

Writing a novel

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What it's like to write.

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Do you know if you write a page a day that within one year you will have written a book? How many times have I heard that one? If that one book takes a year to write then the revision process would have to take many years. Truth is, writing a first draft is the easy part.

I can usually belt one out in a few months. But the revision; forgettaâ about it. Thatâ s the time consuming stuff, though I am getting better at it as I get older (and hopefully wiser). Iâ m also getting better as a writer. Ideas come more easily after so many years of living in my ideas and the process of getting them on paper is less time-consuming.

For my new novel, Iâ m finding the plot twists are coming naturally and Iâ ve had quite a few â aha!â moments in the last few days. Hereâ s a little secret about starting a new novel. Donâ t worry about the perfect first chapter or getting that perfect first line. Just start jotting down the story. Through most of my books, Iâ ve completed about half of the novel when I usually go back and write new introâ s that incorporate the original introâ s, if that makes any sense.

For instance, I thought I had the perfect intro for my latest. A shocking, get-right-into-the-action first chapter, when a few hours ago I came up with a much better start. My original beginning is now chapter two. But, that intro catapulted me into the story so I could build a base. As of this post, I hit the 15,000 word mark on my new novel and have a pile of notes about how the novel will progress. Now, itâ s just the nuts and bolts of getting the remainder down on paper.

My blog: <http://www.neilostroff.blogspot.com>

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