# Author, author: Two writers in the Hyatt house

By **[Gord Howard](https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/authors.howard_gord.html)** Standard Reporter

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When Wayne Hyatt needs an editor to read over his work, he doesn’t have to look very far. There’s usually one upstairs.

Hyatt is a writer who works in the basement of his St. Catharines home. His wife, Karen, is a writer, too. Her office is on the second floor.

Two authors living under the same roof. It sounds like the plot from an old Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn movie.

“We read each other’s writing and make comments about it,” said Karen. “It’s kind of hard sometimes. You want to be honest, because you want to help, but at the same time you don’t want to be hurtful.

“So it’s a fine line.”

Both Hyatts are fiction writers, but each brings a different life experience to their work.

Wayne is retired from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, for which he worked mainly in research, environmental impact assessment and aquaculture management.

Early in his career he worked on an icebreaker, and he spent time on two Navy submersibles.

“I’m an accountant and that’s not usually, you know, that exciting,” said Karen, with a laugh.

A lot of people think they have a good book in them; hardly any actually sit down and write it.

And fewer still find a publisher to print and distribute the book, and then have people willing to pay to read what you’ve written.

Karen’s first book, “Uncovering Iris,” was published in 2019. In a nutshell, it’s about two women who meet and are unaware each has a deep connection to a woman named Iris Parker.

Her second work, “Secrets, Lies and Consequences” (subtitled “Be Sure Your Sins Will Find You Out”) is about a man who arrives with his wife for vacation in Panama, only to learn he is being blackmailed.

Wayne’s first published book is “Theft at the Royal,” based on a real-life robbery case at the Royal Canadian Mint.

“Sometimes I think the writing of the book is the easy part, then you have to start editing and promoting, marketing,” said Wayne.

“It’s a lot of work, and a lot of writers — they’re more introverts, I think, and sometimes the most difficult part is promoting yourself.”

Just the same, writing fiction — inventing characters with personalities, contriving a plot, adding a few twists and then trying to keep it all straight — is not easy.

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Karen said she has five unfinished novels all at various stages, stored away in her files. One is 65,000 words, another 85,000, one at 15,000.

“I would like to go back to some of these and finish them,” she said. “But I kind of lost my momentum and moved on to something else. There’s a lot of that sitting on my computer.”

It’s the same for Wayne: His first book didn’t get published, and for his second, “I do have a lot of different versions of my book, because each time I review it and revise it I save a copy.

“I hate to think of how many versions I have.”

Interestingly, sometimes it’s the littlest things that sometimes take the longest to get just right.

Like characters’ names.

For instance, Wayne had some Bulgarian characters in “Theft at the Royal,” so he had to scour the internet to find good-sounding Bulgarian names.

By the time he finished writing the book, he said, he ended up renaming the character because the name just didn’t suit him any more.

“And I had a name, my girlfriend told me she was actually a porn star in movies,” laughed Karen (the name was Ruby Rose).

“So I had to change that.”

All three books are available in paperback or for download at Amazon.ca and Chapters.ca and through their websites [WayneHyattAuthor.com](http://waynehyattauthor.com/) and [KarenHyattAuthor.com](http://karenhyattauthor.com/).