

From blank page to bestseller,
your indie author journey starts here.

Indie Author Retreat

October 18 and 19, 2024
The Beverly Hilton, Los Angeles



The Indie Author Retreat Agenda

Each session is carefully curated to address specific needs and interests. Whether you're honing your writing skills, crafting your publishing strategy, or mastering the art of marketing your book, there's something for everyone.

Be sure to review the event schedule and plan your itinerary to maximize your learning and networking opportunities at the Indie Author Retreat.

FRIDAY SCHEDULE*

	MAIN ROOM	CLASSROOM A
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Coffee and Registration	
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Keynote by Amber Vilhauer	
10:30 AM - 11:20 AM	<p>GREGG GONZALES</p> <p>From First Idea to Draft</p> <p>A step-by-step process to bringing your story to life—how you can accomplish in minutes and days what would normally take weeks, months and even years to produce, all in the comfort of a nurturing and safe creative space</p>	<p>DAVID HANCOCK, ROBIN CUTLER, NANCY LEVIN, and AMBER VILHAUER</p> <p>Self-Publishing, Hybrid Publishing, and Traditional Publishing</p> <p>What does it take to go out on your own? What are the options out there? What is the right path for you?</p>
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	<p>DAVID HANCOCK</p> <p>Stop Wasting Time and Money and Start Selling Your Work and Building Lasting Relationships!</p>	<p>KATHLEEN KAISER, LESLIE LEHR, and NAOMI EAGLESON</p> <p>Polishing Your Work Preparing your manuscript before you present it to an agent</p>
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch on Your Own	
2:00 PM - 2:40 PM	<p>PETER RUBIE</p> <p>Voice</p> <p>If you want to get published there's a secret you need to know. It's a secret few writing teachers speak about, and fewer still teach. What is this secret? <i>Voice</i>.</p> <p>Some teachers throw up their hands in exasperation and say voice can't even be defined let alone taught, but I disagree. If your writing has a true, distinctive voice, you will stop traffic. Like the creatures of the forest who fell under the spell of Orpheus when he played and sang, a strong and unselfconscious voice in your writing will seduce editors and agents from their busy schedules.</p>	<p>MIFFIE SEIDEMAN</p> <p>The Grim Reader</p> <p>Realistic murders, deaths, ODs, drug scenes and the right and wrong way to kill your characters</p>
2:50 PM - 3:50 PM	<p>AMBER VILHAUER</p> <p>Bestseller Book Launch Workshop</p> <p>In this workshop, Amber Vilhauer shares the systems and strategies she's used to create over 1,000 bestselling authors. She'll walk you through her nine-month book launch process, including how to create your platform, grow it, utilize strategic partnerships, and pull everything together in the two months leading up to launch. Get ready to go beyond strategy and dive deep into the actual systems, methods, and tactics of a successful book launch.</p>	
4:00 PM - 5:20 PM	<p>GEORGIA HUGHES, PETER RUBIE, CONNOR SMITH, MATTHEW MISETICH, STEVE HUTSON, JENNIFER PIEN, and ROBIN CUTLER</p> <p>Pitch Sessions with Agents and Editors</p>	
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Reception - Hosted by Nancy Levin	

SATURDAY SCHEDULE*

	MAIN ROOM	CLASSROOM A
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Breakfast	
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Keynote by Devrie Donalson	
10:30 AM - 11:20 AM	<p>GEORGIA HUGHES and DEVRIE DONALSON</p> <p>Platform, Following, Fans</p> <p>A panel discussion on social media and its impact on your career</p> <p>Do authors need to be famous to succeed? How can you get the platform agents are asking for? What good are they? Does Social Media really help?</p>	<p>JENNIFER PIEN and CONNOR SMITH</p> <p>How to Write Compelling and Highly Readable Non-fiction</p>
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	<p>PETER RUBIE</p> <p>How Do Publishers Work?</p> <p>Panel discussion on the inner workings of a publishing house and how they make the decisions they do</p>	<p>MATT MISETICH, ROBIN CUTLER, and STEVE HUTSON</p> <p><i>Moderated by Steve Hutson</i></p> <p>What Not to Say to an Agent or Editor</p> <p>Panelists will give advice and guidance on the best practices for pitching a memoir, novel or non-fiction book at a conference, on the phone, or in a pitch session.</p>
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch	
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	<p>NANCY LEVIN</p> <p>The Art of Reinvention</p> <p>For authors, reinvention is returning to the essence of who you truly are as a creative person. In this workshop, you'll learn how to consciously curate what you choose to bring into your life and your work - as well as what you choose to release. Experience what's possible for your dreams and career as an author when you give yourself permission to prioritize your own needs and stand center stage in your own life.</p>	
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	<p>GEORGIA HUGHES, PETER RUBIE, CONNOR SMITH, MATTHEW MISETICH, STEVE HUTSON, JENNIFER PIEN, and ROBIN CUTLER</p> <p>Pitch Sessions with Agents and Editors</p>	
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Closing Reception - Hosted by David Hancock	

***DISCLAIMER:** Schedule may be subject to change.

LEGEND:

- Keynote Presentations
- Writing Craft Sessions
- Panel Discussions
- Pitching Sessions

ABOUT THE EVENT

From draft to bestseller, the path is clearer with Indie Author Retreat—a transformative experience that provides the road map you need to navigate the exciting yet complex world of publishing and marketing.

Our exclusive weekend of workshops and master classes features a lineup of industry experts who will guide you through the entire journey.

From honing the craft of writing to mastering the intricacies of publishing, marketing, and pitching your book, you'll gain the actionable strategies needed to turn your writing into a bestseller.

The Indie Author Retreat goes beyond education. It fosters a supportive and collaborative environment where you can pitch your book to agents and editors, connect with fellow authors, share experiences, and build lasting relationships that will propel you forward on your journey.

Join us and turn your blank page into a bestseller!

