

SUMMARY *New York Times* bestselling ghostwriter of 20+ books that have sold over 1 million copies. These include five books in the popular *Dummies* series, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Thyroid Disease*, a beloved interview book with superstar author Neil Gaiman, and books with such top publishers as Penguin Random House, HarperCollins, and McGraw-Hill.

In addition, have written articles for such diverse national publications as *The New York Times*, *Advertising Age*, *PC Magazine*, *PC World*, *American Film*, *Spy*, and *Mad Magazine*.

Have also written scores of user guides, online help systems, CBT, video training, and classroom training for such renowned organizations as Morgan Stanley, Reuters, NYMEX, AIG, Northern Telecom, Juno Online Services, and the U.S. Air Force.

In addition, co-hosted a business podcast for which I interviewed such top organizations as Microsoft, AT&T, 3M, Dow Jones/*The Wall Street Journal*, Deloitte, Pricewaterhousecoopers, Siemens, Eli Lilly, The Mayo Clinic, Salk Institute, Genentech, State Farm, Allstate, WordPress.com, Tumblr, and dozens more.

I'm an expert at quickly learning a subject via phone interviews, online and paper research, and careful study of all other relevant information, and then crafting meticulously accurate material that's clear, friendly, compelling, entertaining, and exceptionally easy to understand and learn.

BOOKS

- 2006-Present Help writers—ranging from total beginners to *New York Times* bestselling authors and Hollywood screenwriters—turn their ideas into dynamic book proposals, screenplays, and/or TV shows. For example, a book proposal I wrote for a first-time author and non-celebrity landed him a \$1 million advance...and without the involvement of an agent. (This is almost unheard of.) I then wrote the complete book, which went on to become a *New York Times* bestseller, reach #16 on Amazon.com, and sell over 370,000 copies in hardcover alone.
- 2020-2021 Composing what's likely to be a major spirituality book. (Please stay tuned...)
- 2020-2021 Co-authored *Shaping Your Baby's Foundation*, a medical/health book to be published in August 2021 by HarperCollins.
- 2020 Co-authored *Take Charge of Your Thyroid Disorder*, a medical book published in December 2020 by Penguin Random House.
- 2016-2019 Edited short story anthology *Ghosts On Drugs*, a cross-genre book I dreamed up and produced with Will Paoletto. For details, please visit <http://GhostsOnDrugs.com>.
- 2013 Edited Steve Olsher's superb book *What Is Your WHAT?*, which was published by Wiley. Steve kindly wrote in his Acknowledgements, "My heartfelt thanks goes to Hy Bender, the world's best editor, for continuing to teach me the difference between writing and being a writer."

- 2012 Contributed to graphic horror novel *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, which was illustrated by Simon Bisley and published by Heavy Metal.
- 2011 Co-wrote *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Thyroid Disease*, which leveraged advances in both mainstream and alternative medicine to provide cutting-edge advice on what symptoms to look for, and how to test, diagnose, and treat hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, thyroid cancer, and other thyroid diseases. Also included the latest medical knowledge on how to shed fat, eat smart, and maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- 2008-2009 Ghostwrote a book about organic products, and how to purchase them conveniently and inexpensively regardless of location. (I normally can't list "ghost projects" here, but in this case the clients generously gave their permission.)
- 2004 Contributed to Prentice-Hall book on troubleshooting **Windows** and **Microsoft Office**.
- 2003 Wrote *College Survival Guide*, a campus guidebook for new students on how to deal with such adult challenges as alcohol, drugs, depression, and sex.
- 2000 Contributed to *The Mad Companion*, a humor book published by *Mad* magazine.
- 1998-1999 Wrote *The Sandman Companion* for DC Comics, a bestselling interview book/biography/literary analysis with legendary author **Neil Gaiman** about Neil's epic *Sandman* series on mythology and dreams (which has sold more than a million copies). Creating this book involved interviewing over two dozen people who worked on *Sandman* and then editing 100+ hours of taped conversations.
- 1996-1998 Wrote or cowrote five books in the bestselling *Dummies* series:
- *Dummies 101: The Internet for Windows 98*
 - *Dummies 101: The Internet for Windows 95* (with M. L. Young)
 - *Dummies 101: Netscape Communicator 4*
 - *Dummies 101: Netscape Navigator* (with M. L. Young)
 - *The Internet for Dummies—Starter Kit Edition* (with three other authors)
- The *Dummies 101* books are 250-page step-by-step tutorials that take novices by the hand and carefully teach them how to use Internet features such as email and the World Wide Web. Each of these books includes a software-crammed CD that I designed and is supplemented by Web sites that I co-designed. Online superstore Amazon.com said of my Communicator book, "This is possibly the **single best book** to hand someone who is a relative beginner on the Web."
- 1995 Wrote *Getting Started With Windows 95* for WEKA, a hands-on introduction to Windows that became the **second most successful book** in the publisher's history.

