

# Randy Burgess

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## **FREELANCE DEVELOPMENTAL EDITOR**

Seeking nonfiction book proposals or manuscripts in need of developing or reworking. Six years' part-time experience as a freelance DE, in between freelance marketing writing and teaching; long-term goal is to do more book work. Strengths and preferences:

- Like working with content experts who are passionate about their topics and enjoy writing even if they're not professional writers.
- Attentive to shaping my contribution as needed to suit the author and the project, e.g. coaching and critiquing in some cases, reorganizing and heavy edits in others.
- Enjoy getting involved early, helping create a proposal that not only functions as a selling tool but sharpens both concept and audience. Also enjoy seeing the full manuscript through, working with the same author over a number of years.
- A stickler for the management aspects of large projects: ensuring Chicago or house style is observed, deadlines are met, etc.
- Where appropriate, enjoy passing on not just edits to the author but basic knowledge: e.g. how required elements such as introductions also function to guide readers.
- Eager to branch into new subject areas, e.g. behavioral, social, and cognitive psychology; general science; computer scripting and coding; photography; etc.

## **Book projects as freelance DE**

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"Capital Campaigns: Strategies That Work," Third Edition, by Andrea Kihlstedt; 2009, Jones & Bartlett. Helped the author achieve her goal of a more readable new edition, via coaching on authorial voice, new TOC, and reorganizations of chapters.

"Genie in the Machine," by Robert Plotkin; 2009, Stanford Law Books. Coached and critiqued this first-time author from successful proposal through delivered manuscript.

"The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Investing in Stocks," by Theresa Hamacher, CFA, Carl Baldassarre, and Randy Burgess; 2006, Alpha Books. Guided subject expert Hamacher and co-author Baldassarre in creating concept and content based on Hamacher's investing style.

"Winning the Profit Game: Smarter Pricing, Smarter Branding," by Robert G. Docters, Michael R. Reopel, Jeanne-Mey Sun, and Stephen M. Tanny; 2003, McGraw-Hill. Alternately coached and ghost-wrote for a team of subject matter experts from proposal through delivered manuscript, resulting in a highly regarded niche book.

## **Book projects as lead author**

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“Ultimate Guide to Poker Tells,” by Randy Burgess and Carl Baldassarre; 2006, Triumph Books. Wrote proposal and most of manuscript for this well-regarded guide to analyzing body language and other clues at the poker table.

“The Pocket Idiot’s Guide to Texas Hold’em,” by Randy Burgess and Carl Baldassarre; first edition 2005, second edition, 2006, Alpha Books. Wrote proposal and half of content for what was for some time a best-seller in its category.

“Stepping Up: The Recreational Player’s Guide to Beating Casino and Internet Poker,” by Randy Burgess; 2004, ConJelCo. Proposed and wrote this well-reviewed but poor-selling guide to poker for beginners.

## **Related work background**

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A professional writer for 25 years, including 10 years in newspapers, 4 years in technical writing, and since then a mix of freelance marketing writing and book editing.

In 2007 began teaching nonfiction writing part-time at New York University’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies. As with individual authors, teach students practical skills such as leveraging genre elements, learning to see a draft the way readers will see it, prewriting to digest source materials, experimenting with manipulation of timelines, etc.

## **Memberships and education**

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Member, Editorial Freelancers Association, Association of Contextual Behavioral Science.

B.A. in writing from Brown University, 1979; MA in writing from Hollins College, 1994.