

Bang the Keys
Subtitle: Four steps to a lifelong writing practice
By Jill Dearman
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Nonfiction/ (Writing)
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Secrets for a Long Career

***Bang the Keys* IS Writing Told with Humor, Dedication and, Yes, a Voice**

Reviewed by Carolyn Howard-Johnson, award-winning author of *This Is the Place* and *Harkening: A Collection of Stories Remembered, Tracing*, a chapbook of poetry and the How To Do It Frugally Series of books for writers and retailers.

Right off--in the foreword that begins with a quote from Jack Kerouac--the reader of *Bang the Keys* knows she is going to get the straight dope from Jill Dearman. And that's just what we writers need when we're flagging. Not texty stuff. Not high falutin' advice. Just the truth. And knowing we aren't alone.

The author of *Bang the Keys* Jill Dearman says this book is "really a Writing Workshop in a Book."

In fact, writers could use this book as a guide for their critique group meetings. Sort of a device for staying on track so you won't spend too much time, well, bitching. In fact the quotes that open the chapters will have you talking substance and inspiration instantly.

And, if you're not convinced. Here it is. Dearman's voice is pitch perfect. Just read and internalize. When I'm teaching I have trouble explaining voice to my students--especially those writing nonfiction. Well, here is an example. You don't have to imitate Dearman--in fact, you shouldn't. But you'll have a better take on the "you" behind your work or the individual behind your character (if you write fiction) once you've read only a few pages of *Bang the Keys*.

Carolyn Howard-Johnson's first novel, *This is the Place*, has won eight awards. Her book of creative nonfiction *Harkening*, won three. A UCLA Writers' Program instructor, she also is the author of another book essential for writers, USA Book News' Best Professional Book of 2004, *The Frugal Book Promoter: How to Do What Your Publisher Won't*. The second in the HowToDoItFrugally series, *The Frugal Editor: Put Your Best Book Forward to Avoid Humiliation and Ensure Success* covers writing successful query letters and includes helpful hints from twenty of the nation's top agents. Purchased it at Amazon, www.budurl.com/TheFrugalEditor. Learn more at her Web site <http://HowToDoItFrugally.com>.