

WORKBOOK

Writing is a process of getting to know yourself. The conditions that you work best in, finding the things that inspire you, working out the nuances of your writing style – they'll all be unique to you.

This workbook runs through **The Three P's** that will help you kickstart the first few steps of your writing journey.



The first P is about PROCESS – how you go about writing.

Where do you write?

You'll need a place to write. Some writers like to go to coffee shops, some
have a small space marked out at the kitchen table, some have an entire
shrine to inspiration as their writing space. Carve out a space that works for
you. I write sitting up in bed. A writer I know types up her daily word count
in the car when she's dropped off the kids.

Tip: Make sure it's comfy. Do you want a cricked neck from staring downwards at an awkward angle? I know I don't.

Is it too noisy to quiet or just right? Some writers like to have a music playlist, others like dead silence.

Above all, make sure you'll be undisturbed.

When do you write?

 Time to write. Writing goes hand-in-hand with time. You'll probably have to make time in your schedule — find that extra fifteen minutes or half an hour, every day. Every day.

Set your timer. Focus only on writing, or plotting, or character sketching for your allotted time. Then clock off again. And celebrate!

Make it habitual. It's the same as eating healthy one day of the week and wondering why your jeans are still tight. Every day, writers. Every day. Okay, you can take the weekends off...maybe!

I write first thing in the morning. One thousand words and then I'm done. You'll find your own rhythm, what works for you, but MAKE THE TIME and TAKE it.

Ten minutes every day adds up. It does, it really does.

Caveat: If life slides into one of those downward rollercoaster dips, don't beat yourself up for letting your writing slide downwards too. Life happens. Sometimes it's difficult to be creative when your life's falling apart Be gentle. Let it go.

How do you write?

- A notebook that's just for your ideas. Notebooks are writers best friends (that and coffee). Use your notebook for recording ideas, writing down any interesting conversations you might overhear, interesting dreams you may have had, thoughts, feelings etc.
- For the actual writing, what works best for you? Use that. Some writers like to write everything down freehand and then type it up later. Others use their word processing packages on their (or their employer's) PC. Some swear by programmes such as Scrivener which allows them to move scenes around on a virtual pinboard.

Why do you write?

- Possibly the most important part of the writing process.
- Why are you doing this?
- Why does anyone undertake any creative endeavor? For fun? For personal enrichment? To entertain their friends? For the sheer unequivocal joy of creating a something from a nothing? Whatever it is, remind yourself why you're doing this.
- Completion of your romance writing goals. What are your long-term and short term goals for your romance writing career? Keep these goals in sight so that you can see them every day.

What's your current writing process?	
How can you improve your writing process?	
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How much time can you commit to writing every day?	al all all all all all all all all all
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The second P is for PLANNING.

- How long are you dedicating to writing your novel? Six months? A year?
 Check out Meistertask for making sure you're on schedule.
- Are you going to traditionally publish or self-publish? Or not publish at all? Is it in response to a specific call?
- If you're self-publishing, have you vetted potential beta readers, developmental editors, copy editors and cover creators? Have you considered how to market your novel?
- If you're going to publish with a traditional publisher or agent, have you researched who would be your book's best fit?
- Are you writing a series? How do your books link together? If it's a fantasy or paranormal, you'll have to write up a 'book bible' so that you don't forget the rules of your own world! (readers will remember though and will point this out on Goodreads).
- Have you done your research? Are you writing about a botanist? Or a pirate on the high seas? Do your homework before you start writing.
- Have you worked out your character motivation, goal, inner conflict and external conflict?



The third P is for PERSISTENCE.

There will be setbacks. There always are. Maybe your six-month deadline has had to be pushed back. Maybe that fabulous three-book deal you signed with a publisher has gone belly-up because they've gone bust. Maybe you have to rewrite large sections of your novel because there's a huge plot hole.

Sometimes success takes a few years. Sometimes it takes a lifetime.

But you won't know unless you start making the steps towards getting something out there.

You won't find your reading tribe, unless you start writing.
You won't find your ideal editor, unless you start writing.
You won't read a review that leaves you glowing for days, unless you start writing.

Happily Ever After

MAKING YOUR ROMANCE WRITING DREAMS COME TRUE.