

Z 2 A

Eva Dillner

Books by Eva Dillner

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Z 2 A

by Eva Dillner

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Z 2 A
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Table of Contents

We Know How to Achieve	• 1
The Writing Begins	• 4
My Plans Were	• 6
Then Comes a Receding Wave	• 9
The Michael Teachings	• 14
Playing with Titles and Subtitles	• 16
When in the Fog Stand Still	• 18
What You Resist Persists	• 20
Uncorked	• 24
Not Enough Space?	• 26
Hanging Loose in Networks	• 29
Missing a Piece of the Puzzle	• 31
Insight Rolls In	• 33
In the Meantime	• 37
Magic Hour?	• 39
Imagine my Surprise	• 40
Blue Notes	• 42
Annecy, France	• 43
Preparing for Takeoff	• 47
Bugs Show the Way to Completion	• 50
Disciples in My Future	• 52
Present - Future Exercise	• 54
What about Tenerife?	• 57
A Healing Center in Hawaii	• 59
It Doesn't Make Sense	• 62
Head in the Clouds	• 64
Do the Experience and Trust the Universe	• 66
Choices	• 68
Working with Resistance	• 70

Take Nothing for Granted • 73
Master Mind • 76
Expand Your Thinking • 78
Every Place is Good for Something • 80
Savasana - The Death Pose in Yoga • 85
Swedish Hibernation - Where Creative Genius is Born • 86
Indigestion • 89
Confusion as Healer • 91
Fear of Failure • 93
Divine Synchronicity • 96
Turbo Times • 98
The Courage to Fail • 101
Going Full Circle? • 103
The Reluctant Shaman • 106
Rest When Tired, Do When Inspired • 109
How Does It Feel? • 111
Life Task and True Work, Study, Play and Rest • 112
An UN Period • 114
RE-Evaluate, RE-Member, RE-Think, RE-Consider • 116
Not Yet • 119
Snow Fairies • 122
I Had a Plan, God Had Another Plan • 124
Change of Plans • 126
Clarity • 128
Crashed Dreams • 130
Time to Explore • 131
When a Door Opens • 135
In this Moment • 138
Saving for the Future • 139
Disruptions • 142
When You Least Expect It • 144
Life Is a Treasure Hunt • 151
There Is a Job for Everyone • 154
Life without Television • 157
Stepping into the Unknown • 160
Escape Velocity • 164
When Old Structures Crumble • 167

The Fine Art of Staring into Space • 171
Uncertainty • 175
Breaking Patterns • 177
Flogging a Dead Horse • 180
Delhi Fog • 182
Illness • 183
Learning to Swim Through Molasses • 185
In God We Trust • 187
More Books • 188

We Know How to Achieve

In the West, we know how to achieve - in spades! We know how to plan and execute. We know how to set goals and objectives. We know how to live life from A to Z.

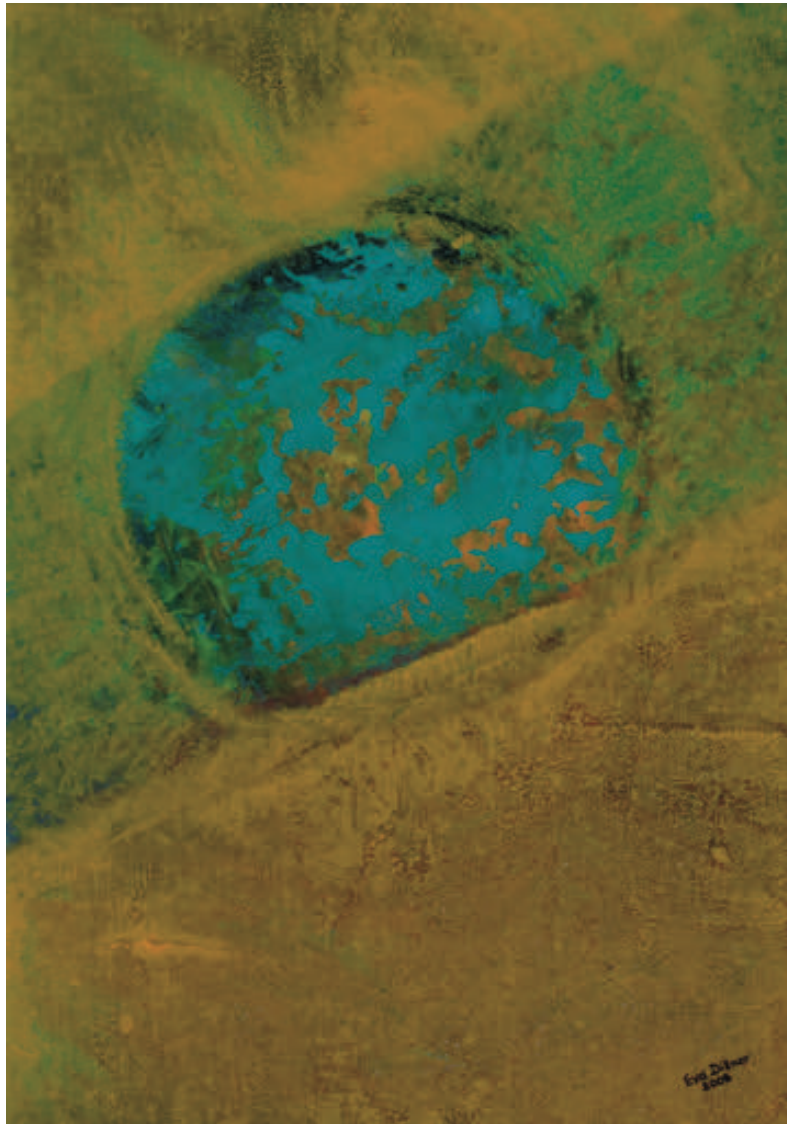
But how do we get from Z to A? What do we know of navigating that space in between? When life as we know it ends, before we see a new beginning, there is a creative void where all things are possible. That's what this book is about.

