

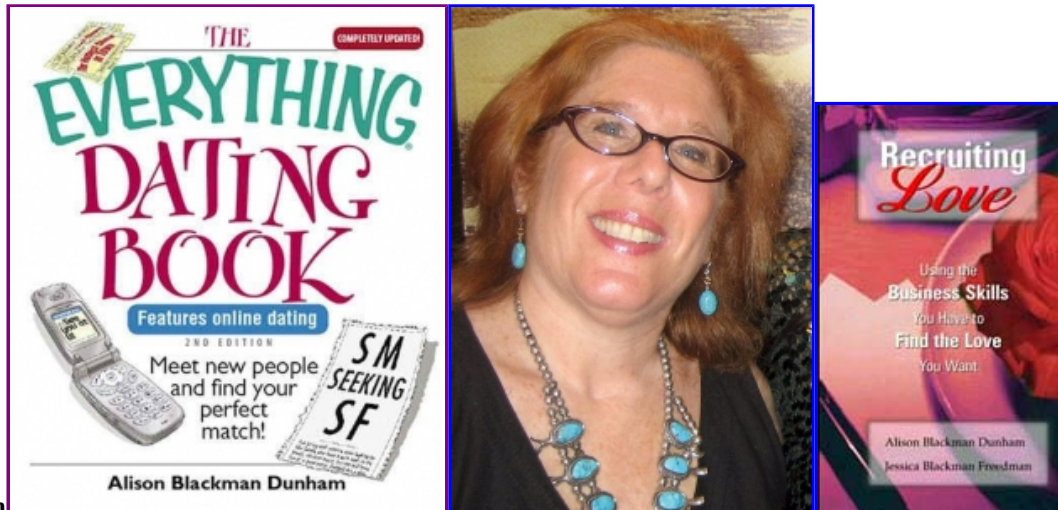
Ask Wendy - The Query Queen

Writers, authors, freelance life and making money

- [Home](#)
- [MEDIA PAGE/BLOG TOUR](#)
- [Wendy Burt-Thomas, author and full-time freelance writer](#)
- [UPCOMING AUTHORS...](#)

10 QUESTIONS FOR...Alison Blackman, author of several nonfiction books

Author interview with Alison



Blackman

I am a freelance writer and creator of the Advice Sisters Online Publications. I have been providing content online for 16 years and The Advice Sisters <http://www.advicesisters.net> is actually credited with bringing the advice/infotainment genre, online! All of the content on my web site and daily blog <http://www.advicesisters.net/advicesistersblog.html> focuses on providing lifestyle ideas to an international audience of educated, upscale adults, focusing heavily on fashion, beauty, and ways to make life easier, more successful and more fun. My Web Site and my Blog are my online portfolio. I am the author of **The Everything Dating Book** 2nd Edition (Adams Media 2006); **Recruiting Love: Using the Business Skills You Have to Find the Love You Want** (Cyclone Books, 1998) and contributor to several other nonfiction books.

1. Tell us about your latest



book.

I am working on a self-help book that I hope will help people stop being timid about moving ahead with their lives and careers, learning and being inspired by real

life examples.

2. How did you get started as a writer?

I have been writing for so long, it's hard to remember. However, I discovered that every job I had I ended up either volunteering or being "volunteered" to write the newsletter or the annual report or what have you, so when I decided I wanted to work for myself, writing seemed like the natural choice.

3. What does a typical day look like for you?

I get up about 8:00 and have much-needed coffee. I talk to husband who his dragging his feet going into his own office. I can't do any work if there is noise or distraction so I don't even listen to music. When husband leaves, I go through my emails and then start thinking about writing reviews or my blog posts. I tend to be distracted by email and sometimes, computer problems. I do all the technical work on my web site and blog, myself. I wish I didn't have to because for every little thing I fix, ten more seem to crop up that I caused because I'm not technically savvy enough! Sometimes I work through lunch and sometimes, it's dark outside before I finally turn around and stop for a rest. I work out for an hour, or eat lunch. Then back to the computer until husband comes home or I have evening events. I work on the weekends pretty much the same way but with mor breaks.

