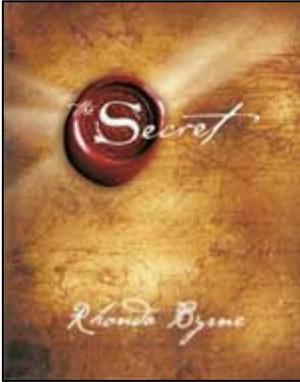


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- April 2007



I don't usually review major books because I figure they get plenty of promotion by their publishers, but this month I want everyone to know about *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne. You might have heard about this book on Oprah or read about the phenomenon in your news magazine or papers, but if you haven't, you can read about it here. And hopefully go buy it at your local bookstore and adopt the principles into your life.

While there is nothing really new in *The Secret*, Byrne has brought together a lot of teachers and ancient wisdom into one small book, written in a simple easy to understand and use format. The *secret* is the law of attraction-- that what you think about and focus on, comes about. The Bible talks about it, ancient philosophers and teachers talk about it. Norman Vincent Peale wrote many books about it, as have countless others. Some call it positive thinking, which is part of it; others say it is all a big scam. However, I can't see the law of gravity, but I can see what happens with it and this principle is the same.

In *The Secret*—which is easy to read—and the movie, by the same name which is easy to watch on DVD, the author and producers add the rest of the story. Things like gratitude and giving back, along with the focus and visualization of what it is you want, be it health, happiness, contentment, or wealth of all different sorts. Some of the experts Ms. Byrne has quoted are Jesus, Mother Teresa, Dr. Peale, Dale Carnegie, Jack Canfield and Dr. Denis Waitley.

As I said, what she is writing about is not new, but she has done a good job of compiling wisdom, and obviously, the time was right for this book to hit the public awareness. With so much hate and negativity flying around, we can all use healthy reminders that there might be other ways to handle things.

So how does this translate for writers? Well, I've heard many writers say, "Oh, had I only thought of doing this." After all, with more than 1.5 million copies in print, Byrne hit on a good one. But let's go a step further. How many of you—and I know I fit in here too—

have had a great idea but not done anything with it? What do you know or what are you interested in that might apply to others? Have you come up with an improvement on something that could benefit others? And above all, can you explain your bit of knowledge in ways that others can put it to work? Are you good at coming up with applications? If you can do those things and even add a bit of humor along with personal experiences, or experiences of others, you might have a hit too.

The main point here is that Rhonda Byrne did it, she didn't just talk about or dream about doing it. She outlined the ideas, interviewed her sources, collected plenty of research, tried it out herself, and then put her fingers on the keyboard and produced the manuscript.

She didn't just put her manuscript in the drawer, instead she took her fear by the neck, gave it a good shake and sent her precious pages out to find a publishing home. I know of far too many people who write well, have a good idea, but let fear of rejection take over and never finish the final step. Sending it out—as often as it takes to find a home. Rewriting if necessary and sending it out again.

By the way, putting the principles of *The Secret* to work might just help bring about publication of your winning idea. Bookstores, including my local store, are having a hard time keeping this book, the DVD, and the audio book in stock.

Until next time,

Happy Readin' and Writin' from Lauraine