

Book on Forgiveness Needs to Introduce Unorthodox Viewpoint

Before:

Shattering the Forgiveness Myth

What You Can Do to Be Happy Again When Forgiving Doesn't Work

Gary Egeberg hired me to do general self-publishing consult but wanted input on his chosen title. The book's fundamental premise challenged the conventional wisdom that, in the wake of some trauma where you have been wronged (violence, sexual abuse, financial exploitation, etc.) by someone, forgiveness is the only path to reclaiming your happiness.

Given the radical nature of his assertion (i.e., everyone KNOWS you have to forgive in order to heal, right?), I strongly recommended losing the "Shattering" part. People would have their hands full just accepting that forgiveness was a myth in the first place, much less having to process that they needed to shatter it. All the positive input he was getting on his original title was from people who already knew what his book was about before being asked, making their impressions less valid than someone encountering it for the first time. As for the subtitle, it had to be punchier and more reader-focused, offering a true promise, while establishing that it understood the strong feelings the reader faced.

Here's what we came up with...

After:

The Forgiveness Myth

How to Heal Your Hurts, Move on and Be Happy Again When You Can't – or Won't – Forgive

