

Like Pin in

The Library Writer



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Author

Hi again, friend! Thanks for joining me in

The Muddle

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

"You don't start out writing good stuff. You start out writing crap and thinking it's good stuff, and then gradually you get better at it. That's why I say one of the most valuable traits is persistence." - Octavia Butler

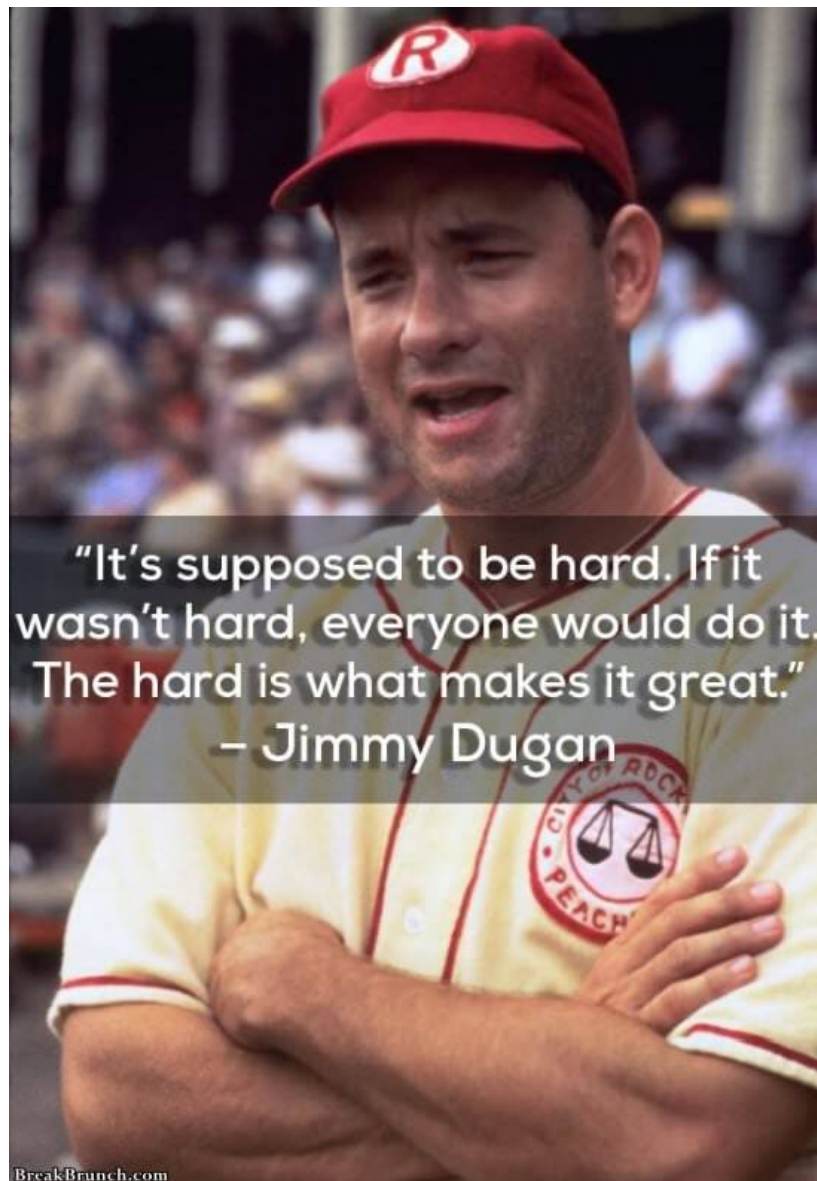
**Do You Have To Be Crazy To Do Creative Work or Does
Creative Work Make You Crazy?**

I am currently reworking my novel AGAIN. To be more accurate, I am trying to muster up the tenacity to rewrite my story from a different point of view because somehow in reworking the plot into some semblance of sense, I completely and utterly lost the narrative voice. So now it reads like the narrator has the personality of a dead fish. This was not the goal. While I was delighted by the passages written from the erudite octopus' perspective in Shelby Van Pelt's charming debut novel, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, this was not the result I

was going for.

