



## Advice to Writers: A Compendium of Quotes, Anecdotes, and Writerly Wisdom from a Dazzling Array of Literary Lights

*By Jon Winokur*

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In **Advice to Writers**, Jon Winokur, author of the bestselling **The Portable Curmudgeon**, gathers the counsel of more than four hundred celebrated authors in a treasury on the world of writing. Here are literary lions on everything from the passive voice to promotion and publicity: James Baldwin on the practiced illusion of effortless prose, Isaac Asimov on the despotic tendencies of editors, John Cheever on the perils of drink, Ivan Turgenev on matrimony and the Muse. Here, too, are the secrets behind the sleight-of-hand practiced by artists from Aristotle to Rita Mae Brown. Sagacious, inspiring, and entertaining, **Advice to Writers** is an essential volume for the writer in every reader.

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- Sales Rank: #725937 in Books
- Published on: 2000-05-09
- Released on: 2000-05-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .53" w x 5.48" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

*"The only way to write is well and how you do it is your own damn business."* --A.J. Liebling

There are at least as many theories about writing as there are writers to expound them. In *Advice to Writers* Jon Winokur has collected some of the best bons mots ever penned on the literary life. In chapters covering such diverse topics as agents, publishers, critics, and process, Winokur lets writers speak for themselves--and often the advice is contradictory: "The professional guts a book through--in full knowledge that what he is doing is not very good. Not to work is to exhibit a failure of nerve," John Gregory Dunne opines. "It would be wisest not to worry too much about the sterile periods. They ventilate the subject and instill into it the reality of daily life," André Gide ripostes. There is advice on grammar and style, on dialogue, plot, and character, and also on topics such as occupational hazards and drink (surely a subset of those hazards). "Write first, drink later," Patrick McGrath suggests. "To write you must be warm, fed, loved and sober." (Poet and essayist Philip Larkin, on the other hand, advises, "Get stewed: Books are a load of crap.")

Novices looking for practical information on the nuts and bolts of the business may not find it here. On the other hand, advice from the likes of David Remnick, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Toni Morrison, Maxwell Perkins, Isaac Asimov, Samuel Johnson, Calvin Trillin, P.D. James, and many, many other professional scribes can serve to inspire. At the very least, this potpourri of words to the wise will keep the incipient writer amused between drafts. --*Alix Wilber*

Review

"Best advice I've ever received: Finish." --Peter Mayle

"Cut out all those exclamation marks. An exclamation mark is like laughing at your own joke." --F. Scott Fitzgerald

"Make your characters want something right away even if it's only a glass of water. Characters paralyzed by the meaninglessness of modern life still have to drink water from time to time." --Kurt Vonnegut

From the Inside Flap

In *Advice to Writers*, Jon Winokur, author of the bestselling *The Portable Curmudgeon*, gathers the counsel of more than four hundred celebrated authors in a treasury on the world of writing. Here are literary lions on everything from the passive voice to promotion and publicity: James Baldwin on the practiced illusion of effortless prose, Isaac Asimov on the despotic tendencies of editors, John Cheever on the perils of drink, Ivan Turgenev on matrimony and the Muse. Here, too, are the secrets behind the sleight-of-hand practiced by artists from Aristotle to Rita Mae Brown. Sagacious, inspiring, and entertaining, *Advice to Writers* is an essential volume for the writer in every reader.

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Bert Gomes:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like

looking for your favorite guide and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Advice to Writers: A Compendium of Quotes, Anecdotes, and Writerly Wisdom from a Dazzling Array of Literary Lights. Try to stumble through book Advice to Writers: A Compendium of Quotes, Anecdotes, and Writerly Wisdom from a Dazzling Array of Literary Lights as your close friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , we should make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

### **Lisa Bates:**

Do you one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This Advice to Writers: A Compendium of Quotes, Anecdotes, and Writerly Wisdom from a Dazzling Array of Literary Lights book is readable simply by you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer regarding Advice to Writers: A Compendium of Quotes, Anecdotes, and Writerly Wisdom from a Dazzling Array of Literary Lights content conveys prospect easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different by means of it. So , do you still thinking Advice to Writers: A Compendium of Quotes, Anecdotes, and Writerly Wisdom from a Dazzling Array of Literary Lights is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

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### **Karolyn Kaufman:**

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider while those information which is in the former life are challenging be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Advice to Writers: A Compendium of Quotes, Anecdotes, and Writerly Wisdom from a Dazzling Array of Literary Lights as the daily resource information.

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