DURATION: 10AM - 3PM

LOCATION: Private home in Topanga Canyon (weather permitting; otherwise an alternate lovely location)

REQUIREMENTS: This memoir and novel workshop, while providing a supportive environment, looks at personal issues solely from the perspective of the writer. Some previous writing experience is strongly suggested. There is a screening process and all applicants may not be accepted. Please submit a 5- to 10-page writing sample (personal essay preferred but fiction accepted), a note on writing workshops or classes previously taken, and a brief statement about your writing background, if any. A telephone interview may follow, so please provide contact information and the best time to call.

FORMAT: Each class begins with an opening ritual designed to promote a sense of healing and openness, making it easier to deal with the difficult issues on the page, to critique gently, and to hear the critiques of others. Each week, all participating writers will have their pieces workshopped, and—in a change from typical workshop structure—will be encouraged to respond to the group. We'll also discuss the week's readings (see below), and do some writing exercises.

READING: This season we will read *Secret Life of Puppets* by Victoria Nelson in increments during the cycle. *Writing the Memoir: From Truth to Art* by Judith Barrington is also required reading before we meet. Additionally, everyone should have a copy of Janet Burroway's *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* as well. Surprised? Don't be—it's a brilliant guide to how to tell a story that no one can stop reading, and that applies to life as well as fiction.

WRITING: 10 pages per session, turned in at the meeting. For the first workshop, copies must be e-mailed to all participants at least one week before scheduled meeting.

COST: For all of this, the price is only \$500/month. Payment is due the first of each month. If you pay for all four months in advance, the cost is discounted to \$1,800.

Please make checks out to: Writers On Fire/120 N. Topanga Cyn. Blvd., Suite 105/PMB 173/Topanga, CA 90290. If you want to pay by PayPal, please include an additional \$10 servicing fee, and use my [katamon@verizon.net](mailto:katamon@verizon.net) e-mail for making payment.

There will also be more Writers On Fire workshops and retreats upcoming, both here and abroad. If you'd like to be on the mailing list for coaching and retreats, let me know.

I look forward to working with you!

Best,

*Rachel*



RACHEL RESNICK, WRITING COACH AND RETREAT LEADER

**Rachel Resnick is the author of *Love Junkie***, a bestselling and critically acclaimed memoir, and *Go West Young F\*cked-Up Chick*, a bestselling novel. Her essays, articles and fiction have appeared in nearly a dozen anthologies, most recently *What Was I Thinking?* *58 Bad Boyfriend Stories*, and many more magazines, newspapers and literary journals. She has taught in major writing programs, among them UCLA Extension Writers Program, USC Professional Writing Program, Loyola Marymount, mediabistro.com, Cal Arts, LACC, Chapman, Whittier, Emerson, Antioch, UC Riverside/Palm Desert, and she runs her own Writers On Fire writing workshops in Hawaii, France and Los Angeles.

Please refer to [www.rachelresnick.com](http://www.rachelresnick.com) for more links, reviews and general info on the writing coach, workshop and retreat leader. Or feel free to e-mail with any questions.

## A few Coaching and Retreat Testimonials

"I've learned so much from you about how to write—real. I now get that cleverness is not what people want. They want heart. And jokes cover up the pain. I'm learning in reverse to remove the "jokes" as if taking the lid off a boiling pot. Your teaching has really made a difference, not only in my writing, but in my life. [see, no jokes.]"

~ Judy Carter, comedian, magician, sought-after public speaker, and author of perennial bestseller *The Comedy Bible*

"I had a breakthrough and came out knowing more about my writing voice, how different I am from others, and not to be afraid of that, but to really go deep and explore it."

~ Holly Hughes, new mother and writer

"Rachel takes us to her perch, spreads her wings (and her wing span is might), and takes us safely over the mountain."

~ Coleman Hough, screenwriter

"Rachel Resnick's Writers On Fire in France retreat proved to be an intense and invigorating experience. I pushed myself to write beyond my usual boundaries and experienced seismic shifts in my writing after attending this workshop. Rachel has the rare ability to inspire and guide a writer on his or her own individual journey."

~ Monica Carter, bookstore bandleader and writer

"I didn't know I needed a writing coach until I started working with Rachel. Within a week she had assessed my work from the dozen clips I gave her, helped me define my "voice" and map out a book proposal -- something I had been attempting to do on my own for the past two years! I thoroughly enjoyed the process and feel that it has been terrific investment of both time and money."

~ Linda Renaud, print journalist and writer of creative non-fiction

"Sometimes it takes a few secrets, a few laughs and Rachel Resnick to go a little deeper and simply write. Rachel's warmth and respect for the writing process just lets the work reveal in ever more intimate layers. Somehow in luxury of sharing writing, doubts slip away..."

~ Madeleine Gallay, fashion maven and writer

"Whatever you did blew me out of my rut and into territories I have yet to explore and digest. The best single writing experience of my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

~ Russell Avery, world traveler, philanthropist and writer

"The writing exercises, where everyone had to read out loud what they had written, trained the brain muscle that had been dormant. More than what I had expected. I wanted to get inspired. I got very inspired plus energized plus left with a smile."

~ Gregor von Bismarck, filmmaker, father and bon vivant

"I loved that the workshop was generative, since it kept it fresh and alive for me -- one who

can get lost in moving a word around for a couple of hours. The retreat as a whole was beyond my expectations in all ways. The quality and quantity of work, one-on-one's with Rachel, the writing exercises, the people, setting...wow, wow, wow."

~ Marcia King, personal coach and motivational speaker

**Please note: Workshops and retreats are non-refundable. Extra coaching sessions are of course available, and billed at the rate of \$100/hour per quarter hour segments. In-person meetings are for 90 minutes or more.**