I call it Z 2 A.

How can we navigate in that uncertain territory, when the path forward is not clear? When the project is finished, or the rug has been pulled out from under us - it doesn't matter if it's a small ending or a life crisis - the process is the same. We are finished with what we were doing. The objectives have been met, the goals achieved, the challenge overcome, the project completed.

Now what? Confusion may set in, or lethargy, or chaos. Our schooling has not prepared us for this. We've been taught that life is a steady path forward. If you've lived awhile you already know this is a lie. Life is not a constant. It's a never ending variation. It doesn't stay the same.

The space in between is that moment when all things are possible. It's the creative void that artists work with. It's the moment of surrender where healing can take place. It's the instant of inspiration where new ideas are born. It's the crack in the wall where change can seep in. It's the chink in the armor where old patterns can be dismantled.



Z 2 A IS BEYOND TIME AND SPACE

Understanding and learning to dance in the space in between is useful for everyone. It's a priceless tool that we all can use in relationships, at work, with healing, in creative endeavors as well as government structures. From the art of creating

a garden to shaping a new world, the process is the same. It doesn't matter if it's big or small.

Learning to hang out in the space in between Z and A is essential to the future of the planet. So come explore with me. Come play with the possibilities. Come discover moments where all things are possible. Where new solutions appear. Where creativity blooms. Where the life energy flows freely, in stillness and chaos. Come join me in the adventure into the unknown.

Come discover new solutions. Check out new pathways with me. My spiritual name is Pathfinder. I know how to achieve, in spades. I also know how to hang out in the space in between. I don't know how to write this book. That is part of the adventure. This is not a project from A to Z. It's a journey into the unknown, the space in between Z and A.

Tag along with me as we cross the chasm of no data. Come fly with me as we follow the flight of intuition. Then we can chart it. But first we have to experience it.

The Writing Begins

They say there is a book in everyone. Perhaps that's true. Whether you dream of writing a best seller, a blog or just for fun, you have to take that first step. Every writer has their own way of doing things. My approach is that writing involves everything. In order to write I surrender to the natural flow of energy, whether it be emotions, thoughts, moving my body, listening to Spirit in meditation or painting intuitively. I weave in exercises from mind, body and spirit as I go along.

Every one of my books has had a life of its own. The process for one does not get repeated for the next one. Every book project is like a treasure hunt. I don't know what I will discover along the way or where my writing will take me. I like that. It appeals to the explorer in me. Seldom do I write in a linear fashion.

Every writing project has had a challenge for me. This time it's a nervousness of putting the text out there as I go along, blogging it post by post. A skittishness in staying connected to my own guidance as the comments roll in. I didn't show my first book to anyone until I felt it was done. Then I asked my hand picked readers to tell me gently if they thought it was crap. Some like straight on criticism, I prefer to be handled with care.

This time the writing is on the space in between. Magic space. Going from Z to A. It needs a different approach. I need to explain the intangible somehow, using my own life as an example. I've found that sharing my stories make the con-

cepts come alive. It no longer is just a dry metaphysical idea, out there somewhere. You get to experience it live, in action. You get a real life illustration. This book has taken some time to come together. It's been written in the spaces in between. How appropriate!

