

## Victoria Noe

I've been a writer most of my life, but didn't admit it until 2009.

After earning a master's degree in Speech and Dramatic Art from the University of Iowa, I moved to Chicago, where I worked professionally as a stage manager, director and administrator in addition to being a founding board member of the League of Chicago Theatres. I discovered I was good at fundraising, and ventured out on my own, raising millions for arts, educational and AIDS service organizations, and later became an award-winning sales consultant of children's books. But when a concussion ended my sales career, I decided to finally keep a promise to a dying friend to write a book.

That book became a series of small books. The first three – *Friend Grief and Anger: When Your Friend Dies and No One Gives A Damn*; *Friend Grief and AIDS: Thirty Years of Burying Our Friends* and *Friend Grief and 9/11: The Forgotten Mourners* were published in 2013. *Friend Grief and the Military: Band of Friends*, was published in May, 2014. The final books, *Friend Grief in the Workplace: More Than an Empty Cubicle* and *Friend Grief and Men: Defying Stereotypes* will be released in 2015.

I'm a card-carrying member of Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLi), Chicago Writers Association, Nonfiction Authors Association, Military Writers Society of America and ACT UP/NY (just kidding – we don't have membership cards in ACT UP/NY).

My articles have appeared on a variety of grief and writing blogs as well as *Windy City Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Huffington Post*. In my copious spare time, I feed my reading habit by reviewing a wide variety of books on BroadwayWorld.com. A native St. Louisan, I'm a lifelong Cardinals fan and will gladly take on any comers in musical theatre trivia. My blog, FriendGrief, was named one of the top ten grief support websites in 2012.

I have no idea what's coming next, but I hope it's fun.