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women to watch

Angela
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**AUTHOR OF RED INK AND
THIRTIETH CANDLE AND MD
OF BRITESPARK
COMMUNICATIONS, A PR AND
EVENTS COMPANY**

My day job is running the PR firm I started in 2002, and I write for the pleasure I get out of it. Unfortunately, writing doesn't pay the bills in South Africa (unless you get published overseas).

Red Ink was rejected by the first publisher I sent it to – it was a knock to my confidence, but luckily I didn't stop there. It was a huge affirmation when Pan MacMillan took my book on – and once I'd experienced that I had the confidence to work on another book.

I always write the kind of books that I'd like to read, so I look forward to working on them. I start engaging with the characters and just have great fun seeing them develop.

You have to read a lot to write well. Some of my favourite crime authors are Greg Ilse, Jeffery Deaver and Deon Meyer, and I make a point of reading unknown writers.

Writing is a solitary exercise, but don't be afraid to expose your work to potential readers. If you don't do this you will fall into the trap of thinking that every line you write is good without seeing how your readers perceive them.

A writers' circle or workshop is an excellent tool. I joined one while I was writing *Red Ink* and it gave me the chance to interact with fellow writers – bouncing my ideas off them and seeing their reactions. **Look out for *Thirtieth Candle* in book stores this month.**