

Marlene Oulton

Marlene Oulton, resident wordsmith/editor and head honcho of Write Choice Virtual Assistants and BulletProofers.com derives great satisfaction from assisting authors, writers, coaches and entrepreneurs produce clean, crisp and concisely written articles, newsletters, website copy, and other literary works. Known as “The Words Lady” by her clients and friends, her articles can be found on various online article sites. Visit www.BulletProofers.com and www.WriteChoiceVA.com to find out more on how she can make your words sing and dance... without adding music! www.writechoiceva.com

1. How did you get started writing?

I liked to talk a lot as a child, (and still do I might add!) I found that in my teenage angst-filled years it became much easier to write down my problems and thoughts rather than try to get people to listen to them. Besides, in retrospect they were really rather boring.

2. What do you do when you are not writing?

Editing other people’s words since I’m primarily an editor/ideas facilitator.

3. What would readers like to know about you?

Hmm... that I’m a creative person by nature and reading is one of my many passions. I also love to garden – growing vegetables, flowers, herbs is a satisfying hobby for me as it creates beauty, and in the case of the veggies and herbs, adds freshness to my culinary delights. And yes, I’m one of those people who ‘live to eat’ rather than ‘eat to live.’ Cooking would run a really close third in this mix.

4. What inspired you to be a contributing author in Overcomers, Inc.,

Once Lynne told me the purpose behind the book I was hooked. Then when I started to see the high caliber of stories that came flooding into my inbox, I too, wanted to be a part of this very special project.

5. Why is the topic of Overcoming important to you?

I’m at the age and stage of my life where I’ve had to overcome some pretty tall obstacles that when at the time they were occurring, I felt as if I couldn’t bear to take one more step – even one more breath, but I did. In hindsight I didn’t see overcoming these challenges as anything super heroic – I just did the best I could at the time and kept hoping for the best. Now I see that 2 things kept me going when times were rough – a strong belief, (faith if you will), that somehow, someday things WOULD get better, and if I could find something to make me laugh at least once a day I knew I’d get through whatever tough time I was experiencing.

6. Why are you specially qualified to write about this topic?

My chapter is entitled “Getting Older (and Over!) The ‘Not Enough’ Syndrome” and it’s aptly titled. Being told I was ‘not enough’ of much of anything for a long period in my life, I believed that I’d never be ‘enough’ of anything to matter. What I finally realized is this: what other’s think of us is not what makes us who we are – we alone have the power to believe that what others tell us about ourselves is the truth, or we can simply stand up and take our own power back. Once we get to the stage of being comfortable in our own skin... that is ‘enough’.

7. **How many books have you written?**
Currently have 2 on the go but only partially finished. I'm waiting to become famous and then one can be used as an autobiography. Just kidding!! Well, sort of.
8. **What are the titles of your books and what genres are they?**
Both non-fiction; one is dark and brooding while the other is light and humorous. Titles as yet not picked, but I think "How to Survive 2 Divorces and Keep the Washer & Dryer" is a good one.
9. **How do you manage to keep yourself focused and on track when you're writing a book?**
I try to set aside time everyday to write but it's not easy. "Real" life has a way of intruding on my quiet time and since managing words is my business, client's needs come first.
10. **Do you write to make money, for the love of writing or both?**
I write mostly just for the challenge of expressing myself. It's for the love of the written word – nothing else – that I write... or certainly not at this point.
11. **What makes you proud about your involvement with Overcomers, Inc.?**
Oh boy – where to start with the answer to this one! First, I'm so proud of Lynne for having the courage to pull this magnificent book together. Second, I've learned so much from Kathleen on marketing that I still haven't had time to digest all her wisdom, and last but certainly not least, it's been an absolute thrill working with all the wonderful authors who have contributed to this book. So many diverse personalities yet they all share one common thread – that of overcoming some type of adversity to go on and become a stronger, more vibrant human being.
12. **Will you write more books?**
Most likely.
13. **What do you have in the works now?**
Revamping my website content, blog writing, editing/ghostwriting for others. A whole plethora of projects on the go. (Don't you just LOVE that word... plethora?)
14. **What does the future hold for you and your books?**
I'd love to say unimaginable fame and fortune, but frankly I'd just be happy to hold my finished book in my hands and say, "Yahoo! I wrote this book!"
15. **What makes this a book that other people MUST read and WHY?**
I'm telling my friends that they must read this book, especially those who are going through some turmoil, as I can guarantee that they'll find at least two or three stories in here that will very closely parallel their own struggles. They'll learn how others have faced some of the worst possible scenarios yet managed to not only survive but thrive through those troubled times.
16. **What people NEED to read this book and WHY?**
Anyone who is looking to find one very small but powerful word need to read this book. And that word is hope.
17. **What sparks your creativity? Any tips to help others spark their own creativity?**
Clouds; spectacular sunsets; slurpy kisses from my Westie; listening to either good

old rock 'n roll or opera depending on what I need to write; and silence.

18. What do you think motivates people to become authors? What motivated you to get into this unusual industry?

Most likely the love of the written word. I believe people begin to write when they feel they need some sort of outlet for emotions that for one reason or another they can't quite let out of their system just yet.

19. Tell me about the most unusual things you have done to promote any books?

This is my first book promotion campaign, but in the future I'd like to hire a hot air balloon and drop copies over the city where I live (soft covers only!).

20. If a potential reader thinks that your book wouldn't interest them, what would you say to convince them to buy?

I'm thinking something better than "Its the greatest book ever." Give me something more specific :) For Overcomers Inc. I'd say, "Hey – you know those days when you just don't want to get out of bed? Don't! Stay home and read this book. It will change your whole perspective on life." For my own soon to come book, I'd say, "Remember Erma Bombeck? Well, just imagine if Joan Rivers and Erma Bombeck sat down for coffee and decided to collaborate on a book. This would be it!"

21. What is your final message to our readers?

Believe in yourself, your Higher Power and never, ever give up! Or if it the timing (and venue) were right, I'd say, ` It's always the darkest... before you turn on the night light!`

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