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The Library Writer



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**Hey There, Friend!**  
**Thanks for joining me in**

## The Muddle

**A glimpse into the muddy middle of a writer's journey  
from reader to author**

Earlier this week, I was chatting on the phone with my daughter in Alaska while prepping dinner. I had my cell on speaker so I could chop and stir as we talked. Once I finished working in the kitchen, I grabbed my phone and headed for the living room, still chatting away, but my daughter's responses were getting quieter and quieter.

Darn AT&T, they're always dropping calls out here in rural Michigan. Looking down at my cell to see if the volume was at max, I saw a handful of cilantro in my hand.

Well, where's my phone?

As I headed back to the kitchen, my daughter's voice got louder. There my cell sat on the cutting board, while I'd been nearly shouting at an innocent bundle of herbs.

And that, my friend, might be the best example I have of why I've hesitated to share my writing on this platform I created over a year ago. I worried that I couldn't keep my little neurodivergent brain focused on writing my novels if I was also writing on the web. Sometimes, I can't tell the difference between a distraction and a side quest. If I get distracted trying to have a conversation while making dinner, wouldn't writing for a blog, newsletter, and/or social media just be a distraction from my true calling of writing novels?

But you know what? I LIKE multitasking! My brain loves it when lots of things are going on all over the place. I loved getting to talk to my daughter while I cooked; it made me feel like the distance between us wasn't so big, like we were cooking a meal together. So what if I walked off and left her chatting with the cutting board? It took me like 8 seconds to realize it and course correct. The nice thing about my ADHD is that it's taught me it's ok to hit the reset button as often as I need to (which feels like about a thousand times each day).

So, welcome to my side quest. I'm glad you're here!

How do you organize  
your process?



first I want you to  
picture a raccoon

then I want you to  
picture that raccoon  
digging through a bag of  
garbage

**Woohoo, I'm Writing A Book!**

## Wait...I Have Subscribers?

If you subscribed to my page when I first drafted it, apologies for it taking me so long to figure out what I wanted this space to be. (Also sorry it took me so long to realize I'd enabled a subscription block without having any idea where to find my subscriber list!)

For me, novel writing is the answer to that great question, "What do you love doing so much that the words failure and success essentially become irrelevant?" I'm currently (still!) revising *Vera And The Village People*, my 90,000-word novel which centers on small-town entrepreneur Vera and her efforts to create a welcoming space for others even as she strives to find her own place of belonging.

Last year, I decided to stop treating my writing like a hobby and engaged in professional development opportunities like the ones I'd embraced in every other role of my career. I attended writing workshops, dug into my writers' group, listened to agent and author podcasts, invested in a couple of writing tools and memberships, went on a writing retreat, and read as many books and magazines on the craft of writing as I could find. What I've loved most in these experiences has been the sharing of frustrations and wisdom among writers and other creatives.

Now that I've been writing for a while, gotten stuck and unstuck a hundred times, and found my rhythm, I thought I could use this platform to pass on the wise words I've found useful as well as amplify other creatives who've inspired me. I'll share my motivation for writing even when my process has derailed, what's keeping me going right now, and a little from the rest of my life - the farm, family, entrepreneurship, recipes, local festivals, travels, etc.

If you somehow wound up here but really just wanted to see pictures of fuzzy cows and piglets and chickens, you're gonna want to head on over to our Beckon Hill Farms website or IG. If you were looking for my grant writing, strategic communication planning, and program evaluation services, you can connect on the Raven House Enterprises website or LinkedIn.

But if you're here 'cause you wanna be, HOORAY! I hope you'll find something of value in these weekly-ish (monthly-ish?) missives. I'd love to hear back from you, so if you have time to reply, tell me what's new with you, and let me know anything you'd like to see on this platform.

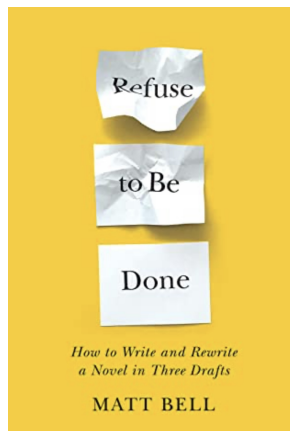
In order to write the  
book you want to write,  
in the end you have to  
become the person you  
need to become to write  
that book.

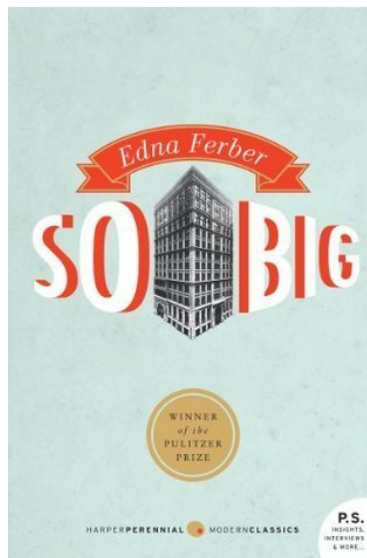
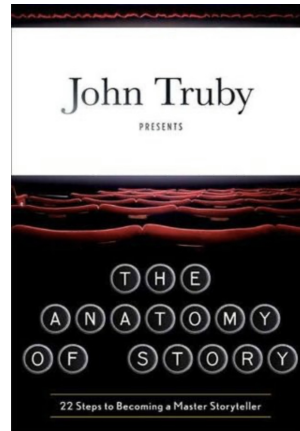
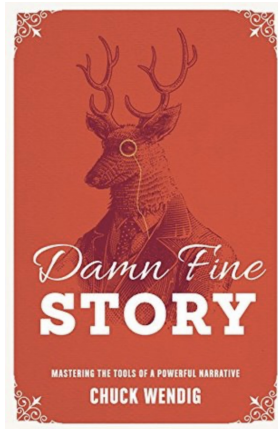
Junot Diaz

- [www.writerswrite.co.za](http://www.writerswrite.co.za)

### For any other aspiring authors out there...

Last year I read around 30 books on the craft of writing, ranging from the somewhat formulaic *How To Write a Novel Using the Snowflake Method* and *Save The Cat! Writes a Novel* to the more literary *Consider This* by Chuck Palahniuk and John Gardner's *The Art of Fiction*. By far the best of the bunch, which I highly recommend to anyone interested in novel writing, are Matt Bell's *Refuse To Be Done*, Chuck Wendig's *Damn Fine Story*, and John Truby's *The Anatomy Of Story*. These three have helped me immensely!





## What I'm Reading Now

*So Big* is an older book I'm really enjoying. It won the Pulitzer back in 1925, when it was also a bestseller, and it takes place in and around Chicago. The author, Edna Ferber, is more well known for her novels that became movies (*Cimarron*) and musicals (*Showboat*).

I'm starting my year's reading with a bunch of books set in Michigan and/or written by Michanders, and Ms. Ferber was born in Michigan (in Kalamazoo,

which is one of my favorite Michigan place names because it's so fun to say!)  
Have you ever made a point to read authors from, or books set in, a place you were living or maybe just visiting?

## Don't Wait



@TheLibraryWriter

## A Parting Gift...

If you missed any of my recent blog posts, you can find them here.

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



Until our next Muddle!

**Heather**

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