“Ugly babies.” That’s a term I’ve borrowed from Ed Catmull of PIXAR, and I love how perfectly it captures the creative’s love for their WIPs as well as their need for advocates who believe in the potential of those WIPs. For a neurodivergent person like me, the writing process looks a lot like a raven collecting shiny things, then dumping them into a pile and admiring them. Clearly, there’s a lot of work needed to organize the collection of thoughts and vibes into an actual novel others can appreciate.

For me, this is the muddle. The muddy middle of every project is where my procrastination peaks and productivity plummets. The chaos seems to have triumphed. That’s where I’ve been living, especially this month.



The Author: My book is in great shape! The plot is well-structured and the grammar is clean. It just needs light proofreading.

The Book:



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I Still Have Cows

I start from a place of knowing I am simply not for everyone. Not everyone is

going to love what I write - not in my books or in the online world. And that's OK!

Some days, that might not FEEL ok. Rejection is nobody's idea of fun. But I'm starting to get a little bit braver about sharing my words with the world, and I'll share my secret with you. It's a mantra.

Whatever else may happen in a day, I'm still going to come home to my Scottish Highland cows with their shaggy bangs in their big brown eyes and their eyelashes that give mascara envy. And that's not nothing.

So that's my mantra - I Still Have Cows.

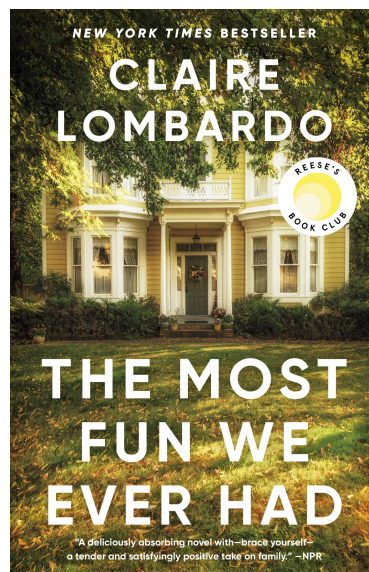
If someone hates my book, I still have cows.

If no one ever publishes my book, ISHC.

Bad review? ISHC.

Trolls? ISHC.

So...what's your one thing? What one thing do you have that the critics, trolls, and random MPOTI (mean people on the internet) can't take from you?



What's Keeping Me Going Right Now (Besides the Cows)

- Beyonce's version of Jolene (I, for

one,
appreciate
the
lack
of
begging.)

- Reese
Witherspoon's
Book
Club
selection
for
April,
The
Most
Fun
We
Ever
Had,
which
I
haven't
been
able
to
stop
thinking
about
since
I
read
it
last
month.
- Spring
on
our
farm.
There
are
buds
on
the
lilac
bushes
and
the
daffodils
out
my
kitchen

windows
are
just
about
to
bloom.
I
had
a
chick
hatch
on
Easter.
It's
a
crazy
busy
time
but
filled
with
fun.

**"Having children, helping people,
making art, inventing anything,
leading the way, tackling the
world's problems, overcoming your
own. I don't know. Not much of
what I value in our lives is easy. But
there's not much of it I'd trade for
easy either, I don't think." — Laurie
Frankel**

The quote above is from Laurie Frankel's FANTASTIC book, *This Is How It Always Is*. It was the first book I'd read by the author, and I believe it was Jessica Turner's raving about it that made me buy it, after seeing it listed as a Reese's Book Club selection. If I recall correctly, it was also a Jen Hatmaker Book Club pick. Anyway, it's great and I highly recommend it.



Josh Gondelman
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PRODUCTIVITY HACK: Clear today's to-do list by simply moving several items to tomorrow's to-do list.

**Until our next huddle in The Muddle,
Heather, aka The Library Writer**

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

The Library Writer



Heather Rauenhorst
Author



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