

The Debut Author: Tips for Surviving & Thriving

*You wrote a book, and it's in the wild. What now? Award-winning author Shelley Coriell, who debuted in 2012 with the young adult novel WELCOME, CALLER, THIS IS CHLOE (Amulet Books/Abrams) and actually **enjoyed** her debut year, offers these tips.*

1. Write the next book.
2. Do only book promotions that are a good fit for your limited resources of time, talent, and treasure.
3. Find or create a community of other debut authors or authors in your genre. Help and hug each other.
4. Start a mailing list YOU control.
5. Take time off from writing to fill the creative well.
6. Take care of yourself physically. You can't draw water from a broken well.
7. Say thank you. To readers, reviewers, booksellers, and all the people in your corner.
8. Don't read reader reviews.
9. Don't compare yourself to others.
10. Distribute Advance Reader Copies (ARCs) to front-load reviews.
11. Include information on your next book in the back matter of the first book.
12. Ask for help: from your editor, your publisher, your friends, your family, and fellow authors. You are not alone on this journey.
13. Prepare for the inevitable crisis of confidence as you write the next book. It's called the Sophomore Slump, and you must write through it.
14. After you write the next book, write another one.