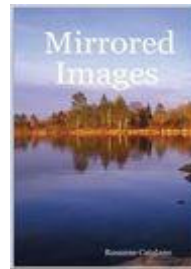
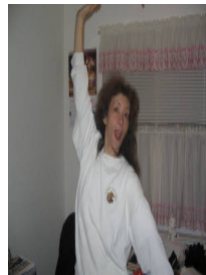


# AN INTERVIEW WITH ROSANNE CATALANO

By:

**TANNIA E. ORTIZ-LOPES**

(<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>)



## **About the Author:**

Rosanne Catalano was born in Queens, New York, grew up in Plainview, Long Island and currently lives again in Queens with her husband of 10 years and her two cats, Tiger and Cordy. She is the publisher of the progressive Internet-based magazine, “The Cat’s Meow for Writers & Readers Ezine” (<http://www.rosannecatalano.net>), winner of the “Bronze Award for Outstanding Achievement in Ezine Publishing” in January 2006. In June 2004 she was also the recipient of the “Golden Pencil Award.” Her latest book, *Mirrored Images*, a collection of stories and poems, can be purchased at her website, [www.rosannecatalano.net](http://www.rosannecatalano.net).

### **1) Tell us about yourself.**

I am a published author, publisher and editor of the internet-based magazine “The Cat’s Meow for Writers & Readers Ezine,” and wife to the love of my life. What I like about our community is that everybody lives close by one another. It is the opposite of growing up on Long Island where I felt so isolated from our neighbors because we all lived so far away.

I am also an advocate for women, children, animals, the mentally ill, and the poor. My advocacy work involves monetary donations and writing letters to my elected-officials to help get laws changed or passed. Since I vote, I realized I could make a difference in changing the way things are in the world.

### **2) Do you have a Rosanne’s corner at home?**

Yes I do. “Rosanne’s Corner” is our second bedroom which doubles as my office. My office has a desk and an executive chair, a computer, several file cabinets, and other necessary items to create a small business office. Above my computer, I have a plaque that says the “Ten Commandments for Writers”. And above my file cabinets I have another plaque that has “Inspirational Quotes for Writers”. On my desk resides the Holy Bible which I read as I pray

every morning. My morning devotions set the tone for the rest of my working day; I'm able to tackle problems involved with my day-to-day projects much better afterward. This little corner of the world is my sanctuary. It is here where I publish monthly "The Cat's Meow for Writers & Readers Ezine" and do other writing projects daily. It is also my fur-babies' favorite hang out place during the day. My two cats and I enjoy each others company while my husband is at work.

**3) In December 1983, you graduated from St. John's University in New York with a Certificate for Creative writing and Children's literature. How much of your writing achievements do you credit to this Certificate?**

I credit a lot of my continuing achievements in writing to this certificate because it gave me the courage to continue writing and the ability to receive critiques from my peers and other writers more established than me.

The knowledge I acquired in my writing courses was extremely important and helped tremendously in my quest to become a professional writer and a publisher. Although I had the "talent" to write, I was so grateful to learn the "how-to" of professional writing whether it's for children or adults. It enabled me to take on the publishing world with confidence.

