

NATAS Newsletter

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One on One: My Journey Writing a Book!

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After interviewing many of San Diego's athletes for the show One on One, on Channel 4 San Diego, there came the suggestion, "you oughta write a book," I decided to do it. My vision included using the actual scripts from a select number of programs. That way, if no one really cared about my story, they could read the back-stories and actual biographies of the athletes. Thanks to my boss, Craig Nichols, COX gave me the rights December of 2006. New Year's Eve, welcoming in 2007, I began writing my book's introduction.

My experience included: three years of writing only on my vacations totaling 300 hours. It felt then I would just be a few months away. Not even close! In January '10, once I set the release date of November 11th (Veteran's Day in honor of my father), I logged another 1700 hours between 16-hour days while working full-time, weekends, and vacations. Having a lot of photos in the book (photo permissions is an enormous effort and process), delving into my own life story, tracking down players for comments about their One on One experiences, planning a charity fundraiser for the book launch combined for a complex project beyond just writing.

A book I found randomly "The Shortest Distance Between You and a Published Book" suggested you imagine the day the box arrives and you see your book; and you have to imagine the launch party celebrating your accomplishment. Through blurry eyed nights and long to do lists, that helped keep my eye on the finish line.

Writing for a book is not like writing a television script. I still kept “my voice” but considering most of my TV scripts have partial phrases mixed with full sentences, a manuscript for reading in black and white is more different than I expected. My mother and trusted colleagues read part of the early iterations for suggestions, before I handed the manuscript to my publisher, and her team of editors. I took suggestions, but maintained full control over the content, the look, and the feel of the book.

This was my journey. Yours might be different. Don't be afraid to take the leap from TV to print for a new dimension of your journalism life. If you believe you have a story to tell the world, it's up to YOU to do it. I'm glad I did, but I still love television and telling others' stories, too. For more on the book: www.JaneMitchellOneOnOne.com