



## Jill Hackett

*Author of I Gotta Crow: Women, Voice and Writing*

As a technical writer for over 20 years, Jill learned that the mark of a good technical writer was that she shall have no voice, be seen but not heard in her writing. Just the facts, nothing breathing. If you look hard, you may catch a glimpse of her in the spaces, in the traces of how she has sequenced her information and how her mind works. But you should not hear her. Jill was trained to write mute.

A single parent for 19 years, Jill provided the main financial support for her two children with a steady technical writing career, winning awards and documenting computers.

Jill nurtured her dream of "*really*" writing—writing with voice--in the margins of her life. And kept studying in her spare time, taking advantage of company paid tuition reimbursement benefits.

This discipline of structure and function over voice both strengthened Jill's writing craft, and fueled her desire to understand the art of writing: to find her voice.

No stranger to hard work and focus, Jill earned her Ph.D. at age 50--she started her graduate work when her youngest went into first grade, and completed her degree during his senior year of college. She apprenticed herself to 12 women authors ages 24 to 84 to learn how they found their writing voice, and how to reclaim her own. When her children flew the coop, she started to spread her writing wings!

Jill holds degrees in mathematics, human development and psychology, and communications from Vassar, Harvard, and The Union Institute & University. This is her first non-technical book. She is currently working on the sequel, *Learning to Crow*.



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