

Lesson 2

READ THIS STORY #2, Basic

The Mystery Writer

When Julie decided to be a writer, she wanted to publish essays that would have an impact on the world. She wrote moving articles about courageous people who did heroic things. She even wrote an eloquent book about what happened to political figures who lost national elections after a grueling campaign.

But Julie was unable to find a publisher interested in her material. Her agent suggested that people were weary of solemn topics. So on a whim, she wrote her first mystery, “Dead Cold.” Her manuscript was snapped up, and royalties started coming in. Julie’s writing career blossomed.

Today, Julie sits in front of her computer and whistles through her teeth. “Wrap Up” will be the title of her tenth mystery novel. She needs to design a new wrinkle to invigorate the plot and surprise her readers. Julie has a knack for writing chilling tales about psychics, ghosts and tragic love affairs. That’s why her books are enormously successful.

Although some critics malign her books as being written in an assembly line style, and say they should be consigned to a trash heap, Julie knows better. And no one can deny the popularity of her mystery books.