

Transcript of The Story Behind The Publishing of The Shaman & His Daughter

Hi everyone, I'm Gregory Drambour. I'm here to tell you about the story behind the publishing of [The Shaman and his Daughter](#). It's a really good story! And it might really help you on your own journey of creation. This is how it starts:

About two years ago something bad happened to me. I can't tell you what, but as soon as it happened, I knew exactly why. The universe gave me a giant shove and said, "*Brother, you need to start writing again.*" It's not that I had stopped writing fully, but I had stopped writing in the kind of committed way that I used to, and it really came as a result of making videos (450 videos!).

I would come out to the back of my house and I would shoot a video which would take about half-hour. And suddenly I had something I could offer folks, something that would be supportive. Whereas with writing -- anybody that writes knows it just takes an enormous amount of energy. So, without even knowing it I had stopped writing and then this bad thing happened and I knew right away it was a sign for me to start writing. And I knew what I needed to write about -- that was to continue and expand on *The Shaman and His Daughter* stories that I had been writing off and on.

I know a lot of you have read them and I really appreciate your kind emails about the stories. I knew the first thing I needed to do was to get a literary agent. My agent had retired a number of years before. And to get an agent I needed to create a book proposal, so I started doing some research and looking for publishing consultants. I made a dozen phone calls and got a couple quotes. And then suddenly, it dawned on me to call my good buddy [Joe Bailey](#), best-selling writer: "Joe, do you know of anybody that does this?" "Yes, [Mark Chimsky](#). He's the best of the best."

Well Mark turned out to be my big guardian angel in this adventure! So, I called him up and he said, "Yeah, I can definitely help you with this. Send me what you have. I sent him the ten stories that I had. He called me back and said, "You really got something here, brother, but we need to really expand on this a lot." He kind of coached me for an hour. And I don't remember what he said, what magic words he said, brothers and sisters, but suddenly I'm writing like crazy!

Hold on! Let's go back! After the bad thing happened and I got in front of the computer to start to write again and I couldn't type! It was painful! There was some kind of emotional pain inside of me. It was like an enormous barrier and I would run out of the room screaming in my head, "Don't make me do it. Don't make me do it." This went on for two or three days.

I [invited my Divinity](#) to offer me an insight about what this is about and then it occurred to me to call my business coach of 32 years, David Dowd and I said, "David, I don't know what's wrong with me." And he says, "Forget it. You're a writer. Just sit down and write. It doesn't make any difference why you're feeling this pain. Just write." And I just followed his advice. I sat down and I just kept punching the keyboard. Within about a minute and a half, I suddenly pierced through this veil and all of this incredible, rich feeling of creativity, and joy, and originality started to flow out of me. It was amazing! It was a great learning experience for me and one I've passed on to many clients since then.

Going back to Mark, I don't know what he said to me in that hour but suddenly I started creating a whole another layer on top of [The Shaman and his Daughter](#) stories, really incorporating a lot of my own life in them. What was 2 pages became 10 pages. And Mark says, "You really got it, Greg. I have never seen anybody with that little coaching turn around so quickly and find their writer muscle." And I said, "I don't know how I did it. Thank you. "

For 4 months we worked on a book proposal. And I created 10 sample chapters, many of them new that you haven't read. Then on a Thursday we figured out five agents to send them to. I said to Mark, "How long does usually take to get a response?" "Probably a couple of weeks." "Okay."

Three days later on Monday morning, I woke up to an email from an agent -- her name was Marilyn. What it said was so simple it just blew my mind: "Dear Greg, your book wrecked me. I want to sign you." If anybody could have picked three perfect words to inspire me to sign with me, that was it! I called up Mark and I said, "Mark, what should I do?" Mark, said, "I have never heard of anybody responding that quickly. Sign with her immediately." So I did. And then the journey started.

She started submitting it to all the big publishing companies. And she would cover copy me when they would respond. Oh, my goodness – Random House, Macmillan, Hay House, New World Library, Shambhala, etcetera, etcetera. And within a few weeks, *rejections started to come in*. I have to tell you, my friends, this is where the teacher got humbled. It was like somebody kicked me in the stomach, physically. I just couldn't believe it.

Here I have literally 60 years of publishing experience in Marilyn and Mark -- Mark, who worked for big publishing houses and ran his own publishing home; Marilyn who worked for Harpers, and they're telling me I got a winner. They said, "Greg, this book is so amazing." And these rejections kept coming in. And I'm like, "What's this about?" I kept saying to Marilyn, "I don't understand." She said, "Don't worry about it. Don't worry about it."

