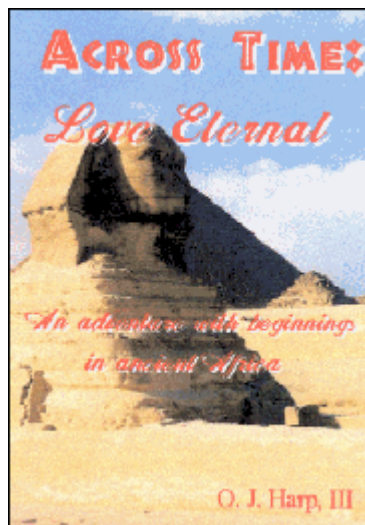


***Across Time: Love Eternal an Adventure with Beginnings in Ancient Africa*** is filled with mysticism, magic, future technology, and the history and lore of ancient Egypt, with its ancient spells, Pharaohs and pyramids. It is a science fiction adventure of epic proportions, with multiethnic characters. The story grapples with the historical implications of African slavery, the pathology of the N-word, the destructiveness of gang violence, the importance of the African-American Kwanzaa celebration, and the ethnicity of the Pharaohs. It is a love story, which lasts across the very depths of time.

It began in sub-Saharan Africa, 110 million B.C., with a prehistoric crocodile of enormous proportions: SuperCroc (Flesh Crocodile Emperor). This ten-ton crocodilian beast was as large as a yellow school bus. It attacked and ate huge dinosaurs, with its four-foot long jaws and with over a hundred bone-crushing teeth. The novel quickly moves on to 1100 B.C., a time when the Great Sphinx was carved by a mysterious Black race of people with occult powers, the Anu. Through the use of an ancient miraculous device, which summons a vicious time-storm, the Anu become Time Trotters. They travel from the dawn of civilization to the present time to recover stolen ancient Egyptian (Kemetic) artifacts. And they intermingle with present day people and mischievous school-aged kids. Unknowingly, they are accompanied across time by ancient Kemetic monsters, the Shadow Gobblers. Additionally, two impassioned lovers from the distant past become Time Trotters. As a result of traveling in the vastness of time, they lose not only the memory of each other, but also the memory of their past, their culture, and their identities. Their love must survive not only amnesia, but also the love intentions of various rivals, and the aggressive pursuit of the cloned ancient pharaoh: Ramesses the Great. A wise priest and scientist named Imhotep, who in the time of the great pharaohs designed and was the chief architect of the first pyramid in Egypt, guide the lovers in their adventure through the portal of time.

The novel is largely a metaphor for self-discovery filled with psychological meaning. It is a mesmerizing tale for anyone in search of his or her own identity and, in essence, who they really are. The authentic atmosphere, historical detail, and sizzling drama spans across the ages from a time of prehistoric animals to a future time of clones, holographic images, and rapping, mechanical 'bots.



**Across Time: Love Eternal © 2004**

**Author: O. J. Harp, III**

**Publisher: Seaburn Publishing Group (seaburn.com)**

*The new revised 2004 edition of Across Time: Love Eternal will be available for purchase at seaburn.com, amazon.com, blackbooks.com, or at several bookstores.*

***Or contact O. J. Harp, III for an autograph copy at drojharp@hotmail.com***

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**MAR/APR 2004  
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**SORMAG MISSION** - To introduce readers to multi-cultural writers and their books and to help make the publishing journey for writers an easier path.

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sormag@yahoo.com**

**Greetings in the name of literature,**

It amazes me how many people who are not on the internet. Especially published writers. The internet is a whole new world to introduce your books to. Unfortunately there are a lot of people who just don't get the internet, or don't trust it. I'll admit the internet does have a few problems. However I've learned some of those problems you bring on yourself if you venture into place you have no business in. Now that's a whole different magazine.

I've learned a lot about writing, the business of writing and met some wonderful people on the internet. Its my second home. If it wasn't for the internet, there would be no SORMAG.

As a reader you can find a lot of information about your favorite authors and the books they write on the internet. You can read an excerpt or review. Post an opinion and even chat with your favorite author. Before the internet, the only chance you had at mingling with an author was if they stopped at your local bookstore. The internet gives you the opportunity to become friends with your favorite author.

As a writer the internet can help you with research. Let you do mini polls with different readers. Read a review or two. Keep your readers up to date with what's happening with your writing career.

