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CREATIVE WRITING

In my twenties, I took my first short story class. Meeting other writers and getting their feedback was invaluable. I loved every minute of it. A few years later, after I'd had my second child, I went on another creative writing course. This time, it had the bonus of some me time. On this course, we were encouraged to write a variety of different genres. It was great to try out new ways of writing. From this course, my little writing group was formed. We have been meeting for over ten years now. Following that, I started writing a story which was originally intended to be short but then it kept going and turned into a novel.

That first novel was a bit of a mess, I have to admit, as I didn't plan it and it lost its way. The story ended up being far too complicated but I learnt a lot from writing it and most importantly I had fun. It was then I started a new novel.

But towards the end, I found I was struggling a bit. When I saw the 'progressing your novel' course at ACL in 2020 I was delighted. This was just what I needed. Unfortunately due to lockdown, we had to go online after a few weeks. Knowing that I was debating how to end it, the tutor, Emma, suggested that I write a synopsis for each chapter. This gave me a clear sense of direction.

During the first lockdown, I was able to finish writing it. During those stressful and uncertain times, it was good to have a distraction. In August 2020, after being spurred on by a friend who read my novel, I plucked up the courage to send it to some publishers. I was amazed when a month later one of them said he was interested.

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