**4) How long have you been writing professionally?**

Five years so far. I have been penning my stories and poems since I was seven years old. After graduating from high school, I worked 20 years full time as a secretary to pay for my studies. I had to stop my secretarial work eleven years ago due to physical injuries suffered in a fall down stairs. Afterward, instead of working in an office, I started working full-time for myself in developing my writing career using my trusty 'ole typewriter. Then about five years ago my mom and stepdad gifted my husband and I with a computer. Having a computer enabled me to submit my work via the Internet rather than only the Traditional way as I had done with my typewriter. As a result of submitting via a website's submission form, my short story for children titled "*Dani*" was published on the "Writersstories.com" website in 2003 [[http://www.writersstories.com/stories.asp?aut=Rosanne\\_Catalano](http://www.writersstories.com/stories.asp?aut=Rosanne_Catalano)]. And in 2004, I had a poem titled "*In Loving Memory*" published on PoetryGalore.com [[http://www.poetrygalore.com/poems/family\\_friends/il\\_memory-02.htm](http://www.poetrygalore.com/poems/family_friends/il_memory-02.htm)]. In 2005, my nonfiction story titled "*Saved by an Angel*" was published in the Christian print magazine *Angels on Earth* [<http://www.angelsonearth.com>], and in the internet-based Christian magazine *Sisters In The Lord*. Unfortunately, *Sisters In The Lord* magazine is no longer publishing. And *Angels On Earth* is a print magazine so I do not have a direct link for "*Saved by an Angel*". I have since then had more poems, short stories, and story articles published on several websites; one being "Medhunters.com" [<http://www.medhunters.com/authors/catalanoRosanne.html>], in ezines such as "Storytime Tapestry" [<http://subs.zinester.com/98907>], other magazines, and newsletters.

**5) What lessons as a first time published writer did you learn? Please share your experience with us.**

The biggest lesson I learned as a first-time published author was that I needed to market, promote, and advertise my own work more. I was basically a published writer who didn't know all the in & outs of promoting my work on the internet.

I learned fast that if you are not a well known author it is up to the individual author to get the word out into the world that they have published work in a book, a magazine, a print 'Zine or on the internet.

**6) What motivated you to create your ezine "The Cat's Meow for Writers & Readers Ezine. Not your typical internet-based magazine." What makes your ezine unique? How can our readers subscribe to it? What are your writer's guidelines?**

I wanted to get helpful information into the hands of those who don't have it at their fingertips. I also wanted to showcase the work of my peers in my magazine's "Coffee House 4 Poets & Writers" column. Plus I wanted to give free advertisement to writers who have a book or books currently on the market. However, I recently began to charge a small fee of \$10 for one year for authors to advertise their books. I feel this small fee won't be too hard on an authors' budget and they receive exposure for their books in return.

I think what makes my magazine unique is that it has a variety of sections in it for everyone to read. And the reason I consider the magazine "*Not your typical Internet-based magazine*" is because there are no links to continue reading an article, story, or poem as there are in all of the current internet-based magazines. I recently added hyperlinks to the table of contents to make it more user-friendly. You can now click on the links in the magazine's table of contents to go directly to whichever section of the magazine you wish to read.

My writer's guidelines are pretty straightforward. Writers must submit their work via email as a MS Word attachment. I would prefer writers stick to the format of my magazine; not indent at the beginning of each paragraph and no double-spacing submissions. The font can be in either 12 point Arial or Times New Roman.

To subscribe, just click on the "Sign Up for The Ezine!" link on the left-hand side of my website's home page. A blank email form will come up whereby the subscriber must fill in just their name, first and last or just first, and their email address. Then just hit "Send" and it comes directly to my inbox's auto-responder.

**7) Congratulations for your ezine "BRONZE AWARD for Outstanding Achievement in Ezine Publishing" in 2006. Were you surprised? Share that moment with us.**

Thank you. Yes, I was very surprised and ecstatic; my creation and baby received a Bronze Award! It was such an honor to receive this Award in January of 2006. I cried tears of joy while jumping up and down with glee; not an easy thing for me to do since my fall down stairs! It validated I was as good at publishing as I was at writing. Although I personally feel there is always room for improvement on both my magazine and writing.

**8) Two awards for such a young writer. You must have been thrilled when you were notified of the “Golden Pencil Award” in 2004! Did that momentum spark more creativity?**

Yes, it definitely did spark more creativity. I was thrilled to receive the Golden Pencil Award in June of 2004! It was my first award; the Bronze Award my second. Most of my published work can be read on the Helpful Links Page of my website; though unfortunately, not in print-form ([www.rosannecatalano.net/links.htm](http://www.rosannecatalano.net/links.htm)). I continue to add to this page when my work is accepted and published elsewhere on the Internet.