Now could a place that offers you so many opportunity be all that bad? NAH!

Do you know someone who isn't on the internet? Let them know what they are

missing. Introduce them to another world.

This issue is about the internet as a resource tool. We have some great links to try out. Take a few minutes to visit them and see if they can help your writing.

Our cover author, Kayla Perrin is a new mom, whose jump to mainstream has been well received. She has a new book, Delta Sisters. Check out what's happening in Kayla's life.

We would also like to introduce you to some great writers. Take a look at what they have.

One of the things I wanted to do with this magazine is for it to be a tool to inform our readers. We have a new column by . Each issue we will introduce you to a topic affecting the Multi-cultural community. Please let us know what you think of the column.

So grab a cup of hot herbal tea. Close your door, turn on a little reading music and enjoy.

Don't forget we love to hear from you. Who knows maybe we'll choose your letter to feature in the magazine. Its always nice to see your name in print.

Happy Spring and remember to pick up a good book.

LCH

Shades Of Romance Magazine would like to announce the 2003 winners of the Reader's Choice Awards.

We had 150 readers who took the time to vote for their favorite authors and books. We appreciate your time especially since we added a few new awards.

Authors when you get a chance, send me your mailing address for your certificate.

### CONGRATULATION TO ALL THE WINNERS

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Romance Book Of The Year

Thorn's Challenge – Brenda Jackson

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Romance Author Of The Year

Brenda Jackson

#### The Best Multi-Cultural New Romance Author Of The Year

AlTonya Washington

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Christian Romance Of The Year

Southerland Strength – Lavelle J. Lemonier

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Romance Book Cover Of The Year

The Best Man

#### The Best All-Time Favorite Multi-Cultural Romance Author

Brenda Jackson

#### The Best BET Romance Of The Year

(TIE)

Renegade – Rochelle Alers

Comfort Of A Man – Andrienne Byrd

#### The Best Genesis Press Romance Of The Year

I'll Be Your Shelter – Giselle Carmichael

#### The Best St. Martin Romance of The Year

The Savvy Sistahs – Brenda Jackson

#### The Best AVON/Harper Collins Romance Of The Year

(TIE)

Josephine And The Soldier – Beverly Jenkins

Unforgettable – Betty Ford

#### The Best Silhouette Romance Of The Year

Thorn's Challenge – Brenda Jackson

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Fiction Book Of The Year

Somebody Knocking At My Door – Francis Ray

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Fiction Author Of The Year

Brenda Jackson

#### The Best Multi-Cultural New Fiction Author Of The Year

(TIE)

Cherlyn Michaels

Rochelle Alers

#### The Best All-Time Favorite Multi-Cultural Fiction Author

Brenda Jackson

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Fiction Book Cover Of The Year

Someone Knocking On My Door – Francis Ray

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Christian Fiction Book Of The Year

(TIE)

Second Sunday - Michele Andrea Bowen

A Lova' Like No Otha – Stephanie P. Moore

A Change Is Gonna Come – Jacquelin Thomas

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Christian Fiction Author Of The Year

Jacquelin Thomas

#### The Best Multi-Cultural New Christian Fiction Author Of The Year

T.D. Jakes

#### The Best All-Time Favorite Multi-Cultural Christian Fiction Author

Jacquelin Thomas

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Christian Fiction Book Cover Of The Year

Southerland Strength – Lavelle Lemonier

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Non-fiction Book Of The Year

Matters Of The Heart

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Non-Fiction Author Of The Year

(TIE)

E Lynn Harris

Andria Hall

Juanita Bynum

#### The Best Multi-Cultural New Non-Fiction Author Of The Year

Jacqueline Jakes

#### The Best All-Time Favorite Non-Fiction Author

(TIE)

E. Lynn Harris

T.D. Jakes

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Self Published Book Of The Year

If Only Eyes Knew – Kashamba Williams

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Self Published Author Of The Year

Shelia M. Goss

#### The Best Multi-Cultural New Self Published Author Of The Year

Shelia M. Goss

#### The Best All-Time Favorite Multi-Cultural Self Published Author

Magdelene Breaux

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Self Published Book Cover Of The Year

Roses are Thorns, Violets are True – Shelia M. Goss

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Short Story Of The Year

(Short stories featured in the Shades Of Romance Magazine)

I Do - Keshia Dawn

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Poet Of The Year

(Poet featured in the Shades Of Romance Magazine)

Gwendolyn A. Thomas

#### The Best Multi-Cultural Poem Of The Year

(Poem featured in the Shades Of Romance Magazine)

Just Before Dawn An Ode To Rochelle Alers - Brenda Turner

## Breaking Into The Big League

By  
Sheila Wray Gregoire

Have you ever picked up Today's Christian Woman or Guideposts and found yourself daydreaming about seeing your byline there? But how do you make that leap from publications that barely pay to national magazines?

