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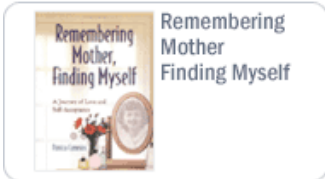
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What books do you buy and why?



I buy books that others recommend. I buy books that I've heard about or read about. I buy books that look interesting. I buy books because the title/cover seem to jump out at me. I buy books because a subject appeals to me somewhere on the scale of being incredibly important to somewhat intriguing. I buy books for other people as gifts... Have I ever stopped to think about it? Not until the "Women & Books 2007" survey <http://www.womenandbooks2007.com/> which is currently underway through Mother's Day (May

13th).

The survey aims to gather as much book-buying insight, particularly from women who account for 65% to 75% of non-fiction book purchases. (Curiously, female authors account for only about 15% of the titles on the New York Times non-fiction bestseller list over the past 52 weeks.) It is all looking at ways to change those publishing stats, with more successful women authors.

My recent interview with David Brake, CEO of Content Connections (a co-sponsor of the survey with eWomenPublishingNetwork) was a wide-ranging conversation on publishing, books, authors, and the like. Mostly—just like the survey itself—it got me thinking about my relationship to and with books. Yes, I'm a writer and I'm also a voracious reader, both of which are solitary endeavors. However, I know that books are also a good means to connect with others; if you love a book, you tell someone else because you believe the story/message/topic will also appeal to them. So, read any good books lately? Tell someone... and take the survey.

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Where Did the Wild Woman Go?



When I wrote my first book, I sat up all night, drinking a pot of coffee to stay awake. I would start work around midnight or so having slept only two hours, and by dawn I would have finished another chapter. My frazzled brain would be on fire with creativity. No matter that when I closed my eyes for a few minutes at six-thirty in the morning I could not sleep, or that come six-thirty in the evening I could hardly keep awake. The Wild Woman had been on the creative prowl! I felt alive. I felt like a real writer.

I cannot write like that any longer. Age and health considerations make the all-night writing sessions impossible. Besides, I no longer have a day job working for someone else. I don't have to confine my writing to the off-hours between midnight and dawn. Instead, I integrate my creative writing with my other work. And yet I miss those nights at the keyboard, with the rest of the house asleep and only my mug of coffee for company.

My decaffeinated self does not feel like a Wild Woman any more. I am creative yes, but the fire inside is contained in a hearth and does not blaze out of control. Oh, you may tell me it is better this way and I would believe you. But I miss her still, the Wild Woman of the caffeine and all-night writing. Perhaps she will come out and play in the day.

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