



## **“Everyone has a good book inside them”**

It is a familiar quote and a thought that drives many a budding writer. A harsh critic once quipped by adding “...and that is where it should stay” – and no doubt we can all think of many a title that deserves that fate as we browse online or in a bookshop.

Yet, if you love writing whether this is fiction or non-fiction, it is a great ambition in my book to want to write and to see your work published, be it as an e-book or as a paper copy. This may be a short story, a novella or even a novel; alternatively, poetry, a script for a play or tv production.

I have always enjoyed the creative arts; drama, painting and artwork, films, music and various forms of dance such as ballet. One of my earlier dreams when younger was to act which introduced me to amateur dramatics and for many years, I relished the opportunity to go to local theatre productions and I imagined life on the stage.

An active interest in writing came later. During my 30s and 40s much of my written work was largely restricted to reports and business proposals - although creativity was an important element from time-to-time to get specific points across....

A holiday on the beautiful island of Skyros changed my outlook on writing. I had booked on a retreat vacation and during the week met up with others attending a creative writing workshop. Perhaps it was the gorgeous blue skies and turquoise sea, the amazing views and history... there was so much to inspire the soul. A year later in Cornwall, we all met up again and had a fantastic weekend, ably tutored by author D M Thomas. This inspired me to start writing and gave me ideas for my own short story collection.

Over the next few years, a busy career and generally enjoying life put a hold to my writing projects; however, moving to France and setting up my own marketing and copywriting business provided me with the spark and renewed interest to begin again. Now, I write every day on all manner of subjects for different types of business in both the UK and France. It is always interesting work and enables me to understand so many different facets of business and indeed life.

And my book? Well, the short story collection is complete and earlier this year I began to structure a novel. Work in progress, I guess you would say....

It is never too late though. My Mum recently turned 80 and as a present, I had printed a children’s story she had originally written around 40 years ago. She loved it and it was lovely to witness the pleasure of her seeing her writing finally in print.

So, the moral of this story is if you have a dream of writing a book, a short story, a play or even a piece of research... go for it.

Simon