



The Maeve Binchy Writers' Club

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“The most important thing to realize is that everyone is capable of telling a story.” –Maeve Binchy

If you scribble story ideas on the backs of receipts...

If you file away bits of overheard conversation from the coffee shop...

If you've already chosen the perfect pen name...

Well, then the journey has begun!

In this warm and inspiring guide, beloved author Maeve Binchy shares her unique insight to how a best selling author writes: from finding a subject and creating good writing habits to sustaining progress and seeking a publisher.

Whether you want to write stories or plays, humor or mysteries, Binchy prescribes advice for every step with her signature humor and generous spirit. She has called upon other writers, editors, and publishers to add their voices to this treasury of assistance for budding writers and a refreshing dose of encouragement for longtime scribes. And once you are ready, an appendix offers of writing awards and competitions and a selection of websites and literary journals.

The Maeve Binchy Writers' Club Details

Date : Published March 9th 2010 by Anchor (first published January 1st 2008)

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Author : Maeve Binchy

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From Reader Review The Maeve Binchy Writers' Club for online ebook

Hannah Crabtree says

A someone about to start a Writing Club with a couple of friends, reading this seemed natural. I borrowed it from the library and was suitably impressed - to the extent that I bought two copies: one for myself and one for my Writing Club co-founder!

Interestingly, I am not a reader of Maeve Binchy's fiction, but I found this a good read with lots to think about for my writing.

Marina says

This is a short, accessible guide to getting started on and keeping up with your writing project. It's written in the form of weekly letters, interspersed with contributions from others. Not only does it offer practical advice to make the whole writing process more manageable and achievable, but it also does so in an entertaining and interesting way. The short story included at the end provides a wonderful illustration of how to follow the tips provided as well as being enjoyable in its own right.

I have never read any of Maeve Binchy's novels but after enjoying her relaxed and easy style, I intend to remedy this.

I would recommend this book to anyone who has a story inside them but hasn't quite discovered how to get it out.

Marianna says

I'll admit I skimmed the first part of this book with the advice about writing. What I was really after were Binchy's short stories and columns in the second half. They didn't disappoint.

Ruth Jones says

Love Maeve Binchy, not least because I am from Ireland too. Her worlds are so intimately drawn and her characters so varied, but in a way familiar. Great story and pacing and always a pleasure to read.

Gisela says

It looks like this 2008 edition only contains half the material of the later edition which includes columns and more stories by Binchy.

I think this book is great if you haven't read any other similar books. It didn't particularly inspire me as it was pretty general and I'd heard most of the advice before (e.g. yes, it's hard but you need to keep at it; write what you know about; the value of writers groups etc).

Probably the most interesting parts for me were the "publishing industry" sections with the strong recommendation for getting an agent (and why, and how you relate to them) and the value of your relationship with an editor too.

Sheena BZA says

As a book on writing advice, it was light and full of common sense. Certainly not the silver bullet that would make anyone into an immediate writer. That said, I found the underlying requirement for discipline contained in the letters to the writer club, when engaging in writing, to be refreshing. Having never read anything by Maeve Binchy before and thus having no real expectation, I was in for a treat with the second part of the book. I shall not spoil the short stories for any future reader, save to say the Mrs. Binchy's characters are full, real and layered. Wonderful.

Stefanie says

I didn't expect much, so I wasn't too let down. I was unappreciative of the first part of the book (about 120 pages), her weekly letters imparting her insights on different writing topics. The information was very basic and could be picked up elsewhere. The sketches are cute, and she's nice enough, but I didn't really see the point of publishing these. The appendix of writing awards/competitions and list of magazines to submit to, found in the middle of the book, was awesome however. The second half of the book consists of seven short stories and 12 columns of Binchy's. This was kind of nice because I'd never actually read any of her work. Some of the stuff was pretty good. Some was so-so.

The best thing about the book was that it got me to start writing short stories and made me excited about submitting them. The worst thing about the book was the pointless journal pages in between each letter and story. Who's really going to use the blank pages in The Maeve Binchy Writers' Club as a journal?