Remember that often the difference between writers in small publications and writers in large ones is not how well a person can write; it's how well a person can market. To make that jump, learn how to sell yourself professionally.

### 1. Create a Professional Impression

To catch an editor's eye, you have to break through the clutter of everything that crosses his or her desk. Here's how:

- a) Use letterhead. You don't need to buy it; you can create it yourself by printing your name, address and contact information along the top of the page.
- b) Don't e-mail editors unless they request it. It's difficult to make e-mails stand out from the pack, and many still prefer a hard copy.
- c) Use the editor's name. Sally Stuart's Christian Writer's Market Guide is a valuable resource for finding contacts, but never rely solely on it. Always phone to make sure a new editor hasn't taken over.
- d) Include an SASE. If you're writing to an American publication, you can buy US stamps online at [www.USPS.com](http://www.USPS.com).
- e) Use a large envelope. If I'm sending clips with my query, I always send it in a 9x12 envelope to keep everything flat.

### 2. Craft a Top-Notch Query

You look professional enough that an editor is going to treat your query with some respect. How do you hold their attention?

a. Be Specific. One of the mistakes many writers make is to try to write the definitive article on something—say “How to Discipline Your Children”. This topic, though, lends itself more easily to a 250-page book than to a 1,200 word article. Narrow the focus to 3 or 4 points you can cover well, rather than 12 points that won't do the topic justice. Turn the article into “How to Help Your Toddler Behave in Public” to pique the editor's interest.

b. Be Newsworthy. Tie in the topic to the news or other current trends. Magazines only exist because they can make people think they've discovered something revolutionary. If you can give the editor a reason that this article is timely, you increase your chances for acceptance.

### 3. Create a Marketing Plan

Don't limit your focus to one publication, or rejection will hit you hard! For every article you plan, make a list of five or six target publications. Then send it to the first one. If you receive a rejection, send it to the next on the list. If you receive an acceptance, don't toss your list. Once the article is in print, offer reprint rights to the next publication you targeted.

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 6**

## CONTINUE FROM PAGE 5

**4. Persevere**

Keep in mind the "rule of 13": if you have thirteen things in the mail at any one time, you will begin to get published. This doesn't mean thirteen identical queries; it means queries for different articles, reprints, or fillers. Remember, too, that not all rejections are negative. If you get a nice rejection like this: "We liked this query, but we just published a similar article", that means they like you! Send them another query right away. Sometimes you may receive several acceptances in one week, throwing you into a writing frenzy to meet deadlines, but the risk is worth it!

**5. Network, Network, Network**

Finally, the best way to break into big magazines is to go to writer's conferences and talk with people who have already done it. Mine them for tips, leads and possibly even assignments. And while you're there, talk to editors, too! They attend conferences to search for undiscovered talent.

Appear professional, and there's no reason you can't be one of those nuggets they're waiting to discover.

Being published widely is mostly a function of persistence, professionalism, and marketing. Writing ability is essential, too, but there are many great writers whose work never sees an audience. If this is something God has called you to do, then be professional about it. It may mean stepping out of your comfort zone, but once you do, see how He can use you!

**4 STAR REVIEWS**

The following books received four stars in this issue. All four star reviews are featured online in our bookstore and also posted on amazon.com. Help support the authors and SORMAG and buy your books through our online links.