**9) Recently you published your second book, *Mirrored Images*. What is the meaning of the title? How did you choose the book cover? Where can our readers purchase it?**

Originally I titled my book *Shattered Glass*. But upon doing research into book titles I discovered there is already a movie and a book out titled *Shattered Glass*. So I changed the title to *Mirrored Images* instead. The reason I originally titled it *Shattered Glass* is because in the book’s first story, “Split Moment in Time”, the main character is extremely depressed while driving on a highway. So depressed, in fact, she gets an image of her life shattering into little pieces as a drinking glass does when dropped. I chose my book cover by going to Lulu Press’ cover art gallery because it fit what I perceived as “mirrored images” perfectly.

Readers can purchase my book *Mirrored Images* by going to my website’s home page ([www.rosannecatalano.net](http://www.rosannecatalano.net)), and clicking on the button that says “Purchase This Book”, next to the picture of my books’ cover.

**10) Blogging is another cost effective way to market ourselves as writers and create an audience for our writing, etc. Do you have a blog? Have you done blog tours to promote your book?**

Yes I do have a blog. I love to go there and write. I think of it as my journal and an extension of my publisher’s column in my magazine. It can be read by going to <http://thecatsmeowforwritersreaders.blogspot.com>. However, I have not had the time to write on it in quite a while and therein lies the problem of why not too many people know about my blog! I don’t write in my blog on a daily basis. That is also why I have only three comments on what I have written there so far lol.

No, I haven’t done blog tours to promote my book yet. I did not even know we could do blog tours to promote our books! Only recently I discovered this ingenious marketing avenue. However, I am learning fast that a lot of authors do blog tours and virtual blog tours and successfully, too.

**11) Are you working on any new projects?**

Yes I am; a third book. My third book will be a fiction novel rather than a collection of my story articles, short stories, and poems. I was hoping for a December 2007 publication date but it doesn’t look like it will be finished. I have not had the time to complete this project even though I can hear my story characters crying out to me to please tell their stories☺.

## 12) A word of advice to other writers.

My advice to other writers is to soak up all the helpful tips, advice and constructive criticism possible from more seasoned and established writers. They've been through the hard knocks of the publishing world and know from experience what works and what doesn't in order to get published and continue getting published. Being professional at all times is a must; even when you are friendly with your editor or publisher. Also take at least one writing class or course so that you will learn the craft and business aspect of writing inside and out.

And last but not least, if you cannot take honest criticism and editing of your work from an editor or publisher you are truly in the wrong business.



**Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés**, author of *The Window to my soul, My Walk with Jesus* (ISBN 0975393359; 2004 Tate Publishing; [www.tatepublishing.com](http://www.tatepublishing.com)).

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## “Time with Tannia” Reader’s Comments

name: Rosalee S.Wilson  
email: [thunder422@hotmail.com](mailto:thunder422@hotmail.com)  
comment:

Thanks Mrs. Catalano for your tips for us newly published writers and authors. We can always use them in pursuing our dreams of being published. You are definitely right when you say if you can't take criticism, you are in the wrong field. I have learned not to let rejections bother me either. I just push on until I find the right publisher for my work. I wish you luck in your future writing and publishing and hope that your readers will admire your work like I do!

name: Trisha Martin  
email: [theyfted1@yahoo.com](mailto:theyfted1@yahoo.com)

comment:

hey roe, way to go!!! yeeaaaahhhhhhhh!!!!!!!

name: Joan Skura

comment:

Hi Rosanne, Congratulations on your featured interview with Tannia – it was very interesting and enjoyable!



**Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés**, author of *The Window to my soul, My Walk with Jesus* (ISBN 0975393359; 2004 Tate Publishing; [www.tatepublishing.com](http://www.tatepublishing.com)).

Author's websites: <http://www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes> and <http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>. The author also has a blog at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)