

Getting Through It

Here's how best-selling author Leslie Banks coped with stress after her baby daughter was burned by a hot iron.

August 27, 2013 By [Kate Ferguson](#)

When my child got severely injured, I refused to leave her again. I carried her on a front harness with me. Then, in 1992, I moved back to Philadelphia and saw an essay contest in Essence magazine—10 pages for \$2,500 if you won. I thought, why not? So I sat down to write a thriller, a sexy suspense, something that I'd want to see in the movies, rather than the tale of woe I was living. Three days later I had 75 pages done. I'm firmly convinced that I poured my imagination onto the page because it had been the first time, since the accident happened in January 1991, that I found myself laughing and excited about something. I came to that story each day, and for just a little while I had a place to escape to...I was lucky that writing was there. It came through like the cavalry.

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<http://beta.docker.realhealthmag.com/article/coping-with-stress-24447-9328>