

## **Chick Morgan**

### **Author & Artist**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

##### **Q. Why Did You Write This Book?**

Out of sheer heartache! It did not start out as a book. It started as “somewhere to put the pain” after the shock of my husband’s leaving me on the same day my mother died. It was simply too much to comprehend and for a long time the emotions were overwhelming. Writing has always been a coping mechanism for me.

The outpouring grew into a blog for a few friends who cared about me, and later friends of friends who learned about my journey and expressed interest. To my amazement it quickly grew to over three hundred readers! The outpouring of encouragement and support fueled my writing and sustained me, so I kept going.

As the possibility emerged that this could be a book that people might read and learn from, I joined the Writer’s League of Texas. Slowly I moved from writing as a survival mechanism to focusing on how readers might relate to it. Themes shifted into possible chapters, and I started thinking about it as a “book.” I genuinely enjoy the act of writing and I took seriously the art of doing it well. It saved my life. Having completed the book, the story feels complete, that period of my life feels complete. So, I have moved from survival to creation to completion, and now I claim my identity as a professional writer, which feels perfect.

##### **Q. So is this a revenge book?**

A. No. There was no revenge intended. This is my story. Not to minimize its impact, but in some ways the traumatic event at the heart of it is the catalytic incident that opens the way for everything that follows – and that is the most interesting story of all. I suppose you could say that the actual reward is the wonderful life I have created.

##### **Q. What do you want to bring to readers with this book?**

A. I hope those who may be struggling with their own life challenges will be inspired. I also hope readers will be encouraged to tap into their creativity, whether it be writing, singing, dancing – whatever their heart’s desire - and do things they may not have tried before. Finally, I’d like to show readers that it’s possible to thrive in different environments. I’ve had to adapt to a new way of being here in Texas after 40 years away. I hope readers will be open to the possibility of embracing different perspectives in new ways and finding joy in life.

**Q. Do you have any concern that people will dismiss this as yet another book about an idyllic life that has gone wrong?**

A. I believe there will be many readers who will relate to the stories of my happy childhood in a loving family during simpler times. I'm proud of the career I achieved as a woman who came of age as the feminist movement was taking off and of the many rich relationships and rewarding experiences I had. When that life came crumbling down, I dusted myself off and have created another kind of success as a creative person living in a small Texas Hill Country town, and I'm proud of that, too.

**Q. There are song lyrics at the end of each chapter. How did you select them?**

As a singer and more recently a songwriter, I've been collecting songs my whole life and have an almost encyclopedic memory of lyrics. For this project, certain songs simply jumped to mind as being a perfect way to punctuate a chapter, Shelly King's "The Ones You Don't See Coming," for example. Others I had to search for, and for some, my original lyrics were perfect.