After the fifth or sixth one, I'm just devastated. I'm being tested. For the guy that is here teaching clients about how the world works from the inside/out, I am totally caught up in thinking the world works from the outside in! Why don't these people

understand? Don't they see the beautiful spirit in this book? Don't they see the beautiful, pure light of Angel-Girl? Don't they get it? What's wrong with them?

And again, I don't say these words lightly, guys -- I'm devastated. And then one day, I'm on the phone with Mark and I see an cc email come in from Marilyn. I see right away it's from Simon and Schuster and it's a rejection letter from the senior vice president. I think her first name is Joanne. And it says something to the effect of, "I loved Greg's book. I just couldn't get it by the editorial board." I read it to Mark and I was so blown away, it was like somebody just ran me over. And Mark said, "Greg, there's another way to look at this, man." He says, "That's a very, very serious person. I know who that is, Greg, and that's somebody with 30 years of publishing behind them. If she thinks your book is good that's something you need to take to the bank." Okay, okay, okay. I really try to listen to that.

And so it went on...Hay House almost took a possible hit at it and some publishers I had never heard of, the bigger houses, Harper, et cetera, they all took a pass. And I said to Marilyn, "What is the problem?" "Greg, the problem is very simple. You got a lot of people that love the book but your platform is not big enough." Meaning, how many engaged followers do I have? My platform is about 12,000 people, between subscribers and membership folks.

She tells me, they're looking for 50,000! Wow, 50,000 engaged followers! It's really a numbers game to the publishing community. They figure that they're going to sell maybe 10% of the books, that's 5,000, and they need 8,000 books sold to break even. That's the way I understand it. So, she says, "Let's figure out how to build your platform." Okay. I try to work on that a little bit, and talk to a lot of people about that. Mark says, "Well, what about self-publishing?" This is where the story gets interesting. My response: I am absolutely not self-publishing! I'm not going to do it!

Three, four, five, six months go by. And I suddenly realize something very deeply – *that the voice of this little girl needed to be spoken, so I decided to self-publish it. I did it for Angel Girl. I wouldn't let her voice not be heard, no way. I wouldn't let that happen.*

So I started. I don't even know how I started to put it together, brothers and sisters, but you have no idea of the adamancy, the fierceness of my stand, "I will not self-publish this book." *I think that was me wanting to be validated by the big publishing community, much like a lot of writers -- we're not official writers until we're validated, right?*

I started reading up about self-publishers. I found this great book with 30 interviews of self-publishers, mostly eBooks. And I was shocked at the kind of numbers they were doing -- a thousand a day! And I was like, "Wow, you can get this out there, eBooks is the way to go."

I went back to Mark and we started putting it together. And, all of the sudden, it's done! And it's done for one reason, brothers and sisters. I got into deep partnership with this:

You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life, but it ain't about how hard you hit, it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward, how much you can take, and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done. ---Sly Stallone.

That's how I got the book in my hand, brothers and sisters --getting the message out there. *The Shaman and His Daughter* is about smiling. It's about inspiration. It's about love. It's about courage in the face of loss. It's about, of course, old school shamanism that was handed down to me by the Holy Men -- eleven generations of knowledge they handed down to a white guy.

There's only maybe three things in my life that I feel so deeply honored by that I have no words. One, is the Holy Men's allegiance to me, handing me down the lineage. Two, is the trust the clients offer me, which blows my mind every session. And third, is the privilege -- the privilege to have written this book.

I wanted to tell you the back story, brothers and sisters, because I know you all have something out there that you want but you can't seem to get it done, right? You can't seem to get the motivation. You're too afraid -- too much resistance. That was me. I'll say it again. I can't even describe how devastated I was. I was totally convinced that that wasn't coming for me. I was devastated because I was being rejected by all of these people, the book, my heart, Angel-Girl, were being rejected. It was *my own thoughts* about it that created the feeling of devastation. As it turns out, of course, I am so glad that it happened the way it did, because I think I've gained so much by doing it myself and really publishing the book that I wanted the way I wanted to publish it. That was important.

I want to invite you into the 18 adventures that Angel Girl and I have in the book and to really experience her beautiful spirit, to learn about the Shamanism, and a deep, intimate partnership with the Rock-, and the Tree-, and the Plant-people, and about knowing that there is this Intelligence inside of us, this Divinity, this Creator that's always present ready to help you. I talk a lot about that in the book.

You can read it from the front to the back, or pick any chapter, and I think it will make you smile and perhaps make you cry in joy. Thank you so much for listening tonight. I got a little transparent here. I want to always encourage people to do that. I hope you enjoy the book and I hope to see you out here in the Magic Kingdom. A Ho, A Ho, my brothers and sisters. A Ho.

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