

Wendelin Van Draanen

Inspiring Author of more than 30 Novels



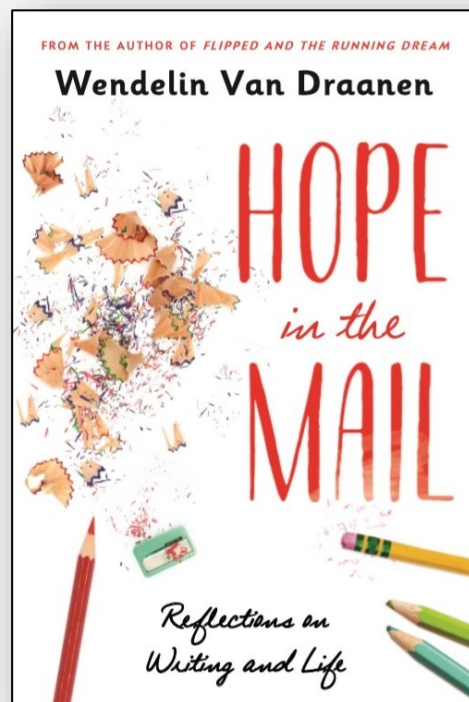
Wendelin Van Draanen has made her way from disaster survivor to high school teacher to best-selling, multi-award-winning author of books that are sold internationally and have been produced as films, including the Rob Reiner-directed Warner Brothers feature film *Flipped* and the Nickelodeon made-for-TV movie *Shredderman Rules*.

The daughter of immigrants, Wendelin's life has been riddled with roadblocks and tragedy but her inspiring life story is testimony to the merits of hard work, persistence, and "keeping hope in the mail."

Wendelin lived with her husband and two small children in a run-down rental in a rough part of a town, keeping her dreams of a better future alive by sending her writing to publishers in New York. Day after day, week after week, year after year, she submitted her work, telling herself each day that "today could be the day."

It took ten years for her persistence to pay off, but when it did, it launched the Sammy Keyes mystery series. Dubbed "the new Nancy Drew," it would grow to become a beloved award-winning eighteen-book series, read around the world.

Now, after more than 30 published novels, Wendelin is telling her story and sharing her hard-won wisdom in her first non-fiction book, appropriately titled *Hope in the Mail, Reflections on Writing and Life*. Part memoir, part craft guide, and part publishing insight, *Hope in the Mail* is suitable for teen and adult audiences, especially those who want to write.



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