



The Writing Life: Ideas and Inspiration for Anyone Who Wants to Write

Julia Cameron

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Through their many bestselling books, Natalie Goldberg and Julia Cameron have done nothing less than deepen the way millions of us experience the art and practice of writing and creativity. Now with *The Writing Life*, Cameron and Goldberg join forces for the first time in this revealing dialogue that speaks to our common search for an everyday spirituality. Join these two creative giants as they explode cherished misconceptions about who should write, and why they should do it, opening the door to the writer's world for everybody, not just a chosen few. Goldberg and Cameron take us inside their personal lives as committed writers and spiritual seekers, and explore the following questions: How can writing best be practiced? What is the difference between therapeutic writing and writing for publication? How do we conquer the twin dragons of mood and time? Is it dangerous or inspirational to dabble in different arts such as music, painting, and writing? How is addiction related to the writer's life? Edgy, surprising, and useful for its hard-won advice, *The Writing Life* is an invitation to a life-transforming act that requires no more than a pen, some paper, and the will to get started.

The Writing Life: Ideas and Inspiration for Anyone Who Wants to Write Details

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From Reader Review The Writing Life: Ideas and Inspiration for Anyone Who Wants to Write for online ebook

Elizabeth Olson says

This conversation between two of the greatest modern writing teachers was enlightening, expanding, inspiring -- and sent me scurrying back to the writing I'd neglected.

Liz says

Read this on a Sounds True recording. Enjoyed the dialog between these two. Much to be taken away and pondered.

Kate says

Listened to the audio book as I have concussion. Enjoyed it immensely. Their spirituality (Zen) and an unspecified faith, are different to my Christian faith - so it was really interesting to see our different world views and how that informs our writing practice. A common thread - write with joy (of existence or as a form of worship). As I listened, I saw a dandelion floating upwards, caught in an updraft, like an upturned umbrella. Thank you Julia and Natalie for helping me to see the details!

Laurie says

Absolutely delicious to listen to. I hang on every word.

Katrina Sark says

Writing is a form of listening and connecting. It's making conscious contact (state of receptivity, using all forms of intelligence) like Ezra Pound said, Artists are the antennas of their race.

Criticism: "If you focus on the writer's strengths, a lot of times their weaknesses will fall away. If you focus on a writer's weaknesses, a lot of times the weaknesses will get bigger and their strengths will start to wobble because they don't even know that they're there."

3 drafts:

1. First draft: just write
2. Second draft: outline, map things out (who and what on the page)
3. Third draft: rewrite and polish

Be specific! "Sycamore" instead of "tree," not "car" but "Cadillac" – when you accumulate detail, your

reader trusts you because you're your reader's eyes. The world is already specific. Include tastes, feelings, sounds, weather.

Don't write for the common reader, cause you'll never meet him. Write for your ideal reader, who will understand exactly what you're talking about and get all your jokes, and understand all your details.

One of the things we need to watch out for is which friends make you boring, and which friends make you alive. There are some people that I can go to lunch with and by the end of lunch I'm so sick of myself and I don't even have to be the one that's talking. And then there are other people who I go to lunch with and again I don't need to be the one that's talking but I come away feeling interesting and vital.

Erin says

This is a great opportunity to hear two great writing teachers share their ideas about their practice of their craft.

Julie says

Really enjoyed this informal conversation with Natalie Goldberg and Julia Cameron.

Rhonda Rae Baker says

This is the best instruction on writing that I have found. Been through it four times and working closer with each step. Plan on sharing with my son who is now ready to start writing his story. Your life matters. You are important. What you have experienced in life needs to be shared with the world so that they can learn also. Beautiful. Priceless. Inspirational.

Carol says

Enjoyable conversation with Julia Cameron and Natalie Goldberg.

Hazellie says

A great look into the methods and thoughts on writing from these two great writers; Julia Cameron and Natalie Goldberg.

Listening to them speak about their craft inspired and motivated me to really get down to writing.

Mark Lacy says

Listening to this audio book, I got really tired of hearing Julia Cameron's mantra about doing "morning pages". Natalie Goldberg's voice brought me back to the Antioch Writers Workshop where I heard her speak years ago.

Nora says

Interesting interview with two writers/writing teachers: Julia Cameron and Natalie Goldberg.