**A DANGEROUS OBSESSION**  
J.M. JEFFRIES – 4+ STARS

**A MEETING IN THE LADIES ROOM**  
ANITA DOREEN DIGGS – 4+ STARS

**THE EDGE OF MIDNIGHT**  
BEVERLY JENKINS – 4+ STARS

**UNFORGETTABLE**  
BETTE FORD – 4+ STARS

**ONE DAY AT A TIME**  
BELLA MCFARLAND – 4+ STARS

**MINION – L.A. BANKS**  
4+ STARS

**THE AWAKENING**  
L.A. BANKS – 4+STARS

**A FOOL IN LOVE**  
STEVEN IVORY – 4 STARS

**A WOMAN'S WORTH**  
TRACEY PRICE-THOMPSON 4 STARS

**BESIDE EVERY GOOD MAN**  
SERITA ANN JAKES – 4 STARS

**SWEET DESIRE**  
CHRISTINE TOWNSEND – 4 STARS

## Resources On The Net

The Internet is a virtual library. It's an index of searchable and organized information for your convenience. Filled with all sorts of facts, material, news, data and knowledge. In other words, the net is like the entire world at your fingers.

Anything from baby names to books to history; it's all there.

Lets say you're looking on the net for information on a particular subject or item and don't know where to start. The net has a secret weapon called the "search engine". These websites are programmed to do just that, search for the information for you. The searchable sites do all the work, now how easy is that? Usually on these sites you type in what you are looking for and press the start, go, or enter key. After that, you're on your way to websites, web pages, information, and knowledge on that particular item you typed in.

### **Gevell quick pick sites on Resources On the Net**

#### **Search engines:**

<http://www.google.com/>

Most comprehensive results and highest overall usability. Web, Images, Groups, Directory, News, Language Tools the search can be endless. ©2003 Google

<http://www.yahoo.com/>

Another favorite site for resources. Provider of comprehensive online products and services to consumers and business worldwide.

<http://www.dogpile.com/info.dogpl/tbar/>

This search engine can be downloaded free for easy accessibility.

<http://www.searchengines.com/>

A complete Search Engine Resources Center

<http://www.bsearchengines.com/>

Brand new search engine with better results. I've only used this site once and its fast and reliable.

<http://www.mamma.com/>

With it's cool name the mega search engine searches web sites, magazines, newspapers, newsgroups, companies and MP3 files for the information you need.

<http://home.inter.net/takakuwa/search/search.html>

This site searches by Countries. Offers a collection of over 900 search engines sorted by country and region.

<http://www.lycos.com/>

This search engine is fun and entertaining.

<http://www.ajkids.com/>

Coollest, easiest, most fun. Best search engines for kids.

Resources on the net are never hard to find, no matter what kind of information you are looking for. There is lots of great and useful information on the net, also millions of pages and billions of words on the web. What ever resources you may be looking for its there, the search engines and directories will help you sift through all those billions of 1s and 0s to find the specific information you need.

Just think of it as a library on your desk.

Peace Be With You

Gevell

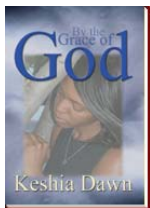
**Gevell Wagner was born, raised and currently lives in Chicago, Illinois. She is a divorced mother of four. She's in various writing clubs and email critique lists. Gevell has been writing for seven years. She just finished her first Contemporary Fiction Novel and is now working on her second. Any comments or questions about this article please submit to: [vellis2162002@yahoo.com](mailto:vellis2162002@yahoo.com).**

**Shades Of Reading Magazine:** Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

**Keshia Dawn:** Keshia Dawn is a blessed person regardless of any situation which makes me one who is in love with life itself. The writer in me is laid back and acceptance of the stories that GOD give me to give to my audience.

**SORMAG:** Tell us about your current book?

**DAWN:** *By The Grace of GOD* is a Christian Fiction novel that revolves around HIV/AIDS and how my character deals with the situation and circumstances at hand. Gracie, the main character has the unfortunate opportunity of being in love and not understanding how her fiancé releases himself from their relationship and disappears without reason. When she actually find out why he left before she finds him, everything suddenly makes sense to her...hence, only *By The Grace of God* she can make it through. With my novel, the plot is there but the twist and turns that are hidden in the pages are full of emotions, understanding, tears and fears, but mostly GOD.



**SORMAG:** What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

**DAWN:** I'd love for my readers to zero in on the deadly disease itself and to understand that no one is immune. If that is not comprehended I'd love for the reader to take away the one message if nothing else. "GOD is yet on HIS throne! You can do all things through Christ!"

**SORMAG:** Tell us about your journey to publication.

**DAWN:** Well with publication I didn't have to journey too far and that's because I chose P.O.D. (Print On Demand) publishing. When I first started I knew that I wanted to be published and didn't worry too much about how it was going to

get done. I did send out my manuscript to a couple of places but I never ceased to get my novel out on my own regardless of their answers. I loved my story and I just knew it had to be told.

