

Dear Reader,

You probably don't know my name but I'm hoping that by this time next year my book and I will be old friends. So I am reaching out to ask for your help in making that transition because I am all too aware of your importance in the process.

I've found that whenever I'm asked what my book is about, this happens:

*It's about a 43 year old woman who has been given three months to live*

*Face drops 'Oh!'*

*I crack on fearlessly.*

*But instead of taking a trip of a lifetime, she decides to write to the important people in her life and finally tell them everything she's always wanted to say but never dared!*

*Face lights up. 'Wow! That's brilliant. I'm looking forward to reading that!'*

Truly, that's what happens. Every. Single. Time. And I am imagining that this is what is going to happen for you too. Of course the title pretty much provokes the same. Say *Death – faces drop – and other happy endings...*

Faces light up. It would be brilliant if this is your experience too.

So who am I? I was a publicist and then a celebrity agent, kicking off in theatre, moving into television, eventually looking after presenters including Ulrika Jonsson (from weather girl to Shooting Stars onwards), Melinda Messenger and Melanie Sykes. As you can imagine, I have stories to tell above and beyond this book. Some I can happily share and some...well maybe best not. Until I've had one too many drinks. I'm a lightweight, I promise.

In 2008, I gave up that career in order to write novels. After ten years I never thought it would happen but it has. Never give up! And now I am a debut author at 61. Although I'll have hit 62 within a whisper of publication.

This story very much comes from the heart. I wrote an open and honest letter to an ex-boyfriend who I felt had taken advantage of my good nature and when I was thinking of novel ideas, it surfaced from my subconscious (as these things do) and I wondered *what if you only had three months to live. Then you'd really write those letters and you'd blow caution to the wind.*

Fortunately for you, this is a different sort of letter. Thank you so much in advance and I look forward to sharing our stories,

Good luck, grip that baton and never stop trying!

Melanie Cantor