



Hi Darby,

Thank you for writing. My breath caught short in my throat when I spotted the Basset Bookhound piece on Saturday night at the Fe Gallery. It was serendipity at work, I'm certain. I'm not usually such a big spender, but sometimes you just know you have to have something, that's it's meant for you, and that's how I felt when I saw your art. A basset hound wearing specs and reading a book? Made to order for a woman who writes a mystery series with a basset hound. That bookhound looks so much like Bubba Gump, my canine muse and beloved basset of 14 years, who we lost March 20. It's been hard losing him, perhaps more than any of my other bassets (7 in all). He was my inspiration for Cruiser, the basset in my books, and was also a rescued dog like Cruiser. Purchasing your beautiful work of art is sort of a memorial to him, and it will occupy a special place in our home. I really love it, just like I really loved him.

It sounds like we have quite a lot in common with our love of writing and animals. I, too, have a big fat rejection file from the past 20+ years of my writing career. I swore I was going to have a bonfire when I got my first book published, but I found I couldn't part with them. Those rejection letters represented so many years of toil and hope--they were kind of a rite of passage. It's sheer stubbornness and persistence that 20 has paid off in the end. I think that's why I love basset hounds so much. We are so alike. Bassets stay on the track until they finally reach their goal, and so have I. I think that's true of any successful artist in any medium, though. So be proud of those rejection letters. It shows that you haven't given up, no matter what.

Sue Owens Wright, author