

FREEING YOUR DREAMS

By Brenda Cassidy

How does it feel to have one of your dreams come to fruition? Absolutely wonderful! Especially after it had remained stored away in an old file box for close to thirty years.

When my boys were very young, the youngest two being only 18 months apart, I took a writing course, "Writing Short Stories for Children." It was a correspondence course, and there was no internet back then. So I would do my lessons, mail them back, and then wait for the response of corrections and encouragement. I ended up with some good short stories, which really didn't go anywhere, but I kept them, and once again, filed them away.

Once in a while, I would scribble down some "book" ideas, a step further than my short stories.

Being that my boys were young, I came up with the idea for a book about "little brothers" and their big brother. I would add an idea here and there, and then once again, into the file box it would go.

Years later, my boys were grown up. Life gets busy and complicated, and certain things get

put on the back burner. Well, they were certainly well-simmered by the time I decided to look

through that file box, find them, and pull them out again. This time, I was determined to finish what

I started. In one afternoon, I wrote my first children's book, "Who Needs Little Brothers Anyway?"

I had the good fortune to meet Lisa Browning, and we became friends. She just happened to be

starting to get into publishing, so one thing led to another, and she offered to look at my manuscript

for my book.

It was a feeling of disbelief and wonderment that I would get my little idea made into a book. I was so very proud and excited about it. And it was so exciting to wait for that first copy!

So an idea, in a box, turned into a real children's book. I was able to give copies of it to my boys and to my grandchildren, which was something that made me very happy. And now I know there are others out there with a copy of my book as well, which really amazes me. I'm so glad it didn't remain as a discarded idea, lost and stuffed away in an old box.

And after that, I went on to write "Who Needs Little Sisters Anyway?" No box for that one!

So, never give up on your dreams, big or small. It's an amazing feeling when you see them

in created form. I keep a copy of each book, in my office. It reminds me that I really did it and that I

got to share it with others. And that is what I wanted to accomplish. It also showed me that if

you stick something away in a box, your ideas can't see the light that was meant for them.

Always open the "box!" Free your dreams; it's a wonderful feeling!