



P.O. Box 4251 • 1060 Ragin Lane • Rock Hill, SC 29732 • [www.bellarosabooks.com](http://www.bellarosabooks.com) • 803-328-0680

Media contacts: Workshops & Interviews: Pat Meller, 336-209-0628, [patmeller@aol.com](mailto:patmeller@aol.com)

Author: Chris Roerden, 336-323-1032, [croerden@aol.com](mailto:croerden@aol.com)

Publisher: Rod Hunter, 803-328-0680, [rod@bellarosabooks.com](mailto:rod@bellarosabooks.com)

## 4.7 MILLION NOVELS REJECTED ANNUALLY

“Why was my novel rejected?” Millions of writers haven’t a clue, says veteran book editor Chris Roerden. “Average writing is the main cause,” she says, “like doubting your meaning is clear, so you use repetition for insurance. I call that malpractice.” Roerden adds, “Putting quotation marks around a sentence doesn’t make it dialogue.” Editors and agents quickly spot these and other clues and stop reading. Roerden teaches writers to see their clues, fix them, and boost their odds of getting published.

“Most writers sabotage their manuscripts in identical ways,” she says.

Roerden estimates 4.7 million rejections occurred last year, based on the industry average of one in a hundred manuscripts becoming a book, and on 47,541 new adult fiction titles published in 2008.<sup>1</sup> To improve the average writer’s 1-in-100 odds for publication, Roerden takes her workshops to public libraries and writers’ groups throughout the country. Audiences play a game and do exercises designed to reveal body language illiteracy, buried agendas that cause a tension deficit disorder, and hooks and prologues that lead to low-tension, backstory ache. She wants writers to know the secrets of how manuscripts are really evaluated and what causes instant rejection, disappointment, and wasted time.

Anticipating retirement after more than 40 years of teaching and editing, she wrote *Don’t Murder Your Mystery* and revised it for all genres under the title *Don’t Sabotage Your Submission*. Published by a small royalty press<sup>2</sup>, Roerden’s books received much Internet buzz, four awards, and four national award nominations. She won the Agatha Award for Best Nonfiction Book, the 2009 Benjamin Franklin Award for Literary Criticism, and the 2009 Florida Writers Assn. Published Book of the Year.

*New York Times* best-selling author Charlaine Harris (whose Sookie Stackhouse series is the HBO hit *True Blood*), says Roerden’s work is “chock full of practical advice for the novice writer. Even seasoned writers could use a copy as a refresher course.” And *NYT* best-selling author of award-winning thrillers P.J. Parrish says that after hearing Chris Roerden present a workshop, then reading her book, “I went back and rewrote an entire first page.”

When *Don’t Murder Your Mystery*’s ranking on Amazon led to the Writer’s Digest Book Club acquiring it, Roerden knew her advice was reaching thousands more writers than in her lifetime of editing, 15 years of teaching writing at two universities, and (so far) 230 workshop presentations.<sup>3</sup>

1. <http://www.bowker.com/index.php/press-releases/563-bowker-reports-us-book-production-declines-3-in-2008-but-qon-demand-q-publishing-more-than-doubles>

2. ISBN 978-1-933523-31-6, available from all major distributors, published by Bella Rosa Books

3. <http://writersinfo.info> (click the microphone)