My life has had a number of interruptions, so the material has come in bits and pieces. The chapters are not in chronological order, but rather sorted by ponderings in the moment. You will notice that a lot of my confusion in this space has centered around where I'm meant to be geographically. Your process will be different. Your questions will be different. Your Z 2 A may be about a deeper understanding of the creative process, or about healing, or an aha in the moment. Simply let my meanderings assist you in exploring your own space in between.

To further deepen the experience, I have chosen to illustrate this book with my own art. The images are there to assist your mind to access Z 2 A space and time. Breathing spaces for your mind so to speak. Let time stand still while you ponder the paintings. Let your eyes rest, let them float through the art. Allow yourself to be swept away on a 'walkabout' of the mind. The longer you meditate on a painting, the more you will see. All of a sudden, it comes alive. What you see is yours to see. Some people experience my art as healing. Some see joy, where others see pain. Some become fascinated with what the image represents. What makes intuitive art so exciting, is that you can get ten different interpretations from ten different people. Try turning the images and discover something new when it's upside down, or on it's side.

In the west we know how to do A to Z. We know how to be goal oriented, productive, efficient and focused. There are tons of books on the subject 'how to manage' your project, career, life or whatever from A to Z.

What we lack are instructions how to negotiate, navigate or be in that space in between. I've tried to fill that gap.

My Plans Were

I had written three books in a row, with little time in between to allow for any serious marketing endeavors. Finally it was time to hit the road and peddle my wares. The European tour would encompass ten countries and 14 thousand kilometers of driving. I had arranged to do *Eva Parties* at American and Swedish organizations all around Europe. You know, instead of Tupperware, you get Eva and her books, live and in the moment.

When I meditated on the overall marketing plan, it felt like I would do Europe first, come home for a couple of months, then tour North America and the British Isles in a series of trips.

The European tour came off as planned. It was a great success, and I felt a renewed sense of being in the flow. When I came home I started to realize that my path forward may not turn out as I had planned.

I had been on the road for two and a half months. I had met lots of people, done many presentations, seen much of Europe, spoken a variety of languages, gotten a lot of feedback as well as new input and sold a lot of books. I needed to rest.

As my life now is about following my inner guidance and learning more and more to be present in the moment, I let myself land gently.

I unpacked the car, did the laundry, cleaned house, restocked the fridge and freezer, developed the pictures I'd taken and put them in albums, sorted papers, read the mail,

paid bills and caught up on my email correspondence. I saw my friends, reconnecting and establishing our relationships anew, sometimes in a renewed way. I'd changed and so had they. It's not automatic that you pick up where you left off. I sent thank you notes to all the people I'd visited, bringing closure to the trip. I slept a lot and read a lot. I spent time just being, sitting on the couch staring into space or stretched out and daydreaming.

- What are you working on now? people wondered.

- I'm in the space in between, I'd respond.

- What do you mean?

- Oh, it's that space after one phase is completed and before the next one starts, I'd reply.

- But what are your plans after this? they'd insist.

- My plans were to take off on another tour, but right now I'm landing from the last one, just letting myself be in that space in between. I need to be in the now and let whatever is meant to happen unfold. I don't need to know yet what is next. First I just need to land.

We've become so accustomed to always knowing what our plans are, to have schedules set, to be in charge of our lives. This can lead us to miss a fantastic opportunity. As I was landing from my trip, I kept talking about the space in between. I kept emphasizing the need for me to rest in the moment, that when I had done that, the next step would become clear. There is no sense in rushing forward with plans just because you said earlier you'd do them. The energy has to feel right.

A short time before coming home I'd received an email from a spiritual teacher that I'm sure planted a seed:

Hi all! We have decided to skip November's call for a variety of arcane to mundane reasons and ALSO encourage you all to skip something you have committed yourself to do! It is, of course, terribly forbidden and, therefore, quite delicious!

Giving ourselves permission to beg out on a commitment. There is tremendous freedom in this. The message encour-

aged me to review my plans. To stay open to the messages and possibilities present in this moment.

Some of the time my energy was lethargic. I felt like I could hibernate on the couch forever. A sense of deep boredom would overwhelm me, then restlessness would make me fidgety and itchy. It's like my body and energy were still moving and hadn't caught up with the fact that we were home. Some part of me was still revved up in action mode, with a green light of GO! But in reality I had before me a red STOP!

When we've been accustomed to constant achievement and it suddenly stops, we can feel very uncomfortable. The routine of being constantly occupied is reassuring. We know it. The space in between isn't comfortable. Most of us experience unease and unrest, sometimes it gets downright chaotic. If we have any unresolved issues or patterns, this is usually when they pop up. A positive achievement is strengthening to the system, builds up good energy as it were, so that another layer can be peeled off the onion. It happened to me this time. I was on a high. Life was great, I'd been on a forward wave, on a roll.



