



WRITE YOUR BOOK. SHARE YOUR STORY

With Commitment | With Confidence | With Community

Three sure-fire exercises to
help you reach your
writing goals



DONNA BARKER / AUTHOR ON FIRE + BOOK ON FIRE

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO WRITE A BOOK?

I've been a professional copy-writer for over 25 years, and it still took me 10 years to get my first novel published.

I've worked with hundreds of writers over the last 6 years. And, in 2017, I surveyed 204 writers in my *Book On Fire* course and over 60% had been working on their books for more than 5 years. Thirty-five percent for 10 years or longer!

What does that tell you? Two things —

1. **Writing a book is hard work and it can take a long time** — especially that first one since there's a lot of 'author chops' to develop and inner critic whispers to shush. Once you have the chops, and you've proven to yourself that your inner critic's fears are misguided, the writing only gets easier! That's the good news.

2. **If your story idea has been haunting you for five years or more — it won't stop talking to you until you share it.** In the long run, holding a story inside you takes a whole lot more energy than doing the work to tell it. That's also good news!

And there's a third good news —

3. You have **committed** three days to develop your writer's skills and **confidence** with the **community** of supportive writers attending The Creative Ink Festival. You're ready to become a published author. Your book is ready to be released. And once you go home all you need to keep your momentum moving forward are a few reminders about how important your book is.


And that's what you'll get from this workshop -- your own personal commitment, confidence, and community-building cheat sheets!

xo,
Donna

AUTHOR ON FIRE'S WRITE YOUR BOOK. SHARE YOUR STORY.

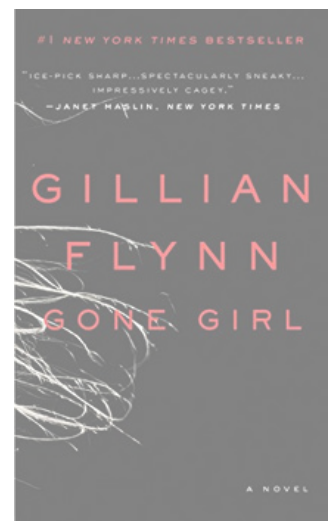
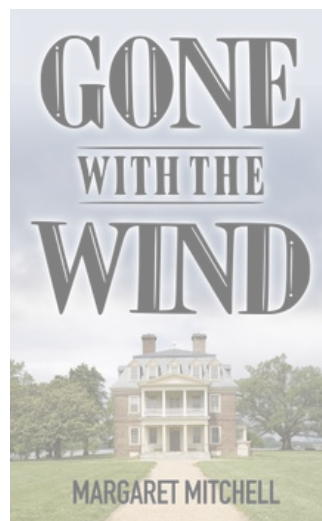
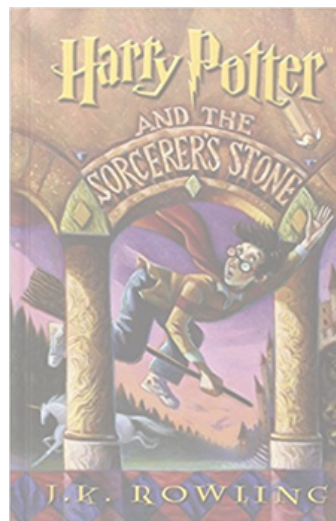
FIRST, A WORD ABOUT 'COMPARABLES'

We writers love to compare ourselves to other writers. The problem is that we compare our works-in-progress to published authors' edited books. Since all we see is the finished product, not the endless revisions, the thousands of deleted words, the false starts and hair-pulling, this is an entirely unproductive exercise. So stop doing it!

The reason we struggle with insecurity is that we compare our behind-the-scenes to everyone else's highlight reel.
~ Steve Furtick 

HOW LONG DID THESE FIRST BOOKS TAKE TO WRITE?

We also have no idea how long it took our favourite authors to write their break-out novels. So here's a reality check for you. How many years did it take each of these authors to write her first book?



AUTHOR ON FIRE'S
WRITE YOUR BOOK. SHARE YOUR STORY.

Exercise 1 ~ Articulate your 'Why?' (Commitment)

WHY DO YOU **NEED** TO WRITE YOUR BOOK?

WHY DO YOU NEED TO WRITE **THIS SPECIFIC** BOOK?

WHY ARE YOU THE **BEST PERSON** TO WRITE THIS BOOK?

WHY DO YOU NEED TO WRITE THIS BOOK **NOW**?

HOW WILL YOU **FEEL** ONCE YOUR BOOK IS WRITTEN?

WHY DO YOU NEED TO WRITE **YOUR** BOOK?

AUTHOR ON FIRE'S

WRITE YOUR BOOK. SHARE YOUR STORY.

