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TRICKS OF THE TRADE 39 Things You Need to Know About the ABCs of Writing



Author: Morgan St. James Genres: Fiction, Non-Fiction

# MEDIA KIT

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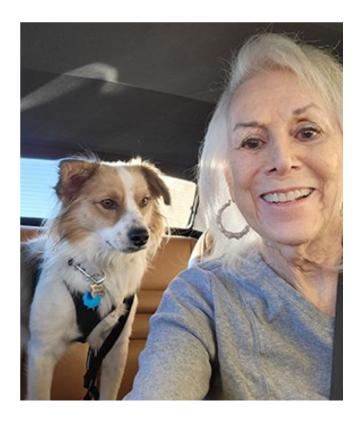
## **AUTHOR BIO**

Former interior designer MORGAN ST. JAMES lives in Las Vegas with her rescue dog Cucumber. She is on the board of Writers of Southern Nevada and is active in multiple writers' groups. St. James collaborates with other authors, writes her own standalone novels and short stories plus the 5 book *Silver Sisters Mysteries* series she writes with her sister Phyllice Bradner and the 5 book *Revenge is Fun* series.

St. James currently has 20 books in publication plus over 600 published articles about the business and craft of writing. She frequently appears on the radio, author's panels, presents writers' workshops and participates in panels at conferences.

In 2016 she co-narrated an episode of "A Crime to Remember" on Investigation Discovery TV Channel. Her award-winning short stories include publication in six Chicken Soup for the Soul books and many anthologies. In addition to writing funny crime fiction, published books include coauthored true crime books. *Incest, Murder and a Miracle* (the story of the Cheryl Pierson murder-for-hire case which has been featured in multiple true crime TV shows and in People Magazine) and *No More Crying Angels*, Bella Capo's incredible story.

She co-hosted the Writers' Tricks of the Trade Show on Blog Talk Radio with Dennis N. Griffin and Eric James Miller for a year and a half and published the quarterly *Writers Tricks of the Trade* online magazine



### Morgan St. James



# BOOKS

Here are a few of the books by Morgan St. James.

WRITERS TRICKS OF THE TRADE is a handbook for writers at all stages of their career.

#### **SILVER SISTERS MYSTERIES**

5 award-winning crime capers feature humor, some quirky over-the-top characters, and plenty of twists and turns plus surprise endings.

#### **REVENGE IS FUN SERIES**

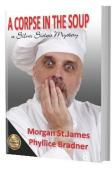
Getting Even is the big thing whether with gangsters, scam artists or crooked government employees.



## **SOME REVIEWS**



"Prior to finding Ms. St. James' book, I used a variety of other writing sources to start my sessions but most were so dry that they didn't spark much creativity. With this book, I find the style of writing so folksy, that many of them definitely get my juices going in a positive direction." — Lee Nelson



"I am an ardent fan of mystery's and this is a series I will be following. Thoroughly enjoyable. It pulls you in and doesn't let go until the final page. Great characters that you feel you know after reading the book. I look forward to the next book in the series." — Tracy Holbrook



"This book will bring out a ton of emotion in you. I warn you ahead of time you will want a box of tissues handy. I also warn you once you start this book you will not want to put this down. Incest, Murder, and Miracle starts off one way and ends off a totally opposite way you would never expect. This is one book that needs to be made into a movie on Netflix." —HeidiLynn's Book Reviews



"A witty, well thought out embezzlement plot that could have worked. Good thing the authors are not crooks!" — —Joaquin "Jack" Garcia, former FBI agent and bestselling NYT author.

# **TARGET AUDIENCES**

#### WHO SHOULD READ THESE BOOKS ABOUT STRONG WOMEN

- True crime fans
- Abuse survivors
- Inspirational book fans
- Teachers and counselors
- Media

#### WHO SHOULD READ WRITERS TRICKS OF THE TRADE

• Writers at all stages of their career - written in plain, easy-to-understand prose with some humor



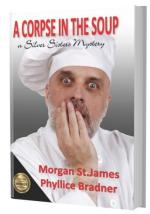


#### WHO WILL ENJOY SILVER SISTERS MYSTERIES AND REVENGE IS FUN BOOKS

- Cozy mystery lovers
- Whodunit Fans
- Readers who like funny crime capers
- Readers who follow ongoing series where all books are standalone



### **BOOK EXCERPT**



#### One

Godiva Olivia Dubois held the paper at arm's length, squinting to read the jagged script without her glasses. "You know, on days like today I think I should have stuck with my little column in the *Beverly Hills Blabbermouth* instead of becoming syndicated." She finally put on her glasses and read out loud.