I DON'T NEED TO KNOW YET WHAT IS NEXT

Then Comes a Receding Wave

Nature shows the way. Like the waves of the ocean, after a forward wave comes a receding wave. It felt like a backlash. I'd had so much forward and positive momentum. Circumstances beyond my control altered my plans. But, come to think of it, when do we ever have control over circumstances?

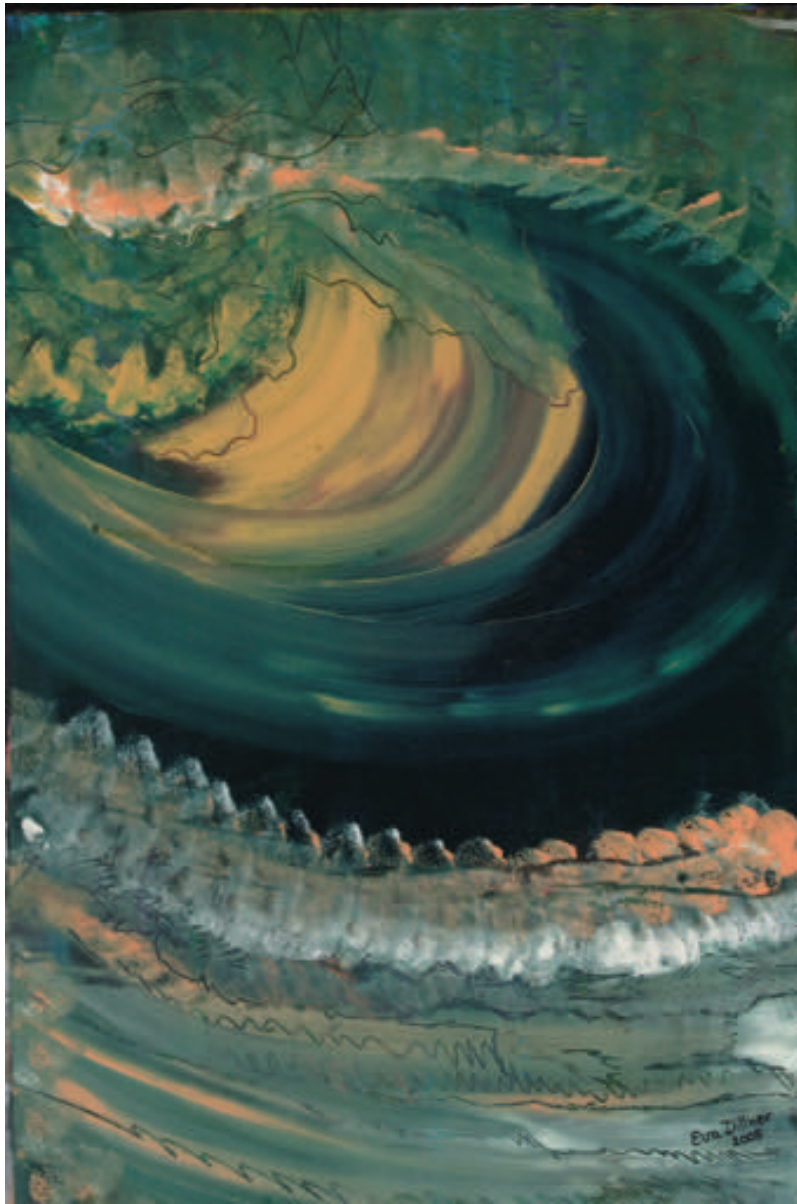
Right before I left on the European tour, my parents moved back to Sweden, after 38 years in the United States. I'd made the move back myself seven years earlier. By now I'd built up a whole new life for myself. There are no relatives in my vicinity, so my circle of friends only include those I've chosen to be my family. It used to be my mother who would insist on frequent family gatherings. As a single person I found it difficult at times to have enough time for a life of my own.

With my parents move to Sweden, it's all of a sudden my father who becomes the challenge. He calls me while I'm traveling and leaves several messages before I even get home. It's like he doesn't want to understand that I am busy and working and not available. I send as many postcards as I can, but there is very little time to communicate with anyone. Even my closest friend has to make do with sporadic text messages.

Back home, my father keeps calling.

- When are you coming? We could use your help.

OK, intellectually I understand that with age, people lose touch with reality and boundaries, that their grip on functioning in the world slips away. In many ways, they become like children, but with a grown-ups sense of identity.



RIDE THE WAVE

My mother, although she is drifting deeper into dementia, understands perfectly well my need to land and unwind.

