

REJECT YOUR REJECTIONS

by Stephanie Bond

(March 1996)

Now I'm riding high on the euphoria of selling my first book, *Irresistible?*, to Harlequin's Love & Laughter series. But only a few months ago, I was so frustrated after a series of rejections, I sat down to pen my revenge. The following letter was never mailed, but the pleasure of typing it up was keen. I hope other writers can relate to this satirical response to every rejection I ever received:

Dear Editor,

I received your rejection letter yesterday. The letter was very interesting, and free of typographical errors. However, after careful consideration, I have decided your offer of refusal does not meet my writing needs at this time. Therefore, I regret to inform you I must reject your rejection.

Since I receive such a large volume of rejections, it's impossible for me to comment on each one at length. I can say, however, that there are certain elements of your rejection which simply won't work. For instance, you said the fact that my hero is a writer would be unappealing to readers. For your convenience, I have enclosed a list of twenty-two books your company published last year in which the hero was a writer. Also, you made the comment I didn't drop enough clues for the reader to expect the twist ending. I contend that is the precise reason it is referred to as a 'twist ending.'

I wish I had better news for you. Unfortunately, in this highly competitive market, I have to be very selective about which rejections I can accept. If you would like to use my comments to modify your rejection letter, I'd be glad to review it again. Otherwise, I wish you much luck in placing your rejection elsewhere.

**Sincerely,
*Stephanie Bond***