

THE GORILLAS IN YOUR LIFE
by Edie Ramer

I collect quotes, and I heard a great one from Isabel Sharpe at her booksigning for her women's fiction book, *Women on the Edge of a Nervous Breakthrough*. I emailed her to ask about it, and this is what she said:

"I was getting ready for my first big booksigning and was nervous, and therefore in my sons' eyes, acting a bit peculiar. My younger son is eight years old, with wisdom beyond his years and a wicked sense of humor. He came up to me where I was sitting quietly on the edge of my bed, and said, "Are you okay?" I said sure, but that I was a little nervous because I had to speak in public. He put his hand on my shoulder, looked at me earnestly and said, "Mom, you're going to be fine. You won't die, and no gorillas will come in and rip people's heads off." Isn't that brilliant? My son has a saying too, "It's all good." Next time I see him, I'll tell him I'm changing that for the No Gorilla quote.

I'm normally a positive person, which is a good thing, because lately I've been stepping out of my comfort zone. A lot. When it comes to new things, I'm becoming a 'Bring it on, I'll do it!' person. I'm nervous, but I do it. A lot of my personal stretching has stemmed from the *Magical Musings* blog. First I had to write the blogs. I'm not an easy, breezy kind of writer, and I wasn't sure how good I'd be at it. It turned out that I enjoyed blogging.

But that was just the beginning. Next Michelle Diener thought of the book reviews. I didn't tell co-bloggers Michelle and Liz Kreger this, but in school I used to hate book reports. Why write about books when I could read them? But I said Yes! After that came the poems (my idea). Then the guest blogs. We had to ask writers to guest blog for us. In the beginning, we asked our writer friends, but after awhile we began asking writers we didn't know. And they said Yes!

When Theresa Monsey and LaDonna Paulette joined us, Theresa got the brilliant idea to ask agents to guest blog every Saturday for a month. No hesitation, we all said Yes! And we did! We found four agents who said Yes! They wrote brilliant blogs too. Now we started our market update, SOLD! With Amy Knupp, Allison Brennan and Karin Tabke, we created *Write Attitude*. It never stops.

In my own writing, I'm stretching with my wip. It's a bigger book than I've written before. Not bigger in length, but the story is bigger. It's more mainstream than single title. I'm writing it from experiences that touched me and people I care about. This is scary for me. I'm waaay out of my comfort zone.

So far I didn't die, and no gorillas came and ripped my head off.

What about you? Are you stepping out of your comfort zone? In your writing or your life? Have any gorillas ripped your head off lately?