**SORMAG:** What does it feel like to see your writing dream come true?

**DAWN:** The feeling is good but I get a better feeling knowing that I accomplished what I set out to...and that was to get people to feel my characters and to put themselves in their shoes. *By The Grace of GOD* is a fiction story, but the plot is so true and something that is so needed this day and time.

**SORMAG:** Many writers start books, but have trouble finishing. How did you finish your book?

**DAWN:** I finished because I had to. I feel privileged to be able to have such an awesome story within me and one that could possible help someone if not everyone who reads my novel. I had other stories in mind and in my heart but once I put my pen to paper with this one, it just felt right and I knew I could never stop until I was finished.

**SORMAG:** Is being a published writer what you thought it would be like?

**DAWN:** It actually is even better. I never thought about the feeling I would get when people tell me that they loved my novel. I never thought about the emotions that would flow out of my readers, but when I hear what my novel did and do to them, it makes everything worth everything!

**SORMAG:** What was the best writing advice you received?

**DAWN:** To make sure I feel my characters and to put myself in their shoes and once I do that, the writing will flow with ease.

**SORMAG:** What books, newsletters, articles or

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 9**

**CONTINUE FROM PAGE 8**

websites are helpful to you?

**DAWN:** When I first started my journey, the first book I purchased was, Kwame Alexander's *Do The Write Thing*. That how-to book gave me steps from beginning to end on writing, editing, publishing and everything in between. The internet itself is so helpful and not to mention the friends you come across that have information that is absolutely grand!

**SORMAG:** Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

**DAWN:** I believe that it is imperative to join a writing club, be it on-line or a personal setting. The resources that people have to offer are so helpful along with giving you inspiration and the resources that you need. I was fortunate to meet my editor by being in a member of an on-line writing group.

**SORMAG:** What is the latest pager-turner you've read?

**DAWN:** *That Faith, That Trust, That Love*, by Jamellah Ellis and I absolutely loved it. I think I'm going to read it again!

**SORMAG:** How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

**DAWN:** My email address is:  
KeshiaDawn@hotmail.com; Mail: P.O. Box  
571575 Dallas Texas 75357.

**SORMAG:** Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

**DAWN:** The story without a title will again stay in the genre of Christian Fiction and deal with real issues. The next chosen theme will revolve around Sickle Cell.

## **LAUREN JONES, ESQ.**

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Baltimore, Maryland 21244**

**or email at [Lauren26@onebox.com](mailto:Lauren26@onebox.com)**

**Getting Started Help**

Conducting Research to Achieve Realism in Your Fiction

[http://www.absolutewrite.com/novels/conducting\\_research.htm](http://www.absolutewrite.com/novels/conducting_research.htm)

Set it Here Set it There How to Set it Anywhere

<http://hera.romance-central.com/creativecorner7.htm>

**Writing the book**

POV: Two Heads Aren't Always Better Than

<http://www.sfwriter.com/ow07.htm>

TO IMPROVE YOUR DIALOGUE

<http://www.kathycarmichael.com/dialogue.shtml>

**Completed Now What**

Self-editing

[http://www.writelinks.com/Creative/Articles/crea01\\_05.htm](http://www.writelinks.com/Creative/Articles/crea01_05.htm)

Chapter Test

<http://www.geocities.com/kerrellynsparks/writing.html>

**Submission Help**

How to Write a Proposal an Editor Will Love

<http://www.fabjob.com/romance-writer-sample.html>

**Royalty Calculator**

[http://www.kresleycole.com/Royalty\\_Calculator.htm](http://www.kresleycole.com/Royalty_Calculator.htm)

**Promotion**

40 Ways to Make Your Next Booksigning An Event

<http://www.celebratelove.com/booksigningtips.htm>

**SHADES WORKSHOPS****THE ONLINE  
WORKSHOPS FOR  
THE BUSY PERSON****WE OFFER  
WORKSHOPS FOR  
WRITERS  
AT A LOW COST****LEARN FROM  
THE BEST****NEW WORKSHOPS  
BEGIN IN MAY****CHECK OUT THE  
SCHEDULE:****[www.sormag.com/schedule](http://www.sormag.com/schedule)**