Eva Dillner • 10

When I finally go visit them for three days, I help them with some things that it didn't take my particular skills to do. In a way it's more difficult for me. I don't know the stores and businesses in town, so I'm at a loss where to turn.

My father's demanding ways feel suffocating to me. I find it really hard to understand why he would decline help from those who want to help him, and insist that I be the one to take care of it all.

I'd had a space of seven years without their presence. When they tried to step into it again, it became crystal clear how much space that was. Yet another reason the space in between is so important. Without it we wouldn't understand how we've grown. It's in the meantime that the change happens.

As Winter Solstice approached, the real New Year as far as I am concerned, I started to make a wish list. Lots of new ideas were percolating. I let myself be open to new and different projects for the new year.

Making lists, drawing mind maps, making collages of our desires are one way to work with the possibilities in the ethers. Z 2 A phases present us with a myriad of options. By pulling them in, closer to the physical plane, we stir the pot.

I'll include my wish list here along with my questions and reflections, so you can take part in my process of unfolding in the space in between. Clearly lots of ideas as well as confusion. Be inspired to make your own list, full of inconsistencies and unrealistic expectations. Dare to dream. Vocalize your inner wishes. Listen to your heart. Let your mind soar on the winds of change.

Wish List for 2006

- lots of love
- a man who gives me what I need
- an overflowing income
- good relationships
- happiness and success
- to enjoy life, pleasure

- to feel safe

Possible Trips

- USA tour, appear on Oprah
- British Isles tour, London Book Fair, EU Michael Retreat
- tour Asia & Australia
- Corsica
- Loire Valley

Possible Courses

- A Book is Born
- Life Therapy leadership training in Sweden
- Dance of Life in Swedish and/or English
- Dance as a Therapeutic Tool
- The Creative Living Seminar - five days in the flow

Possible Book Projects

- A Book is Born
- A New Dawn
- Nomad
- Life is a Pleasure Hunt
- Spa Healing Temple
- Series Life Therapy books
- The Space in Between
- Empowerment - Discover a different way of life - Dance of Life
- Immigrant in my own country
- Books in Swedish
- Do audio books

Reflections and questions

- Where is the energy and enthusiasm?
- Which activities lead to the fulfillment of my wishes at the top of the list?
- Again the question of working in Swedish or English? Live here, customers there? Need to end the question
- AND, not OR

- You have an absolute best seller within you (says a psychic friend of mine)
- go job hunting locally?

As the wish list unfolded, expanded and refined, I sensed something else coming down the pike. The trick is to let the uncertainty be there, the not knowing what is to unfold. To ride the wave of chaos, to be in the stillness, to hang out in the creative void until the fog lifts. To allow the confusion to be there in the meantime.

The Michael Teachings

Throughout this book I refer to the Michael Teachings. I first came across the writings of Chelsea Quinn Yarbro in the early 1980's. My friends and I read and discussed the *Messages from Michael* trilogy of books. As more books arrived, we read them too. Here were matters we'd all thought about, but hadn't quite found the words to express what we knew, somewhere inside. Reading and discussing brought clarity, then more questions, all the while deepening our understanding of why we are here.



THE MICHAELS EXPLAIN THE DEEPER SIDE OF LIFE

Michael is a group soul that channels through many individuals messages about why we are here. They explain how the soul journeys from the Tao and back. The teachings cover soul age, role, attitudes, modes, agreements and tasks. They talk a lot about choice. And much much more.

It's the deep philosophy of life that so strongly attracts me to the Michael teachings. Understanding how we form agreements and why, before we ever incarnate on earth. How we create and heal karmic knots. The roles we take on with each other, helping each other grow, in lifetime after lifetime.

The Michael Teachings web site is an excellent source for further study.

Playing with Titles and Subtitles

While a book is coming together, it may start out with a working title, or idea, then go through permutations before arriving at the published title. Partly this is caused by a book not being set in concrete before it is written. I may start out with a thread or theme, and as the writing progresses that theme may expand, change or move into a whole new direction. So playing with titles and subtitles as you go along is another part of the writing process. It also helps to focus awareness on ‘what is the essence of this book?’

Your process may be about something else entirely, but you can use the titles and subtitles idea to stir your own pot. As you explore one idea, something else pops up. It’s a journey, an exploration of bits and pieces, that may not seem related, at this time. Use my process to inspire yours.

So far, nominations for titles and subtitles are

- From Z to A - navigating the space in between (or trusting the space in between?)
- Slow Motion Enlightenment
- Trusting the Now
- Dance in the Flow of Life
- Do the Experience and Trust the Universe
- Expand Your Thinking
- Crossing the Chasm of No Data
- Lost in Space
- Void Voyager



PLAYING WITH POSSIBILITIES IS ONE WAY TO LET THE
VARIOUS PATHWAYS COME TO THE SURFACE. MAKE
A LIST. THEN LET IT BE. SET IT TO RISE LIKE A GOOD
DOUGH.

