

## **DEVELOP PASSION IN YOUR WRITING**

A writer needs to develop several sorts of passion, whatever the genre she/he's writing in.

1. You have to be passionate about writing itself – if you aren't, you won't be able to hang in there. It's a crazy industry and is not designed to keep writers comfortable. Publishers often keep people who have submitted work hanging round for months before they respond. Rejections are regular occurrences on the journey to publication – and after publication! So unless there's a fire burning in your belly or some inner demon urging you to write, take up golf or gourmet cooking instead.
2. You have to be passionate about your current story – and about each successive one. If the idea doesn't light you up, why should anyone else be interested? Why should publishers invest money in you and your books? Why should readers pay out good money to buy them? We hear of people making scornful remarks about 'churning out' work, but I think it's very rare for a writer to spend months working on a book she/he doesn't feel passionate about. I certainly couldn't churn out stories like objects on an assembly line. I weep (quite literally) at sad bits of my story, laugh aloud at happy bits, and I work ten-hour days – OK, all writers are crazy and I'm no exception! I admit it.
3. Make sure you develop strong emotions in your characters. Who wants to read about limp, pallid shadow-humans who don't get excited or upset about anything?
4. And if it's a romance, or contains a romance, then you're going to have to learn to show sexual passion in your characters and their interactions – not an easy thing to do.

Now go away and write your current story with passion and relish. You can read all sorts of hints from people like me – but you still need to sit down and do the writing. Regularly!