

## WHERE IS IT NOW?

By Liz Kreger

Let's talk about that very first book. Where is it now? Under the bed? Hidden in a drawer? Lost in the bowels of your computer? Why? Was it that bad? Too immature for today's market? Or you just weren't satisfied with it.

Writing is so subjective. I've heard of authors who sold the very first book they've written and I've talked to authors whose first four are hidden away, never to be seen again. I've written five books and have re-worked my very first book. "Promise for Tomorrow" ... or more appropriately "PFT". That's so descriptive of the book right now. I wrote this book about seven or eight years ago when I was a green newbie. This book started out at nearly 200,000 words, but I've managed to pare down to something like 140,000. Still too big, but somehow I sold it to Samhain Publishing, Ltd. Signed the contract a couple of months ago, so I don't have any details as to release date, or any other information.

So now, I'm waiting for the edits to arrive. Re-writing this book was as difficult as its initial creation. But it was done with the help of my crit partners. I really don't know how writers manage without crit partners. To me, Edie, Michelle and Theresa have been invaluable. (Theresa is taking a hiatus from critiquing since she's in the middle of life, but she did have a number of good points in the chapters she did crit). It always helps to have a fresh eye when you write. I know writers who never use crit partners and those (like myself) who couldn't do without them.

So, how about you? Do you think there's any hope for that first manuscript you wrote? Is it destined to collect dust under your bed forever? Or will you one day take it out, dust it off and see if it's salvageable. Give it a read. Perhaps with what you know now, you can revise that sucker into something sellable. After all, you felt strongly about it when you first wrote it. There has to be some redeeming portions to it. You might actually read through it and realize that "this ain't so bad."

There's hope for that first book, as I just proved by selling PFT to Samhain.