

## Forward

By Lee Sacks

The shops on the internet and chains of bookstores have book upon book ostensibly penned by the authors whose names are boldly bannered across the dust jacket. However, we see a provisional addendum such as, “As told to John Doe” or “With Jane Doe,” or some other writer who is completely unknown to the reader.

When I see an autobiography or any book cover with wording of this nature, an immediate alarm of cautionary acceptance attacks my thought process. This is usually a politician or a movie star on an ego trip who hires a “ghostwriter” to conjure up a readable narrative about his or her “adventurous” life.

Unfortunately, the usual result is discourse that fails to either entertain or enlighten the reader. It ends up being words on pages allotted to self gratification for the ego of the person whose name appears in bold print.

Florence Molomut Ross has been a dear friend and exemplary mentor for well over a decade, so I refuse to have any part in this type of deception. Florence was perfectly willing to offer me first or second billing. I rejected both offers for the simplest of reasons. I’m a storyteller who makes up yarns. That’s what we call fiction. This book is in no way fiction; it’s Florence’s fascinating story, not mine. I did not “ghostwrite” Florence’s life story. Neither I nor the great authors of today and yesterday have enough imagination in us to write such a saga. And, “Not by Lee Sacks” is my way of saying this is totally and unequivocally Florence’s book.

Keep in mind that greater people than I have acknowledged that Florence has taken the expression, “thinking and operating outside the box” to a new level. Had I truly written this, I would have proclaimed that loudly and frequently. But, is that not what “ghostwriters” do?

If you know Florence, *nothing* comes as a surprise. Her accomplishments from age eleven until the present are astounding to say the least. How many people earn a doctorate when they’re eighty-one years young? If I made up a story about an eighty-one year old receiving a PhD, it would be regarded as fiction that doesn’t wash.

Let me add a word of warning to you readers. Florence believes that well behaved women seldom make history. She exemplified this at the Citizens Summit for Peace that took place in the USSR during the early Reagan years. When you read how she scolded representatives from our country as well as the officials from the Soviet Union, you’ll see that she is one gutsy woman.

So if I didn’t write this book, what did I do? I sat with Florence with my tape recorder on. I just let her tell her story, and I listened and learned. What did I learn? I know now that I’ll never be a “ghostwriter”, and I’ll never be good enough to produce a work of fiction that is as fascinating as the life of Florence Molomut Ross.