- 1993-1994 Wrote *Essential Software for Writers*, a 500-page book that L. R. Shannon in *The New York Times* called “**exhaustive**” and “**lots of fun**,” and Jerry Poumelle in *Byte Magazine* designated as “**the book of the month**.” Peter McWilliams wrote in his syndicated *Personal Computers* column, “The fact he has reviewed so much in the course of a year astounds me. **This book is the best of its kind**.” Creating the book involved carefully evaluating over 200 top writing-related programs, including idea generators, grammar checkers, style replicators, electronic dictionaries and thesauruses, poetry processors, and online reference sources.
- 1990-1992 Wrote two editions of *PC Tools: The Complete Reference*, a 900-page tome published by Osborne/McGraw-Hill. *Computer Currents* magazine included this book on its annual list of the **top dozen computer books of the year**, calling it “**the best**” and “**a valuable reference**.”
- 1989 Wrote *Excel Quick Reference*, a 160-page book published by Macmillan/Que that I created in 10 days. It went on to sell over 60,000 copies.

WEBSITES, PODCASTS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS

- 2007-Present Run the following websites and social media accounts:
- BookProposal.net: My book and book proposal development service.
 - HyOnYourScript.com: My screenplay and teleplay service.
 - [Daily Comedy Coverage](https://twitter.com/DailyComedyCoverage): My Twitter account.
 - [Daily Spiritual Guidance](https://www.instagram.com/dailyspiritualguidance): My Instagram account, in collaboration with a client.
 - [The Millennial Career Playbook](http://TheMillennialCareerPlaybook.com): Business podcast.
 - BestNewYorkComedy.com: Coverage of NYC live comedy pre-COVID.
 - HyReviews.com: Coverage of NYC live comedy, theatre & more pre-COVID.
 - GhostsOnDrugs.com: Short story anthology I created and edited.
 - CIGThyroid.com: For my book *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Thyroid Disease*.
- 2015-2016 Co-hosted podcast *The Millennial Career Playbook* (TMCPB.com), for which I interviewed such powerhouse corporations as **Microsoft, AT&T, 3M, Dow Jones/The Wall Street Journal, Deloitte, Pricewaterhousecoopers, Siemens, Eli Lilly, The Mayo Clinic, Salk Institute, Genentech, State Farm, Allstate, WordPress.com, Tumblr**, and dozens more about best practices for attracting and retaining top millennial employees.
- 1989-Present Sold media-related articles to such national magazines as *Mad Magazine*, *Spy*, *American Film*, *Advertising Age*, *Bottom Line/Personal*, and *FOLIO: The Magazine for Magazine Management*. Also sold articles to such technical publications as *PC Magazine*, *PC World*, *PC Week*, and *Yahoo! Internet Life*.
- 2005 Wrote theatre reviews for *The New York Times* Arts & Leisure section.
- 2001-2002 For **Techbargains.com**, a Web site garnering 5 million page-views per month, wrote reviews of top-of-the-line software. Programs critiqued included Microsoft Office, Dreamweaver, and Adobe Photoshop.

