



# **Writing While Female or Black or Gay: Why Women, Authors of Color, and LGBT Authors Need Not Submit (Reverse Engineering Publishing) (Volume 1)**

*Laine Cunningham*

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# Writing While Female or Black or Gay: Why Women, Authors of Color, and LGBT Authors Need Not Submit (Reverse Engineering Publishing) (Volume 1)

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## **Writing While Female or Black or Gay: Why Women, Authors of Color, and LGBT Authors Need Not Submit (Reverse Engineering Publishing) (Volume 1)** Laine Cunningham

A provocative and polarizing--yet often deadly funny--look behind the scenes of the publishing industry by a 20-year professional. God forbid you be female, black, gay, or any other version of “not a straight white guy” and pick up a pen today because gender, race, and the politics of power will shroud your words in obscurity. By all appearances, publishing is an open-to-all endeavor. But for female authors and authors of color and LGBT authors, for authors who write about women or people of color or individuals in the LGBT community, entry is all but barred. Writing While Female or Black or Gay, written by a publishing professional with twenty years of experience, considers the depth and breadth of the problems. The issues include how the books women write are treated differently from representation through to marketing and remaindering, how authors of color are not allowed to write what is dearest to their hearts, and how LGBT authors and characters are ghettoized. And then all of us, authors and publishers and readers and reviewers, are invited to fix the problems. The introduction, entitled "Dateline: Clusterf\*ck," throws an immediate punch at the state of diversity in publishing today. Chapters like "P\*ssy Pink Covers," "Broken Promises" and "What Color is Your Category?" delve into issues particular to the adult market for fiction and nonfiction. The juvenile and YA markets are treated in "The Only Demographic That Counts" and "Goodnight, Pale White Moon." Additional segments called "The Gilded Penis" and "On Their Knees" examine contests, awards, and book reviews. Finally, "Stop Apologizing" and "What You Can Do Today" lay out easy calls to action that can help reengineer publishing from the ground up.

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