

# LARA CONFIDENTIAL

The Newsletter of the Los Angeles Romance Authors Chapter of RWA

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## EDITOR'S TALK

For no other reason than that I thought you might find this interesting, I'm presenting my "Lessons Learned from the School of Hard Knocks." I've got these hanging over my computer cubicle in my bedroom (euphemistically known as my home office when no one is sleeping there). When I get to thinking something is going to be as easy as it looks, or things are going too smoothly, or that I am a goddess and others must worship me, I give a glance at these words and they bring me right back down to earth. I crafted this list when I hit the big Four-Oh and decided that living that long must mean I'd learned stuff I could pass down to my kids. In theory.

I mean, I know I've learned that one should never wear brown shoes with a black tuxedo, and horizontal stripes make a big person look bigger, and mayonnaise sandwiches just aren't as tasty as you might think. But what, I asked myself, are the really important rules to live by? Granted, this list reflects my particularly pragmatic approach to life, and it may not be the lessons you have learned, but to me, it resonates. And if you squint at it in just the right light, you'll see most of the things on the list have a lot to do with writing.

So here they are, my "Lessons Learned from the School of Hard Knocks," in no particular order. Let me know what you think.

- *Follow your dreams. Just don't give up your day job.*
- *If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.*
- *Things that look easy when other people do them invariably are not.*
- *You can only worry about so many things. Have the rest take a number and wait their turn.*
- *If you think things can't get any worse, wait.*
- *If you think things can't get any better, wait.*
- *If you think things will never be the same again, wait.*
- *You can do anything you have to do. Even if you think you can't. Especially when you have no choice.*

That's it. Don't spend it all in one place.

If you're a mom, I hope you had a great Mother's Day. If you're not a mom, I hope you were able to call yours to say hello. Take care, and Happy Reading!

TJ Bennett  
Editor, LARA Confidential  
Golden Heart Finalist 2005