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Writing Made Them Rich #1: JK Rowling

By Michael Southon

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by: **Michael Southon**

Joanne Kathleen Rowling was born in Chipping Sodbury, England in 1965. She began writing at the age of 6 with a story called 'Rabbit', which she never finished.

In high school her favorite subject was English. From High School, Rowling went to Exeter University where she earned a degree in French.

After graduating, she spent a year studying in Paris and then went back to London where she worked in a number of jobs, including a year with Amnesty International and a short time as secretary for a publishing company, where she was responsible for sending out rejection slips.

In the summer of 1990, on a delayed train from Manchester to London, she came up with the idea of a boy who discovers he is a wizard. But it would be 7 years before the idea became a book.

In that same year her mother died of Multiple Sclerosis and she left for Portugal to teach English, hoping to find a way to deal with her grief.

In October 1992 she married a Portuguese television journalist, Jorge Arantes. But the marriage lasted just eleven months.

In 1993 she left her husband and returned to England, with the one legacy of her failed marriage – an infant daughter named Jessica.

Her life suddenly took a nose-dive. Fighting poverty and depression, she lived in a mice-infested flat in Edinburgh and struggled to raise her baby daughter on a welfare check of 70 pounds (\$100) a week.

Unable to heat her flat, she sat in cafés nursing an espresso for 2 hours at a time and worked feverishly on the manuscript of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' while her baby daughter

slept in a pram.

The manuscript is said to have been rejected by three British publishers – Penguin, Transworld and HarperCollins.

But Bloomsbury Children's Books did sign her up, reportedly paying £10,000 (\$14,300) for the rights to 'Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone'.

The Philosopher's Stone was published on 30 June, 1997 and was an instant success.

The book was published under her initials because her publisher feared that boys would be less likely to read the book if they knew it was written by a woman.

At a book fair in Italy later that year, Scholastic Books bought the American rights for \$105,000, an unheard of figure for a children's writer with only one book to her name.

It was published in the States in 1998 with the title 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone'.

The sequel – 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' – was published in June of 1999 and later that same year, the third book in the series was released, 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'.

By the time her fourth book appeared in 2000 – 'Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire' – the series had become an international phenomenon: the initial print run for her 4th book was 1.5 million copies in the UK and 3.8 million in the US.

By 2000, JK Rowland had become the highest-earning woman in Britain, with an income of more than £20.5 million (\$29.3m) in the previous year.

In 2001 her annual earnings were estimated at over £24m, (\$34.3m) placing her between Madonna and Paul McCartney in the ranks of high-earning celebrities.

In October 1998 Warner Brothers bought the rights to 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' and its sequel ('Harry Potter and the Chamber Of Secrets'), for the tidy sum of \$700,000.

With the release of the first Harry Potter film, J.K. Rowling's total earnings are estimated to have exceeded \$100 million.

In March 2001 she was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) by the Queen, for services to children's literature.

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Michael Southon has been writing for the Internet for over 3 years. He has shown hundreds of webmasters how to use this simple technique to get massive free publicity and dramatically increase

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Access Your Inner Jk Rowling

By MRA Ltd

Tired of the day job? Than why not try and access your inner J K Rowling?

JK Rowling went from being poor, scribbling her ideas for a children's book down on a napkin - to being almost richer than the Queen. Writing a bestselling novel is like buying the winning lottery ticket. In fact, Rowling's rags to riches story could be pretty good basis for a bestseller itself. Because who doesn't dream of writing the next Harry Potter? Could there be a better happier ending to all your financial woes? After all, writing doesn't cost anything but time and effort.

It's all too easy to dream of publishing success when you are drowning in bills, can't afford a holiday or think you work too hard for too little money. But of course it's not as easy as it seems or everyone would have succeeded. So how do you write a bestseller? The plot thickens...

1)Cracking storytelling. Storytelling is key - check out any major bestselling book, Harry Potter included, and there will be a story that grabs you by your lapels, shakes you around and leaves you feeling that you've learnt and lived. 2)According to some narrative theorists there are only a handful of plots in the world, some say three, some seven, some ten. Find out the fictional archetypes and start writing. 3)Believe in your story. If you just copy a formula it will flop. You need to believe in your world and characters to bring your own originality to those age old plots. Keep your integrity. 4)Oh, and you need to be a natural writer with talent.

Other tips of the trade are:

·Discipline. Dan Brown didn't get to the top of the bestselling list for months on end, or get Hollywood to make a movie of his novel starring Tom Hanks with a dodgy haircut, without having discipline. Apparently, he writes at 4am when there are no distractions and breaks ever hour to do sit ups and stretches to keep the blood and ideas flowing to his blockbuster brain. ·Chose a theme that interests you, pick a big idea with plenty of moral debate. ·Remember that attention spans are different today. We're used to fast moving movies. Dan Brown keeps his chapters short. ·Good looking hunks and heroines sell. Imagine Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt or Nicole Kidman playing your protagonists in a movie. Or even Tom Hanks with a dodgy haircut works! ·Cliff hangers at the end of a chapter will keep your readers hooked.

And the golden rule is - ignore all of the above! There are countless tips out there from authors telling us how to write a bestseller. The truth is you need a good story, determination, self discipline, and a basic command of language. Writing means biting the bullet and working hard. It is as the cliché goes,

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10 percent inspiration, 90 percent perspiration. And even after all that, there's no guarantee you'll hit the jackpot. Let's face it, most of us have got to face up to reality, pay our bills and manage our finances without the hope of JK Rowling's bank account.

If you are looking for advice on managing your money contact Mike Robertson Associates. Visit our website now by clicking on

. We offer a free Debt Counselling session with no obligation on your part. Call us on 0870 8031995.

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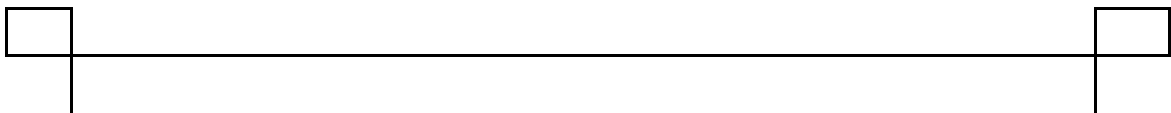
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