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IN THE MUPPLE WITH THE LIBRARY WRITER

Hi again, friend!

Thanks for joining me for this glimpse into the muddy middle of a writer's journey from reader to author.

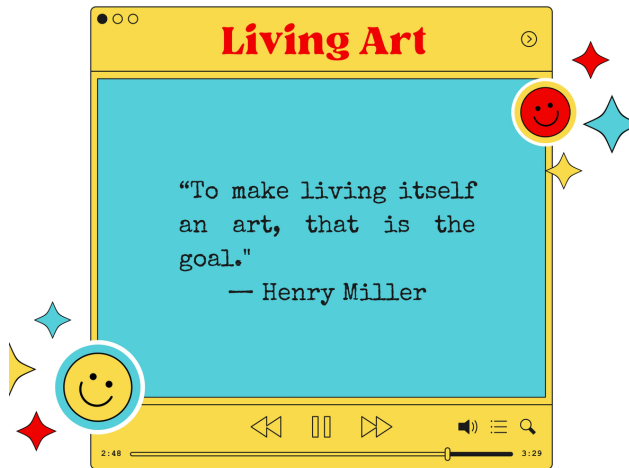


Place Royale in Old Quebec City

Planes, No Trains, & Lots of Automobiles

I'm here to report that I left the farm, and it was very people-y out there. But in a good way! In June, I spent Summer Solstice back in North Pole, Alaska with family, then did a couple of quick trips to Minneapolis and Detroit. In July, we stayed close to home

and hosted visits from family and friends. Then, thanks to a dear friend who farm-sat for us, August was our family road trip to upstate New York and the Hudson Valley, Boston and Salem, the coastline of New Hampshire and Maine, the old city of Quebec, and Montreal. The travels and family bonding time have been fantastic, but I'm not sad to be glued to the farm a bit more as we roll toward autumn.



@TheLibraryWriter

As Charlie Peacock once said, "It's not just about creativity. It's about the person you're becoming while you're creating."



If you want to reboot your brain's creativity or develop a more innovative mindset, I recommend the company of a 3-year old. Here, we see Sporkie embracing the complexities of his identity as both hockey player and Spiderman.

Summer Reading

Need a book recommendation? Maybe something that *isn't* brand new with a mile-long waitlist at the library?

Here are a few older books you might check out:

- *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman is one of my favorite books of all time. It's an emotional rollercoaster that puts you inside many diverse perspectives. On the surface the book appears to be about hockey. It's not; it's about community and family and friends and life itself. I love all Backman's books (and movies!) but this one is my favorite.

- *Dial A for Aunties* by Jesse Q Sutanto: one of my favorite light reads last year. I laughed out loud so many times! It has a little bit of romance, a little bit of Clue-like mystery, and a whole lot of comedy with a batshit crazy family.

- For a quick page-turner you could read alongside your teen: *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. It's a coming of age story with Nancy Drew vibes that immerses you in the Indigneous culture of a Native American tribe in Northern Michigan. (It's

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Fiction enchants us to
believe in better endings.
Fiction compels us to fight
for a better world. On
earth, as it is in heaven.

Rachel Marie Kang

Let There Be Art: The Pleasure and Purpose of Unleashing the Creativity within You

#kindlequotes

set near me!) My 5th grader and I got to take a writing workshop with Ms. Bouley last summer and hear all about her story being selected by Reese Witherspoon for her book club and then picked by the Obamas for development into a Netflix series (hopefully coming soon)!

- One rom-com I just loved was Katherine Center's *The Bodyguard*. All her books are sweet and funny and joy-filled. I've been recommending her *Things We Save In A Fire* for years, and always hear back that it was a great rec.

Have a rec for me? I'd love to hear what books you've loved lately!

News From The Farm

On the farm front, this summer we launched a farm-to-table partnership with two delightful chefs who opened a new local restaurant this summer. It's been so fun to see our farm products on the menu at **Otis Harbor Springs**!

We're also reaping the rewards of some previous investments like tractor implements that allowed us to

harvest the best-ever hay for our grass-fed animals' needs this next winter. And the time-intensive fencing project of last summer has now resolved prior years' rotational grazing challenges, so we're celebrating that win.

You can always check in on our farm friends [@beckonhillfarms](#) on IG and sometimes even on Facebook, if you're into that.



BHF Instagram

Book Coach: How's the writing coming?

Writer: It's right on track.

The Track:



Carriebturner@gmail.com



Alexander Pennington ✓
@Authoralexp

...

Writers after finishing a single sentence:



Privilege & Challenge

One thing I find myself saying often is, 'It's a privilege, and it's hard.'

Writing a novel is hard, considerably harder than I expected. (An earlier edition of myself thought I was going to be 'a natural' at this. Heather 2.0 can now admit I haven't found any secret way to be 'a natural' at meaningful connection in this or any other art form. Some days it's a muddy slog, some days it's a drier slog, but mostly it's a LONG slog.)

I have the incredible privilege of doing this writing thing without a ton of pressure to

pay bills with it. I stand in awe of those who work a 9-5 and still find time to write. Especially if their 9-5 also involves using words. When I worked as a teacher, a grant writer, a communications director, and many other positions that involved writing, I got next to no novel-writing done. Throughout those years, by the time I got off work I felt like I'd used up all my words for the day. So I recognize what a tremendous privilege it is for me to be able to structure my life in a way that allows me to study and practice the new skills of novel-writing. It's a privilege I hope I never take for granted.

And it's STILL hard.

Thanks for being along for the ride!

The longer I live, the more deeply I learn that love - whether we call it friendship or family or romance - is the work of mirroring and magnifying each other's light. - James Baldwin



@TheLibraryWriter

**Until our next huddle in The Muddle,
Heather**

THE LIBRARY WRITER

May your day hold a good story -
whether you're reading it, writing it, or living it.

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