



Writing Past Dark: Envy, Fear, Distraction and Other Dilemmas in the Writer's Life

By Bonnie Friedman

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Writing Past Dark charts the emotional side of the writer's life. It is a writing companion to reach for when you feel lost and want to regain access to the memories, images, and the ideas inside you that are the fuel of strong writing. Combining personal narrative and other writers' experiences, Friedman explores a whole array of emotions and dilemmas writers face—envy, distraction, guilt, and writer's block—and shares the clues that can set you free. Supportive, intimate, and reflective, *Writing Past Dark* is a comfort and resource for all writers.

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Editorial Review

From Kirkus Reviews

Inspirational essays on writing--by a novelist aborning whose piece "Envy, the Writer's Disease" made the cover of The New York Times Book Review and led to this book. Friedman sets out to uplift the writing reader and fellow novelist-to-be by opening her veins about the hardships of writing. More often, however, she opens her mind and gives the reader interesting snippets of Freud, Krishnamurti, Jung, and other wizards of the id. Most of her references are to women writers, with Mary Shelley getting the longest play in one of the best and most original passages here, in which the main problem of Dr. Frankenstein, the monster's "author," is that he must ignore his family to get his work done. Friedman finds this problem common to authors who think they must write about their families but who must ignore the family's sensibilities in order to do so. She had that problem herself, she tells us, with her neurotically overweight sister. Friedman also talks about beginner's envy of famous writers, pointing out even Shakespeare's envy ("Desiring this man's scope, and that man's art") and cries, "Shakespeare desired another's art? Dear Lord, whose?" Even so, this piece, the book's opening, is its most tedious stretch. The author is far livelier on schools for writers, writer's block, her first nonfiction sale (at age 34), and the landing of the contract for this book--at which moments the agony and the ecstasy are personal indeed and less abstract than Friedman's perfectly worked out similes and deep thoughts about the writer's mind. Not exciting as literary flower-picking, and only middling on the psychology of authors. Friedman's first novel should bring a brighter bloom. -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

"Friedman's elegant prose style makes *Writing Past Dark* a delicious experience for lovers of language." -- *Copley News Service*, July 7, 1993

"The caliber of Friedman's craft itself is instructive and invigorating - better than even Annie Dillard's in *The Writing Life*." -- *The Columbus Dispatch*, September 8, 1993

"[A] slim, excellent book on the emotional aspects of the writer's vocation . . . intimate, honest, liberating." -- *The Forward* (March 1, 2002)

If you think writing is a lonely task and you can afford one book, buy this one. -- *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* (Addison Wesley)

From the Publisher

Writing Past Dark is a writing companion to reach for when you feel lost and want to regain access to the memories, images, and ideas inside you that are the fuel of strong writing. Combining personal narrative and other writers' experiences, Friedman explores a whole array of emotions and dilemmas writers face - envy, distraction, guilt, and writer's block - and shares the clues that set you free. *Writing Past Dark* is a comfort and resource for all writers.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Warner Samuels:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a e-book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular Writing Past Dark: Envy, Fear, Distraction and Other Dilemmas in the Writer's Life book as beginner and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Archie Beard:

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Rick Maldonado:

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Bradley Cox:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the e-book untitled Writing Past Dark: Envy, Fear, Distraction and Other Dilemmas in the Writer's Life can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

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