

# When Producers Stopped Talking, This Emmy-Winner Started Writing

*Seeing no end in sight for the writers strike, this winner of four Emmys wrote about what she knows best — her life. “How Did You Get That Job? My Dream Jobs and How They Came True” by Susan Dansby.*

“I’ve had one of the best jobs ever,” says Susan Dansby, a script writer on the CBS soap opera *As the World Turns*. “I get to live in Atlanta, work at home and write about romance, drama, action and adventure. What’s not to like?”

That was Dansby’s life until November 5, 2007, when the writers strike started. “I was pretty naïve. The WGA demands seemed reasonable. I figured the two sides would come together fairly quickly.”

Then December 7, 2007, the producers walked away from table. “When the talks broke off,” explains Dansby, “I had to do something to make money. I earn a good salary, but it’s been a rough couple of years.”

Susan Dansby was hit hard financially when her mother became ill. “Mom has good health insurance. But there are things like extended stays in sub-acute rehab, caregiver cost and respite stays, that simply aren’t covered.”

That’s when Dansby decided to write the book she’d always planned to write. “People ask how I got started in television; and the truth is I followed a plan that’s fairly simple.”

Dansby’s book, “How Did You Get That Job? My Dream Jobs and How They Came True” outlines her life through her work in sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking anecdotes. Included is a step-by-step guide to the system she used to get over 20 years worth of jobs in television like director, associate producer and writer.

What’s the hardest thing about getting a dream job? “Not believing you can do it. It breaks my heart to see people work at jobs they can barely tolerate like I did for so long.” Indeed, it wasn’t until Dansby was “fired-quit” from her job in a New York law firm that she made commitment to find her dream job.

“I’d majored in theater, and was pursuing that at night. For free. Then working days making money. I wanted to pull the two together. Get paid for doing what I loved.” Within a year of making that decision, she had her first TV job.

When asked if she views this time as a hardship, Susan Dansby is upbeat. “People need to know they can have jobs they love and be happy in their work. If I can help millions of people get that message, then it’ll all be worth it.”

Susan Dansby has a blog giving job hunting advice and offers a free e-course at UGetThatJob.com, and a free ecourse for actors at SceneBy.com. If you have questions on jobs, career, job change, How Did You Get That Job? My Dream Jobs and How They Came True, Guiding Light, As the World Turns, Guiding Light job, Susan Dansby, Writers Guild Award, a dream job, answers to job interview questions, associate producer job, bachelor of fine arts degree, black woman writer, business jobs, Carnegie Mellon University, Carnegie-Mellon University, college graduate job, college jobs, Daytime Emmy Awards, daytime soap operas, dream job, General Hospital, Georgia TV writer, Emmy Award winner, find dream job, find my dream job, find your dream job, television directing, television directing jobs, TV writer, go to UGetThatJob.com.

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