Exercise 2 ~ Register your writing successes (Confidence)

1. WHERE HAVE YOUR WORDS BEEN PUBLISHED?
2. WHAT POSITIVE FEEDBACK HAVE YOU RECEIVED WHEN YOU'VE SHARED YOUR WORDS?
3. WHAT OR HOW MUCH HAVE YOU WRITTEN THAT'S JUST WAITING TO BE SHARED?

AUTHOR ON FIRE'S
WRITE YOUR BOOK. SHARE YOUR STORY.

Exercise 3 ~ Engage your support team (Community)

WHAT WILL YOUR NEW EMAIL SIGNATURE READ?

Include your name, book title, projected publication month/year, website, call to action

WHAT IS YOUR NEW BIO FOR YOUR FAVOURITE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM?

Use 'deep point of view' to reflect the tone of the genre you're writing in

AUTHOR ON FIRE BONUS!

CREATE YOUR WRITER'S MANIFESTO- FREE DOWNLOAD

Visit DonnaBarker.com to download a free, step-by-step workbook that will walk you through creating your own Writer's Manifesto.

*I write because
I have a story to tell.*

*It's a story that just might
settle into a
person's soul,
entertain them, enthrall them,
perhaps give them a brighter day.*

*The thought of that person keeps me
writing when I don't want to, because
this isn't just about me.*

My Safe Adventures Manifesto

I have all the skills I need to start and finish my stories.

NOW is the time. I play with ideas, with words, words,
words, with my favourite pens and
There is only NOW. coloured inks and I find new
adventures in my stories.

Writing is my form of play, a joyful experience,
a way to travel through new experiences on my journey.

I care for myself eating healthy, sleeping well,
spending time with my
favourite people.

I hum and sing, using songs to satisfy my writing soul.

I make the rules. This rollercoaster ride to a successful
I do the work. and satisfying writing life is my own
I move on. personal adventure.

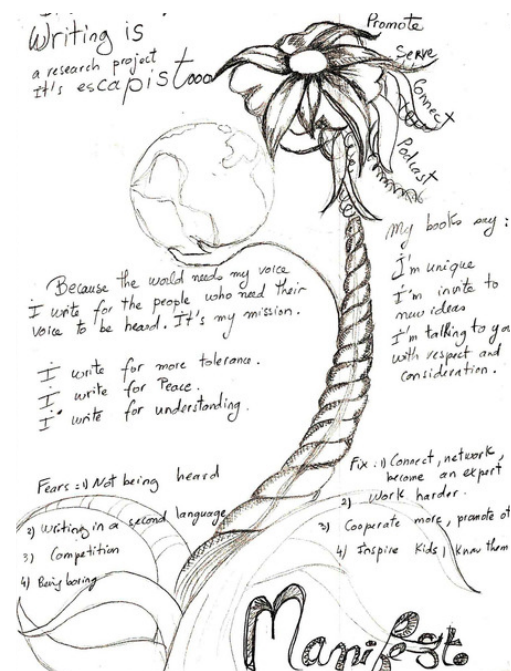
I share my stories widely, trusting that my books will find the right readers.

I accomplish my goals by I finish all, knowing I am on my
safe adventure,
moving step-by-step. dressed in passion and creativity.

All is well.

My Show-Up-and-Do-the-Work Writing Manifesto

I write because I enjoy it and because I must write even if no one ever reads my work. I have something valuable and unique to share. I can entertain and inspire. I will show up and do the work even when the muse is hiding; she most often pops up once I start working. Even if I don't feel like working I still have much to learn so showing up will lead me to the path of success. Many things will get easier with experience but other hurdles will replace them. Expect that and get on with it. Luck comes to those who do the work. I will not allow other people's needs to overtake my needs. I will help when I am able. I am the only person who can do my work because I am unique. Denying the universe the gift of my voice doesn't benefit me or anyone else. I will not subvert my work to that of others; my writing is as important to me as their work is to them. I will give my work the same respect I give to the work of others.



You are an
AuthorOnFire



Congratulations!

The three exercises in this mini-workshop are part of an online course called **Book On Fire**. Over 100 people have completed the course in the last couple of months and the feedback has been so great that I'm in the process of turning the 18-lesson course into a 36-lesson course that includes group coaching as an add-on.

Since I'll be rerecording all of the videos and redesigning all of the worksheets based on the feedback from my first 100 students, I'm offering the course at a discounted price ~ 50% off for the next 37 people who join.

The best part is that I'll be building the 18 new lessons right inside the existing course, so you'll be getting the new course material, as I create it, and for half the price of the old course, which is half the price of what the new course will be! Make sense?

All the details are linked from my website, www.DonnaBarker.com.

Look for the link to the **Book On Fire Online Course**.

And if online courses don't light your fire, check out the **Creative Academy Membership** where, for \$29/month you can have access to three writing coaches several times a month during our Office Hours. Get one-to-one support with accountability, the craft of writing, and marketing and self-publishing.

xo,
Donna

 DonnaBarker.com / *Author Igniter*