Elysa says

This delightful writing book is good because it carries Maeve Binchy's voice and a decent final sampling of her short stories and essays for inspiration. The writing advice itself is hardly earth shattering, but it is rendered in Maeve Binchy's distinctly warm and engaging voice, and it is all the better for it.

Akshay Pai says

This book is a collection of letters written mostly by Maeve Binchy but also by many other accomplished writers in many different genres. It is an amazing book for aspiring writers and touches upon difficult topics like the motivation to write, the art of writing and the dilemmas during publishing the book, etc.

The best part about this book is that the letters focus on the difficulties faced by writers and the possible hurdles that one might occur while writing. This has been intended to make sure that the future authors realize that they aren't alone and persevering is the key to a successful career in writing.

This book aims to be a journal where the reader can make lots of notes, learn about writing in many genres, seek inspiration, learn from the mistakes of great authors, learn about the different styles of writing, having an adaptable mindset and much more.

Overall, this book is a great read and there are a lot of things one can learn from it. It is one of those books which can be read multiple times, new notes can be added making it more valuable over time.

Deb says

This is the first book of Maeve Binchy that I have ever read - and I must say her style of writing was refreshing, down to earth, inspiring and quite funny. I have been officially inspired to try her works.

As for this book of non-fiction - I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was an easy, practical and encouraging read for the budding writer and one I imagine would be great to refer to when feeling down or uninspired to write. If you are in a writing group yourself, this would be a good one to recommend to your group for those moments when you need a "pick-me-up" which once in a while, we budding writers all need.

Thank you for spending the time to write it Maeve Binchy.

Claire Perry says

A book of didactical letters from Maeve to a writing class. This book is loaded with warm words of encouragement, wisdom and insight. It is the perfect antidote for a writer suffering the common profession-related blues arising from self-doubt.

Nancy says

I admit to being a dedicated Maeve Binchy fan. After reading *Minding Frankie* for book club we heard of this book and put it on the schedule for Dec. I thought I would read it to determine if non-writers would find it interesting. I'm not sure whether the first halve will be of interest. For 20 weeks Binchy writes a letter to a class of wanna-be writers sharing an encouraging insight into the craft. Many weeks a letter from a professional editor, play write, etc. is also included.

The second halve of the book includes seven short stories and a dozen newspaper columns by Binchy. These demonstrate her use of language, insight and wit that bring so many readers to her works.

I had the privilege to attend a book signing once and shaking hands with the lady. Even with hundreds of

books to sign she looked each person in the eye, had a personal comment, shook hands and genuinely thanked them for coming. Sad to think we've lost such a rich soul and friend to readers.

Lorelei says

I rather plowed through letters at the beginning of the book - interesting enough but slow going. Then the short stories started, and it only took a couple for me to be absolutely thrilled with this book. It also has some newspaper columns at the end, a couple of which are astonishingly good reads. Astonishing even though I've really liked almost everything Maeve Binchy has written. I would recommend it, but it is a book in parts, and some parts will appeal more to some people and others to others.

Author Annette Dunlea says

Maeve Binchy : The Writers Club

The Writers Club is a book written by Ireland's queen of fiction Maeve Binchy as a beginner's writers guide. It is published by Orion and its ISBN is 0752883070. It is as one would expect written in Maeve's usual style both witty and compassionate . She says everyone can write ! It comprises of 20 letters from Maeve to aspiring writers including advice on writing and getting published. Tips on what publishers and agents are looking for are included, as is snippets of a writer's life. Blank pages are included for personal thoughts and notes so it can be used as a journal. A sweet short story by Maeve Binchy called Writing Class is also included. It is a pleasant book aimed to inspire people to just pick up a pen and begin to write. I am a huge Maeve Binchy fan and that helped but I still highly recommend to all libraries, bookclubs, colleges and budding writers. Reviewed by Annette Dunlea author of Always and Forever and The Honey Trap.

Donna Mork says

An interesting read. The first half of the book is advice from both Maeve and some guest writers on how to write in various aspects. The second half of the book is short stories, examples from her own writing. She had an interesting way where her stories seem to ramble this way and that, but in the end, they all come together neatly. I must add her to my list of authors to read.
