

# Have A Story? Write It Down

*Life Lessons Inspired Author's Horse-Centered Book*

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"I should write a book."  
Perhaps you've said these words to yourself, or maybe someone has encouraged you to write your life's experiences for future generations.

Between the moment of inspiration and seeing your words on pages between a book cover, however, lies a long road of writing, thinking, revising, rechecking, discussing, and more writing.

In spite of these challenges, Kathleen Anthony decided to take that road and now has "Lessons In Grace: My Journey to

Healing and Faith Through the Gift of a Horse" to show for it.

After receiving as a gift "Dad's Lady Grace," an Arabian filly in November 1995, Anthony's journey — and story — began.

The high-spirited horse quickly began teaching her lessons about trust, self-protection, panic, worry, self-sufficiency, and willfulness — lessons that Anthony could parallel in her own life.

"At the time, I was working as a secretary at Elizabethtown Brethren in Christ and every time I would learn something spiritual through working with the horse I'd go in to church and share it," she said.

Her friend Wendy urged her to write these ideas down, however Anthony's thoughts made it to paper only as

titles and a few short thoughts, she said.

Later, after noticing an advertisement for short stories that touched the soul about horses, Anthony sent a story in that was published. "That's when I thought "maybe this is something I ought to pursue," she said.

The book began to take shape after Christmas 2001. "I had written notes that I kept on scraps of paper just so I would remember the lesson," she said.

Anthony had "dabbled at writing and poetry through the years," however as a church secretary most of her commercial writing consisted of composing concise blurbs for the bulletin.

"When I actually sat down at my computer and I got five pages, I thought 'wow, this is really great,'" she said. "Then it just seemed like God just poured words into my mind and it just



Kathleen's husband Carl also enjoys trail riding. The couple met on horseback in 1967 and have been riding together ever since.

kept on going.

"I thought I had the main thrust of the book done by February — that I had most of it done," said Anthony. However she found that the road that the book would take continue for months.

It was that February that Grace kicked her "and I was ready to scrap the whole thing." In spite of her discouragement with the horse, Anthony found that new chapters had yet to be added to the book.

"I never dreamed that I would learn the major lessons, the life-

changing lessons, after that," she said.

Her major lesson, according to Anthony, would be coming to grips with, and accepting, God's grace. After learning that lesson through the help of friends, family, and the horse, Anthony finished up the book by August, spending "every little extra" moment at the computer.

Once the book went to the publisher, changes, revisions, and reworking were necessary. "I put in a few 14-hour days in front of the computer, until I could hardly see any more, but I couldn't tear myself away.

"I'd wake up in the middle of the night with thoughts and couldn't get them out of my head." She'd scribble notes to herself so when the morning came the thought would be captured, and begin again the next day.

A self-described "disciplined person," she said, "I never set a schedule for writing. I was just compelled to write until it was done. I would think it was done and then a week or two would go by and there was more things to add," she said.

"Some of the things were actually experienced during the writing

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