#### Dear G. O. D.,

I've prayed to The Lord for guidance, but he doesn't answer. The longer I stand by and watch, the more I know my mission. Time is running short now, so I'm turning to you. I have to know. Is it a sin to kill a monster?

Please tell me I won't go to Hell if I rid the world of this human piece of garbage. I don't do well in extreme heat.

-Mr. Clean

Maybe some joker is pulling my leg. She read it again, digesting every word, shuddered, and pushed it over to her mother.

"Mom, this letter is really spooky. Read it and see what you think."

Flossie picked up the creased ivory sheet. It wobbled in her veined hand as she glanced up and down the page clicking her tongue. "You see, Godiva?" She shook the paper under her daughter's nose. "That's exactly what I've been trying to tell you. When you write a column called Ask G.O.D., don't be surprised if you get letters from nutcases."

Godiva snatched the letter back. "I should have known you'd say that." She marched across the room and plunked it down on the table. "Read this one, Unk. Mom thinks it's from a crank, but I'm afraid it might be real." Sterling Silver dropped the mail sack he was emptying onto the mahogany library table.

Holding the sheet like a dead skunk, his eyes crinkled as he strained to read. "Forget about it, honey. Sounds like a crank to me. Just stick to the funny ones. Remember, the audience loves a good laugh."

"Yeah, I know, Unk, but something feels weird about this. I'm just not sure what to do." Godiva retrieved the letter from him, put it back in the envelope and slipped it into the pocket of her embroidered silk jacket.

She scooped up another pile and started plowing through it. "What would I do without you guys? I feel like I'm swimming upstream."

Flossie rolled her eyes. "Well you're up to your neck, all right. Since the beginning of time people have asked God for advice, so what does my daughter do? She gives them an address! Did you listen to what I told you? Of course not. So our poor mailman's getting a hernia schlepping letters from all these... these..." She made a sweep of the room with her hand. "...these wackos."

"Wackos sell papers, Mother. How do you think those tabloids can afford to pay out millions to settle libel suits?"

# **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**



### **STORY IDEAS FOR REPORTERS:**



**TRICKS OF THE TRADE** 39 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ABCS OF WRITING

"You'!L Find This Book so full of vital information, you'll want to explore every page." Maralys Wills 4th Edition Updated for 2020 Morgan St. James **1. Did you start out to be a writer?:** No, I was an interior designer but became a writer by accident when my partner and I landed an article in a prestigious interior design magazine. The deadline approached, and we had no article so we got creative and the editor loved it. I wrote several more articles for them.

2. Was the Silver Sisters Mystery A Corpse in the Soup the first book you wrote with your sister?: No, we first tried our hand at a funny diet book, *Zip Up Your Pants with Grapefruit*, that never got published. We had so much fun we decided to write a funny mystery.

3. Did you begin to write with your sister because you were close?: Actually, we barely knew each other because she moved to Alaska when she was 20. I'm 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  years older, and that was about the time we would have become friends. Through writing together we became best friends despite living thousands of miles apart.

**4.** How did you decide to write the Revenge is Fun series beginning with *Ripoff*?: My co-author and I were marketing representatives for furniture manufactured in Federal prisons. Based upon our experiences, we decided to write a book featuring 3 savvy women who brought down a huge government embezzlement scheme. The rest of the series evolved from there – all inspired by actual events.

**5.** How did someone who couldn't speak in public now love giving dynamic workshops and talks. When I was a marketing rep for office interiors my VP of Marketing threw me into a "do or die" situation. I had to cold call an entire office building. By the last office, I was totally comfortable speaking to strangers. Funny story, though.

6. How you crossed the line between writing funny mysteries and co-authoring serious memoirs for abuse survivors. I worked closely with them and kept their speech patterns. And, yes, I cried with them, too.

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