USER GUIDES, ONLINE HELP SYSTEMS, AND BUSINESS WRITING

- 2006 For the **U.S. Congress**, worked on Web-based information retrieval/analysis tool.
- 2005 For **Reuters**, created online help system (via **RoboHelp**) for **Reuters Knowledge**, a powerful Web-based financial research & analysis tool used by tens of thousands of high-level investment managers, investment bankers, and corporate officers.
- 2004 For **Gallery Systems**, created Web-based online help system (via **RoboHelp**) for eMuseum, a tool for publishing museum collections on the Web. GS' 500+ clients include **The Metropolitan Museum of Art, MOMA, and The Smithsonian**.
- 2003 For **New York Mercantile Exchange**, created Web-based online help system (via **RoboHelp**) and 125-page printed guide (via **Microsoft Word**) to help traders around the world use NYMEX's new Web-based financial software.
- 2003 For **WorkRelationShips, Inc.**, wrote best practices proposals for corporate managers.
- 2002-2003 For **U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory**, wrote 250-page **user guide** and complex **RoboHelp online guide** documenting AI system that helps create software ranging from military simulations to state-of-the-art games.
- 1999-2001 For **Morgan Stanley**, created 150-page user guides, and sophisticated **RoboHelp HTML online help** systems with **search engines**, detailed **indexes**, and **hundreds of crisscrossing hyperlinks**, for the following financial divisions:
- **Program Management Office:** Provided extensive advice and Web-based forms to help project managers perform their jobs effectively, consolidate their project information online, and streamline their reporting to senior management.
 - **Private Wealth Management:** Detailed the work process of PWM salespeople, managers, and controllers; and provided step-by-step instructions on how to analyze and report on PWM's daily multimillion dollar trading activities.
 - **Derivative Products & Foreign Exchange Groups:** Provided step-by-step instructions on how to evaluate customer account applications via intranet sites.
- 1999 For **Blink.com**, worked with marketing staff and Web artists to make this new site appealing and accessible. The site quickly went on to receive accolades from **PC Magazine** and **Forbes**, and to garner **\$11 million in second-round financing**.
- 1999 For **Vitech Systems**, wrote 150-page guide to private equity administration program used by **Goldman Sachs, DLJ, Thomas Lee**, and other major financial institutions.
- 1999 For **Juno Online Services**, used **RoboHelp** to rewrite and expand the online help system of Juno version 3.0, an email program and World Wide Web dialer used by this Internet giant's **6.5 million customers**.
- 1998-1999 For **Microvideo Learning Systems**, wrote video scripts and workbooks for eight two-hour video training tapes on **Microsoft Windows** and popular spreadsheet, database, and word processing software. These videotapes were purchased at a cost of \$500 to \$1,000 each by such top organizations as **IBM, AT&T, American Express, Pepsico, Texaco, Mobil Oil, Dow Chemical, R. J. Reynolds, Sprint, NYNEX, Chase Manhattan, the FBI, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy, and the United Nations**.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 2016-2017 As Director of Television and Film Development for MSP, scouted and negotiated contracts for comedy projects worthy of development, scouted and hired comedy talent, and produced comedy pilots.
- 2004-2011 Ran respected biweekly screenwriting workshop **NYScreenwriters.org**, which helped writers improve their screenplays via cold readings and incisive critiques, and also allowed actors and directors to network with our writers (which led to some fruitful collaborations).
- 1994-2002 Ran **monthly reading group for writers** that analyzed the works of great twentieth century novelists such as William Faulkner, James Joyce, Gabriel García Márquez., Isaac Bashevis Singer, and Vladimir Nabokov.
- 1990-1994 Ran **biweekly fiction workshop** that helped novelists and short story writers hone their manuscripts, which resulted in several book sales.

EDUCATION

B.A. in Journalism, with minor in Computer Science, from **New York University**.

A NOTE ABOUT LOCATION

I can perform stellar work for you no matter where you operate. Although I live in New York, my clients' locations have ranged from California to London to Australia; and between phone interviews and email exchanges, we've never experienced a single communications problem. My savvy clients understand that it's preferable to work with an exceptionally skilled and efficient writer than someone who simply happens to live nearby.