### TCBLACKWELL



9 THINGS
THINGS EVERY
WRITER
SHOULD KNOW

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### BASIC WISDOM

"Wow! How do you write like that"?

This is the famous question I get asked at least twice a week.

Some writers learn from investing in writer conferences, workshops or coaches.

However, some of us just go about it the old fashion way.

"I just write!"

If you want to become stronger at writing there is only one sufficient way...

Just keep writing.

I have been writing my entire life, and yet I have days where I want to just throw the entire computer out the widow.



### The Writing Process

It is important to know when and where your creativity will spark. You should have a designated schedule free from distractions and a comfortable chair or couch. Is the room well lit? What about the background noise? I can not write in chaos. Some can! Just not me.

Remember to chose a comfortable environment.

Choose a time where you are alert and energized. I would not recommend sitting down to write when you are having a sleepover or when your house is full of distractions.

One day you will come across a sentence that sounds way better inside your head. But for some reason you can't get it down on paper. My best advice? Skip it! don't spend precious hours banging your head on the wall. If it is meant to be in the story, it will come later.

Trust me!

### The Writing Process

Always write more than you think you will need. When I was writing my first book after the end of the 2nd rough draft I ended up deleting an entire chapter. This is why it is important to "just keep writing". That sentence that you got hung up on? most likely went in the deleted pile.

It is better to write more when you have the creative spark.

Then cut out the excess later.(if needed)

All of us has the internal voice in our heads that sometimes just won't shut up. It is especially loud when we are writing. Yes, I know this voice all too well. If you haven't heard it dont worry you will soon. The perfectionsist voice, the doubtful voice, the embrassing voice. I've heard them all, and many more. Although they are distracting and nerve- racking, the good news is we can block them out and keep writing. Eventually the voice will get smaller and you will learn to just write over the small noises.

### The Writing Process

"Writers Block" is a temporary and sometimes lenghty inability to write. Almost everyone who sits down at their computer will experience this. It is primarily caused by the stress in your life or conflicts you are dealing with at the moment.

Allow yourself to just take a moment to close your eyes. Use positive affrimations.

I sometimes would get a journal and write non stop for 15 minutes. I would continue to write about anything that popped into my mind. If nothing seems to work take this time to focus on something else and come back to writing.

Don't pressure yourself.

Writing should always come natural. :)

## BUILDING YOUR WRITING SKILLS

Always ask yourself this question.

### "What IF"?

Your entire story line should include this phrase.

What if the plane never landed? What if he never made it off the plane?

What if you wrote more extreme or more subtle or more enchanting?
What if the boy decided to keep driving?

Sometimes as a writer you have to think outside the box.

If YOU were the reader what would excite YOU?

Asking these questions, has the potential to give your draft a push in the right direction. Sometimes books lose excitement. If you find yourself in this predicament just ask "What if"



### S C A M M E R S

During my writing career I paid out over 5 thousand dollars to scammers promising me exposure and my name on the best seller list. This is what to watch out for:

- 1. If someone promises you guraranteed NY Best Seller? Run!
- 2. If you have to pay 10k for a writers bootcamp with the guarantee of Amazon top list. Run Faster!
- 3. Any agent, person, company who request your draft and reads it at no charge? They are Fruad! Skip or run faster
- 4. Don't waste money on entering literacy contest with entry fees.

### RESEARCH! RESEARCH!

Becoming the expert in writing takes lots of practice patience and skill. It also involves a ton of research. This is the boring part but it should never be skipped or overlooked.

If the portaganist is a legal secretary in the state of Florida. It would make sense for you to research the qualifications for being a legal secretary.

Additionally, when you are done writing the novel you should already have research your marketing strategy.

Are you self publishing?
Have you decided on a book cover?
What genre are you publishing?
What books are selling right now?

All of this involves research.



### W R I T E R S B O O T C A M P

I would like to point out, seeking help from a professional writer or paying for a coach that you trust to help you on your writing journey is a great step to success!

I was enrolled into a writers bookcamp and spent \$3,000 the first 2 months! Beware of any bootcamp, magazine, publishing agency that will tell you the

"secret strageties to gain sales".

If you have the money to spend on writers bootcamp at least make sure they are legit.



# DON'T QUIT YOUR DAY JOB

There are only a few ways to make money from writing so that you are actually able to quit your day job.

- 1. write a bestseller book (you need a good marketing team)
- 2. write a movie script and then turn it into a book
- 3. become famous then write a book
- 4. marry someone famous and then write a book
- 5. pure luck and determination + consistency

The longer you keep writing the chances of you one day making it big are still slim but its worth a try.

However, there are other avenues to make money in writing.

- 1. write a textbook for a University
- 2. Quit your job and become a full time freelancer
- 3. Obtain a fulltime job with a magazine, newspaper or tv show
  - 4. Write children's books

08

### REJECTIONS

### Lets face it!

Rejection will happen to you and this is the only thing that is guaranteed as a writer.

Being rejected never feels good.

My advice to you is never ever take rejections personally. Please don't assume you suck at writing. Use the rejections as tools to keep going!

Someone is waiting to read your book. You have no idea the many people you will touch with your words.

Never ever give up! One day..maybe not today or tomorrow....but one day it WILL pay off.

### MY FINAL NOTE

Somedays you will sit at your computer and will be so engrossed in the story you look up and you haven't fed the kids, you missed 10 calls on your cell phone and it's 2 am in the morning.

Other times you will have a fantastic idea and as soon as you sit down at the computer your son needs your attention and its urgent. He wants you to watch his new Tic Tock video. Or your computer will suddently need 1 hour to update.

My final suggestion is to write everyday. If only for 15 minutes. Write what brings you joy. If you can't think of anything to write about. Write about how you are having a bad day and you hate writing.

Whatever you do...JUST...KEEP...WRITING! :)