I also like to work on the layout while shaping the book. Fonts, headings, line spacings and margins all affect the feel of the book and to my way of thinking need to reflect the soul of the writing. It all has to be consistent. But like life, you never know where the journey is going to take you until you start to travel.

Your process may have nothing to do with writing a book. But wherever you find yourself in life, when you're not sure where you're going, playing with possibilities is one way to let the various pathways come to the surface. Make a list. Then let it be. Set it to rise like a good dough.

When in the Fog Stand Still

The Buddhists say

WHEN IN THE FOG STAND STILL

Which at first glance could be interpreted to do nothing. Not at all. The standing still refers to being totally present in the process, wherever it takes you. It means surrendering at the deepest level. Letting go of ego and mind of how it should look or about what makes sense.



SOMETHING ELSE WANTED TO HAPPEN, BUT WHAT?

You can see from my questions in the chapter *Then comes*

a receding wave that I try to make sense of the fact that I live in Sweden yet seem destined to write in English. Well it's true so far, but one doesn't preclude the other. I need to let myself be open to be guided to what is on the path for me now, in this moment. To let myself follow the energy as it unfolds. It may not make much sense in the moment, but I can't see as far as my guidance. I am not privy to the whole picture down here. I trust that I am guided for my highest good.

Of course, when in the fog, standing still may be the most appropriate action, or non action as it were.

It so happens, while I was hanging out in the void, between the end of my European tour and the beginning of 'what next?' this book began to take shape. I just allowed myself to be in the fog, write wish lists, drink lots of tea while watching the snow flakes fall, listening to the silence of winter. Instead of any planned book project, this one wanted to be born. It's all about be here now and let the future unfold.

You may notice that the space in time I am referring to was some time ago. What happened? I wrote quite a bit on this book and felt lots of excitement as ideas percolated and surfaced, bubbling like a brook in Spring. I had written about 20 thousand words, when the writing skidded to a halt. Something else wanted to happen, but what?

Confusion, or fog, rolled in. Resistance to a change of direction. I wanted to write my Z 2 A book - NOW! You know how it is

I HAD A PLAN
TURNED OUT GOD HAD ANOTHER PLAN
GUESS WHO WAS RIGHT?

Yep, I needed to alter my plans, again. But I didn't acquiesce easily.

What You Resist Persists

Resistance, is mostly the ego trying to maintain control, insisting on my way or the highway. It's seldom a successful strategy. Eventually we realize that the universe knows best. So,

WHAT YOU RESIST PERSISTS

until you get it. The God force or your Higher Self doesn't care how many times it has to show you the way. They want what is best for us. But trusting and letting go doesn't come easy to a human. Especially those of us brought up in the West to rely on logic and intellectual structure and plans, like bulleted lists. Useful at times, but not when you want to flow in the spiritual river of life and creation.

I REMEMBER TO SURRENDER

was the mantra that came to me while I was undergoing Re-birthing Therapy a number of years ago. Off and on I'm reminded to surrender. When my plan doesn't seem to be going anywhere. When my path forward gets blocked. When the energy fizzles for what I thought I was meant to be doing. That's what happened to this book. I got quite a ways into it, and it skidded to a halt.

So what happened in between? After all, this is a book about that space and time. The energy went dead for the Z 2 A book project. No trips were on the horizon. I'm in stay

at home mode. Even a Sagittarian needs to let her suitcase gather dust once in a while.

My Swedish friends kept prodding me about a book in Swedish. To be honest, it was not what I wanted to do. But, right before I had left on that European tour, I'd gotten the same question. Over and over.

- Why don't you write a book in Swedish?

Their questions set me off, pissed me off if I were to be honest. 'I'll show you, I have lots to say if I were to write in Swedish,' I thought. And proceeded to write the outline of a book, in Swedish, in just a few days. Then I went off on my trip and forgot about it. Only to have it resurface as my resistance was at its peak.



BE INSPIRED TO QUIT RESISTING

I was surprised to see how much I had written at the peak

of my emotional intensity. There was more than enough for a book there. All I had to do was write it. I still wasn't convinced.

The summer before I had spent an evening with friends. The question of writing in Swedish had surfaced then too, but a much bigger subject had been audio books. Yes, I had thought the thought. But when my gaggle of friends kept insisting in unison 'you have a wonderful voice, you ought to make audio books,' I had to agree.

