



Write Is a Verb: Sit Down, Start Writing, No Excuses

Bill O'Hanlon

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Author : Bill O'Hanlon

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Pamela says

Got excuses? Get this book! Even if it's not your dream to write, but rather to start and (most importantly) complete some art form, this book can serve as a 'coach' to help you achieve your goals. That said, there really isn't anything in here that is unique or new --- you've heard it all before, but O'Hanlon has an infectious way of getting into your head and helping you understand your own procrastinating and sabotaging ways. The charts and check-lists can be helpful, as long as you use them. He includes a DVD that serves as a mini-workshop, and this book is definitely intended to be a workbook. O'Hanlon is inspiring and his opening chapters should be motivating to anyone reading them. Towards the end of the book, he becomes a bit repetitive, but some points, especially those regarding procrastination, need be reiterated, I suppose.

This is a good and invigorating read!

Manda Rae says

so far i love this book. It helps motivate me. i've never known what i wanted to do when i grew up.. i've kinda been avoiding it.. But i remeber what i was always good at reading and writing. I just got this book last night scanning the \$1 books at the dollar tree there it was looking back at me like this could be a part of your future.

Katrina says

This book has some interesting ideas and even though I've heard them all before something about the way he says them makes them seem more effective. I read this in an afternoon, and I enjoyed it.

That being said, if you're going to talk multiple times about hating typos make sure your book doesn't have any. The multiple typos and sentences missing words entirely drove me up a wall and made him seem less credible.

I would definitely suggest it to others, though. Maybe people who aren't as nit-picky as I am. It's a good guide for just general procrastination in life, and not just for writers.

Heidi says

A pop psychology book for would-be writers who suffer from blocks, fears and procrastination-itis. Didn't move the needle much for me, but there were a couple of good points buried amidst the Oprah-babble.

Chris Blocker says

An aspiring author, a publisher, and a psychotherapist walk into a writer's convention together...

I tend to be attracted to books written for writers by those in the mental health field. These people know what they're talking about. Take for instance Dr. Linda Edelstein's *Writer's Guide to Character Traits*. Who better to identify the inner workings of my characters than someone who has been in their heads for over 20 years? Likewise, who better to understand my woes of writing than a therapist who has written nearly 30 books? Without ever having talked to me, Bill O'Hanlon knows exactly why I don't write.

The neverending theme of *Write is a Verb* is simple: if you want to write, then write and don't let others tell you how to do it. O'Hanlon is right. Most books on the subject tell the reader when, where, and how to write. O'Hanlon's advice is to ignore all this and do what works best for you. Along the way, he offers the typical barrage of definitive "dos" and "don'ts" to break through the normal barriers, but these do not detract from the primary message.

Write is a Verb starts strong with great advice and wonderful anecdotes from writers who have succeeded. By midway, however, the book loses steam and begins to sound repetitive. By the end, there is too much focus on publishing and the writing of non-fiction titles that the "fiction writer just needing a kick in the pants" can become discouraged.

O'Hanlon has an engaging voice and has written one of the best books on the subject, but unfortunately he takes it too far and for too long. As a self-proclaimed expert on publishing, he likely knew that anything shorter would have a tough time making it to bookstore shelves. Unfortunately, O'Hanlon shared no tips regarding quantity versus quality in this title; perhaps he is saving that for the sequel.

From The Literary Snob.

Aurora Dimitre says

I might just have really liked this one because it gave the writing advice that I tend to subscribe to, the one that I agree with--it's different for everyone, but the main thing that is not different is the fact that to write, you have to write. And you can't wait for inspiration, you just have to do it. And that's what it gave me. It didn't even bother me that I already knew this advice that boiled down to what the book really wanted to say, because I agreed with it and I enjoyed it. Also, it wasn't pretentious, which I was a fan of.

Kim says

If you've read other writer-motivational books, you won't find anything earth-shattering in this one. Still O'Hanlon's advice is solid, and his voice is engaging. The book is a quick read, packing a lot of motivation into relatively few pages. The DVD, which includes footage from O'Hanlon's presentations and several printable worksheets, is a nice bonus.

Ilena Bickley says

Very quick read with great key points

Kimberly [Come Hither Books] says

This writing book takes a different slant from most. Written by a psychotherapist, it focuses on concrete actions to form productive writing habits, and cut out habits that aren't working. Though the style was a bit too pop psychology for me, applying behavioral modification to writing isn't something I've seen done so directly before, and was useful. The insight into publishers was helpful as well.

Ice says

You've heard all the rules to get yourself to write--work on a schedule, write in a particular place, always write a certain number of words, and so on ... all rules based on things that have worked for other writers.

But what works for you? What will get your book written?

Psychotherapist and writing coach Bill O'Hanlon provides no rules--just principles and methods that you can personalize to your own style and preferences. You'll learn that you don't have to be a natural writer or a good writer to write; you just have to write--and find out what uniquely motivates you to write.

By combining his experience as a therapist and his own prolific career as an author, Bill shows you how to manage overwhelming projects, while finding the passion to finish what you start.

Mark Hiser says

Though the book offers practical, concrete strategies for motivating oneself to write, often the examples began to read like padding. I would probably give the book a higher recommendation if it had been condensed.

Katherine Clark says

This is more of a 4 and 1/3 or 4 and 3/4. It is a wonderful book, and I love it. It isn't as great to me as Bird by Bird, but it is close, and maybe, just might be, more practical. It is an especially good book for people like me with writing anxiety. It also does a nice job of laying out the publishing world. I have more questions for my professional writer friends and a greater sense of encouragement. I highly recommend this book. (It has exercises and a dvd.)

Jennifer says

This was an outstanding book for those who want to write, but are having a hard time getting motivated to do just that. Bill O'Hanlon discusses the energies that are needed behind writing. He also covers the importance of having a platform for your writing and how a bigger platform can help you get published easier. He shares with the reader not only his input on writing, but what it takes to get started and how the publishing industry works. Bill tells of his painful start into writing and how he didn't see himself as a writer even though he had written 17 books. This book was helpful to me, as I was struggling with my writing. But, thanks to Bill O'Hanlon and this book, I am able to press on.

Emmaline MacBeath says

I love O'Hanlon's book, Do One Thing Different, and his philosophy that the best solutions are the simplest ones. Again, this is the premise of Write is a Verb. He gives many simple ideas of what writers or soon to be writers can do to get themselves writing. But he takes the writing process one step further. He talks about the inside scoop on getting published. There are many things in this book that you don't see elsewhere such as establishing a platform. I've never heard this concept before and it gives me something new to work on as an independently published writer.

Even though he has much to say to the non-fiction writer, everything he says applies well to the fiction writer. I love the DVD that includes the worksheets so you can print them rather than write in the book or photocopy. It also includes additional handouts and some podcasts.

Mark Hennion says

Bill O'Hanlon aspires for a noble goal: to get writes of all stripes writing. This book --this entire book-- focuses entirely on that. Unlike so many other how-to's, O'Hanlon continually focuses on cementing his theory that anybody can find SOME time, somehow. He then gives an entire book to finding that time and motivating that somebody.

I must digress, the book does feel mostly aimed at non-fiction authors. Much of the sales, presentation, and proposal chapters are geared towards the sale of non-fiction. Despite this, authors of fiction will find the opening material just as relevant and helpful as their more serious counterparts.

A brisk, quality read valuable for procrastinators!

