

Title:

Forget About "Talent"!

Word Count:

1056

Summary:

How is a writer to access her deepest and most powerful wells of creativity? How do we tap into

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Keywords:

writing, novel, advice, creativity

Article Body:

How is a writer to access her deepest and most powerful wells of creativity? How do we tap into

Many will merely say "be born with talent," coldly suggesting that writers are "born" with a p

I often say something to students that is both deadly serious and a slight (and deliberate) ex

Why would I say something like this? Because it is the way I truly feel. The fact is that I've

The truth is that if "talent" exists, it seems to be the capacity for long, concentrated perio

And that is achievable with focus and honesty. But what exactly do I mean by that?

FOCUS

1) Can you write 500 words a day for twenty years?

2) Can you concentrate for an hour at a time without stopping for coffee, phone calls, or bath

3) Can you shut out the voices of doubt and failure? Then you have a chance. In my own life, w

HONESTY. This is where the rubber meets the road, the diamond path to excellence.

1) What is your actual current skill level? What is the skill level necessary to make it in yo

2) Who has the resources you need to bridge the gap between your current and desired skill lev

3) What do you fear most? Love most? What angers you most? Makes you laugh? Your ability to cr

4) What is your best effort? There is a great scene in "Walk The Line" where a music producer

5) What do you actually believe human beings are? At the core of us, under all of the ugly and

6) What is the nature of the universe? Of God? Is there anything out there? Are we alone? Whil

These two aspects, (1) hard work, and (2) honesty, will keep you busy for a lifetime, and take

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