As with many things, the seeds get sown long before they start to sprout. They lay dormant until it's time to help them grow into maturity.

I did some research on audio books. How to record one? How do I distribute it? How would I do it? It was a good excuse to get a new computer, with recording capability. With a little help from the Apple Discussion Forum I was set to start. My first test was reading one of my already published books. It felt unnatural and the energy just didn't feel right. Then during one of my walks the penny dropped. I'll do it like I do all my talks and courses, live and in the moment.

I was energized. I knew I was on the right track. As part of my research I had learned that Sweden, along with Germany, were at the leading edge of the distribution of audio books on the Internet. That tipped the scales, I would do an audio book in Swedish.

Like a steam train pulling out of a station, it was slow and not without friction at the start. I felt ridiculous sitting in front of a microphone. I started with gibberish. Make noise, keep the vocal going, many starts, but after a few hours it felt like I had primed the pump and was ready to record. I did the whole book in a week. Seven hours of *Eva Live and in the Moment*. An extended Eva Party.

I don't know if anyone else has gone straight to digital, normally you write the book first. It was novel enough to get me written up in the papers and interviewed on the radio. You may notice I digress, might as well get used to it. My style is meandering. If you think of it like you are sitting beside me in

the sofa and we are sharing tea while our conversation meanders.

Resistance comes in many flavors. There's denial, where you keep insisting that it's not your job. All the while the universe is bugging you, with questions from friends, or prodings from newspapers and television. Everywhere you look, there it is. The thing you don't want to do. But you keep denying you are to have any part in it.

Then there's the 'I don't want' tactic. Like me. Very grown up. More like a petulant child, who keeps saying no. Digging my heels in. I don't want to do this. OK, but why not take all that against energy and turn it into for energy. Let it become fore like in golf. Use the resistance and turn it into 'I'll show you.' Unleash the powers that reside within you. There's no need to be elegant about it. Bring all your pesky emotions with you. Use that emotional force to do the thing that is before you. You'll be amazed at how productive that steam locomotive called 'I don't want' can be.

Distractions are another great tactic to avoid that thing that has your name on it. Playing games on social media sites, chatting with friends, running from one activity to the next or filling up the social calendar. Checking the refrigerator. You become busy with other stuff. But the universe keeps persisting.

I quit resisting and unleashed a flurry of creative energy. Not to mention that I improved my cash flow. My audio book hit the top ten chart for library loans the first week. So be inspired to quit resisting, there can be gold at the end of that rainbow, but you'll never find out if you keep resisting. And as long as you resist, it persists, until you let go and surrender. So what are you waiting for? Someone to push you off the cliff, so you can discover that you indeed could fly?

Uncorked

Turns out the audio book was just the beginning. My energy was really flowing now. But, I had to work myself through the resistance. It wasn't easy. I wanted to get back to this, my Z 2 A project. I still didn't want to write that book in Swedish. Eventually I relented. I quit being stubborn, and with lots of grumbling and emotional intensity I dug out my Swedish book writing project.

Surrendering does not have to be elegant. Surrendering does not necessarily mean you do it with joy. Surrendering can let loose a flurry of emotion. At times it's the best therapy. So just let it rip.

That's what I proceeded to do. I took the rough draft and started expanding on it. In between I painted, danced, emoted, cried, laughed, swore, and got high on the creative energy. I spent hours talking to my friends, discussing, chewing on principles, trying to understand, turning over lots of issues and ideas.

Uncorking the flow lets the champagne bubble up. I'm not saying it's an easy or smooth journey, but in the end you can see some amazing results. During summer, I was a long ways into the draft, a rough one mind you, and people kept asking when they could read it. I did something I had never done before. I let it out of my hands before censoring anything. It was a rough draft alright, with all my grumblings and acerbic comments left in. It didn't sit well with some people, but some very fruitful dialogue came out of it. The polished and finished

book was a much improved animal published as *The Courage to Live*. The path is rarely straight.



UNCORKING THE FLOW
LETS THE CHAMPAGNE BUBBLE UP

Not Enough Space?

At times it feels like there is not enough space for me. The agendas of other people push on my envelope. Where does the need come from to meddle in another person's affairs? I reflect on this in dealing with my ageing parents. Looking at my need to create order in their life. I realized I can't impose my standard on how much clutter one should live with on them. I need to respect their integrity. They have chosen to hang out on earth to learn certain lessons. I can't, and shouldn't, take that away from them.

Outer clutter is merely a reflection of inner clutter. There's a comfort level with the amount of space around us. Look at how a person who loves to live in the woods might feel uncomfortable with the wide open spaces of the prairie, or the vastness of the ocean. On the other hand, those who breathe deeply with wide open spaces often feel claustrophobic in the middle of the forest, or in a basin surrounded by mountains.

