

**The Book:**

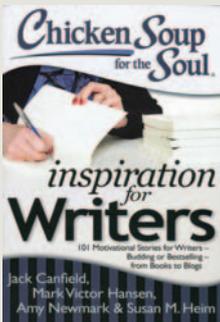
*Chicken Soup for the Soul: Inspiration for Writers*

By Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Amy Newmark and Susan M. Heim

**C**hicken Soup for the Soul books are collections of inspirational stories on relatable topics, ranging from being a dog lover to being a devout NASCAR fan. One of the collection's newest additions is *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Inspiration for Writers*.

Writing, for those actively doing it or considering it as a career, can be challenging. Several authors write about those challenges in this collection of 101 stories — including former Johnstown resident Jodi Iachini Severson.

Severson's piece, "Ask, Listen, Write," tells the story of how an eighth-grade writing project made her act on her own advice: Ask, listen, write. She describes the experience about



gathering her family around to tell their stories and then sharing them with her English teacher. The project earned her an A and the English award for her class. Thinking it must be a mistake, Severson confronted her teacher. Her teacher told her it was no mistake and that she was a gifted writer. It was in that instant that Severson was truly inspired to continue writing.

Severson goes on to tell a story of tragedy and then a story of what was her life inspiration and how these instances inspired her to write. Her piece ends with her advice to writers and the overall theme of the piece; "Everyone has a story to tell; you just have to ask, listen, and write."

This engaging book guides writers through struggles with writer's block and rejection. For any writer, even those on the highway to success, this book is a must-have for their collection. Be prepared to be inspired. >>Crystal Hollibaugh

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