

## A Chat with Ellen DeGeneres

Emmy award-winner Ellen DeGeneres has two bestselling books to her credit and is putting the final touches on her newest title, *Seriously... I'm Kidding*, due this October from Grand Central Publishing. A consummate entertainer, she places her unique signature on everything she does, whether it's providing the voice for Dory, everyone's favorite fish in *Finding Nemo*, and hosting her television show, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, to a recent stint as an *American Idol* judge. She tells *Show Daily* that *Seriously... I'm Kidding* will give readers plenty of new material to enjoy.


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DeGeneres will be making a special appearance, via video, at today's Book & Author Breakfast.

**Your life has changed quite a bit since your last book, as you have stated, "I got married. I got my own talk show. I started a record label. I became a CoverGirl." What can readers look forward to in *Seriously... I'm Kidding*?**

My life has changed a lot. I'm happier than I've ever been and busier than I've ever been. The book has a little something in it for everyone — adults, kids, teenagers, grandparents. Your pets will love it. I like to say it's a combination of *Twilight*; Harry Potter; *Eat, Pray, Love*; Lord of the Rings; and *The Joy of Sex*.

**How is it different from your previous books, and why was now the right time to write it?**

Last year I was working two television jobs, with *American Idol*, so this year I had some more free time to sit down and write. It was either write this book or go on *Celebrity Apprentice*. I have a new perspective on things, and I thought I could share it. Plus, in this book I use a different font. And there's a different cover.

**Is there something you hope readers take away from *Seriously... I'm Kidding*?**

I hope readers take away the whole book and pay the full cover price. And just by buying the book you're gonna feel better, be happier, look taller, have six-pack abs, silky shiny hair, and find everlasting love. But if you're not into that stuff, then don't buy it.

**Do you follow a routine when you write?**

With my schedule I had to write whenever I wasn't on TV. Sometimes I'd take out a pen and scribble stuff down during a commercial break. Sometimes I'd do it during an interview if they were boring. I won't say who. Okay, I will. ~~Harry Connick Jr.~~

**Would you like to comment on the importance of books and literacy in general?**

Reading is so important. Parents should read to their children. I have neighborhood kids come over and read to me. It keeps all of us off the streets. They also do my windows.

**Are there any special organizations you'd like to raise awareness for?**

I'm constantly looking for ways to raise money for one of my favorite places, the Gentle Barn ([www.gentlebarn.org](http://www.gentlebarn.org)). They take in animals that can't find homes because they're too damaged, and they heal them. Once they're healed, the animals stay there and help heal at-risk and disadvantaged kids. They really help heal each other. —Karen Jones