4. Describe your desk/workspace.

My workspace is a very old, beaten up computer hutch from Ikea. I have a photo of my husband and I when we were a a Matsuri (festival) in Japan that always makes me smile. I have beauty review samples and business cards scattered everywhere!

5. Favorite books

Don't really have any

6. Tell us 3 interesting/crazy things about you

I am a twin (my twin sister was part of the Advice Sisters before she died) and that's why i am still known as: "The Advice Sisters" I am a genuine redhead, and I have never met a cat I haven't loved!

7. Favorite quote

"From the moment I could talk, I was ordered to listen" (Cat Stevens-i think he changed his name but this quote was the one I had in my school yearbook many years ago)

8. Best and worst part of being a writer

The best part of being a writer is being your own boss and being able to share your thoughts with others. The worst part? No Money!!!!

9. Advice for other writers:

Don't quit your day job unless you become a celebrity

10. Tell us a story about your writing experience.

I once met an agent early on in my career. He had just repped a best-selling book in my field, and somehow he took a bit of pity on newbie me, and helped me revamp my proposal document. Alas, he was never home and I had to pitch (literally) my work over the fence of his house so it would land near his door. I'd just leave it on the street! He never did become my agent, although I did sell books after that. (grin)

Where can people learn more about you?

The Advice Sisters Web site is <http://www.advicesisters.net/> My Blog is <http://www.advicesisters.net/advicesistersblog.html> the Feed is: <http://feeds2.feedburner.com/advicesistersblog> and you can follow me on Twitter "Advicesisters" Please check me out!

Alison
Blackman, Publisher/Writer-AdviceSisters Publications

The
Advice Sisters <http://www.advicesisters.net>

AdviceSisters
Guide to Life, Success & Happiness Blog:

<http://www.advicesisters.net/advicesistersblog.html>

What
Works Beauty, Cosmetics & Fashion review column: <http://www.advicesisters.net/whatworkscol3.html>

Twitter:
"advicesisters"

Facebook
Me: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=732170494>

[April 8, 2009](#) Posted by [askwendy](#) | [10 QUESTIONS FOR...](#), [author](#), [books](#), [business](#), [how-to](#), [self-help](#), [women](#), [writing](#) | [author](#), [book](#), [dating](#), [how-to](#), [nonfiction](#), [self-help](#), [writing](#) | [No Comments](#)

[Nature writing contest: story, poem or essay](#)

RAF Writing Contest (theme is “nature”; \$10 fee; May 14 deadline; cash prizes; 3-5 poems or one essay or one short story)

<http://www.rafgardens.org/writingcontest.html>

April 9, 2009 Posted by [askwendy](#) | [CONTESTS](#), [fiction](#), [poetry](#), [writing](#) | [writing](#), [fiction](#), [short stories](#), [story](#), [essay](#), [poetry](#), [poem](#), [contest](#), [nature](#) | [No Comments](#)

[10 QUESTIONS FOR...Hank Rosenfeld, author of “The Wicket Wit of the West”](#)



Author interview with Hank Rosenfeld



1. Tell us about your latest book.

THE WICKED WIT OF THE WEST by Irving Brecher as-told-to-me is a “freak” of a book, according to my 94-year-old writing partner Irv. Not a bio, not a memoir, but it chronicles his life writing comedies for the Marx Brothers (Groucho gave him the name “Wicked Wit of the West” when Irv punched up “The Wizard of Oz”. Harpo called him Irv “The Nerve”), seven musicals at MGM including “Meet Me In St. Louis,” and created the first “sitcom” in 1949: “The Life of Riley,” starring Jackie Gleason. In fact, the show won the first Emmy in 1950.

The complete title of the book is **THE WICKED WIT OF THE WEST: The last great Golden Age screenwriter on the hilarity and heartache of working with Groucho, Garland, Gleason, Berle, Burns, Benny & many more**

2. How did you get started as a writer?

I remember writing stories in 5th grade Macdowell Elementary in Detroit, as part of a stay-after-school class in Detroit that was so great, we were given Hershey bars down the hallway afterward class.

3. What does a typical day look like for you?

I pass the time strolling in a midtown-reverie until it’s time to get to the library and put all distractions aside (except they