

Turning Cartwheels

Originally written in 2015

So this was me on Thursday of this week. Well, not exactly... but in my head I was, turning cartwheels one after another down the street, accompanied by loud music and fireworks. And the reason for all this joyful outpouring? I need to take you back a few weeks...

It was Thursday the 13th August at half past five and I was well into summer holiday mode. I was in the middle of writing my Christmas novella, which was going really well. I was writing every day, loving being at home, relaxed and happy. I can't remember exactly what I was doing, waiting for the dinner to cook probably, but I was sitting in the kitchen when an email popped into my inbox telling me I'd had a new message from someone via my website. I'd had a few of these recently from lovely readers taking the time to tell me how much they had enjoyed *Letting in Light*, so I assumed it would be similar. I opened up the email, the first line of which read *Dear Emma, I am an agent at LAW agency*, and my resultant shout was loud enough to bring the whole family running! The email was from the (I now know) incredibly lovely Peta Nightingale. She had noticed how well my book was selling, had read it, and loved it! She wanted to talk about my writing plans, BUT she was going on holiday the next day for two weeks. She left her mobile number saying I could try her in the morning, otherwise I could email and we would talk on her return. Needless to say I rang her

It was a very unexpected, and very exciting conversation, but one I never thought I would be having. I don't remember much about the following weekend at all, it was all a bit of a blur. I'd just about got my head around things by Monday when another email arrived from my website, this time from an editor of a very well-known publishing house. She had seen how well *Letting in Light* was doing, read it and loved it! Would I like to talk? AARRGGHH ... !

So, fast forward to Thursday of this week when I spent the best part of the day in London. I had a meeting with the editor first, and we talked about lots of ideas and how future projects might look. There wasn't anything on the table as yet, but she was very keen to get together again to discuss something concrete which she could put to her acquisitions team. She was lovely, and we were definitely on the same wavelength. It was the sort of conversation I never dreamed I would be having. Straight afterwards, I met with Peta, who was also so complimentary about everything I had done I'm surprised my head still fits through doors! I knew she had already spoken about me to another publisher, and had met with them the day before. That afternoon I was thrilled to learn that they also loved *Letting in Light* and were very keen to publish me. I ended the day with an amazing agent and a firm interest to publish with one publisher and early, but promising discussions with another. To say I was on cloud nine was an understatement.

I now have some serious thinking to do, and decisions to make about what will best help me to achieve my ultimate goal – to carry on writing what I love, and to be able to write full time at the earliest possible opportunity. Readers of my blog will know of my deliberations over traditional versus self-publishing and how I wanted to keep my options open about both. With Peta's expert help and guidance I know I'm going to reach my goal, and whatever happens next, it is absolutely the best feeling in the world.

I'll keep you all updated with how things progress, but I just wanted to end this post by sending out my heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful readers, bloggers and other writers I've got to know over recent months, and who have been so incredibly supportive. Without you all, your help, and the support of my family I wouldn't be in the position I'm in today. So thank, you've made this writer very happy. Mad, in a brain-explodingly kind of way, but very happy.