How much stuff is your comfort zone? How much furniture feels comfortable in a room? How many pictures hanging on the wall? To one person bright, intense colors are a comfort, whereas the next person is soothed by warm pastels, or pale icy shades. Just think about the number of plants in a room that make your soul soar with happiness.

When other people bombard me with their solution, I feel like I don't have enough space. At times I feel like I can't breathe. I have to remind myself that I am the pilot of my life.

I make the decisions and prioritize what I need to make it work for me.



IT'S UP TO US TO SEE BEYOND THE VEIL

What good would it do me to wake up at the end of my life, only to discover I had been living someone else's idea of it? Hopefully I'd learn to make different choices in the next life. But there is no time like the present.

Life presents us with opportunities for learning, all the time. The rest periods where you can just glide along, sail on smooth water, do come in between. Then comes a new challenge. That is the ebb and flow of life. I've often reflected on how the universe calls on me to be present and truly reflect on what is mine to do. How do I feel now, rather than respond by rote, this is how it is.

When we are Z 2 A, suggestions come from all around us. It's up to us to see beyond the veil.

Hanging Loose in Networks

Over the years, I've participated in a number of groups and networks. What starts out with a few people wanting to get together to share and exchange information can soon turn into a formal something with rules and regulations.

While I was active as a therapist, a local network was started. I joined in and helped recruit others. The idea being to meet once in a while to exchange information, discuss experiences, support each other, trade sessions and not least of all get some social time. Very soon, someone in the group wanted to formalize the network, draw up organization bylaws and elect officers. My enthusiasm faded in a jiffy. All of a sudden the focus had shifted from the connecting aspect to a formal 1-2-3 box.

The minute you impose rigid standards of meetings and minutes, you take away a lot of the creative aspect of a lateral network. Sure enough, half the members dropped out and eventually the group 'died' from lack of oxygen.

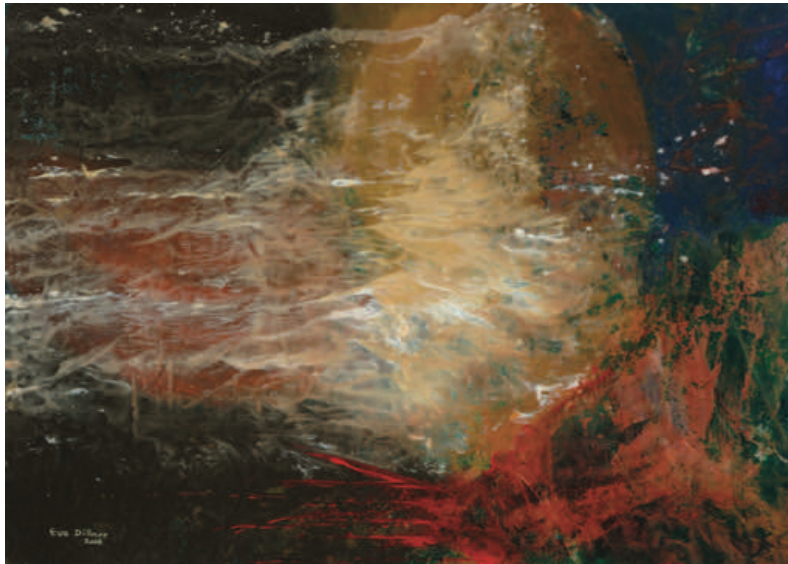
As a writer I was invited to join another network. The guy who started it intended it to be a social get together when the spirit moved us at the local coffee shop. I specifically asked if he wanted to make a formal club or seek grants and such.

- Absolutely not, he said.

- Great, I'm in! I replied.

It didn't take long. At the second meeting someone in need of controlling things started pushing for a club with officers, a project to seek grant money was proposed, and half the people

left. Again, most people were interested in the connecting and sharing aspect. Many writers are pretty independent types and have had it up to here with rules and regulations.



IN THAT SPACE OF NO CONTROL,
MAGIC COULD HAPPEN

Is it discomfort of loose connections that scare people? And why is it that the controlling types take over? Those of us who don't care about bylaws and dues just slide out the door, and seek connections in other ways. My opinion, perhaps you could say it is my truth with a capital T, is that networks lose a lot when not allowed leeway and looseness. I suppose it ties in with my belief that creative processes and free thinking is hampered by too much formality.

Let go of needing to steer life and its processes. Learn to trust that even without formal bylaws and officers we can have networks that are productive and fun. You never know, in that space of no control, magic could happen. Why not let it in?