



Writing Down the Bones

By Natalie Goldberg

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Writing Down the Bones By Natalie Goldberg

With insight, humor, and practicality, Natalie Goldberg inspires writers and would-be writers to take the leap into writing skillfully and creatively. She offers suggestions, encouragement, and solid advice on many aspects of the writer's craft: on writing from "first thoughts" (keep your hand moving, don't cross out, just get it on paper), on listening (writing is ninety percent listening; the deeper you listen, the better you write), on using verbs (verbs provide the energy of the sentence), on overcoming doubts (doubt is torture; don't listen to it)—even on choosing a restaurant in which to write. Goldberg sees writing as a practice that helps writers comprehend the value of their lives. The advice in her book, provided in short, easy-to-read chapters with titles that reflect the author's witty approach ("Writing Is Not a McDonald's Hamburger," "Man Eats Car," "Be an Animal"), will inspire anyone who writes—or who longs to.

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Writing Down the Bones By Natalie Goldberg Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3664732 in Books
- Published on: 1991
- Number of items: 1
- Binding: Paperback
- 238 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Natalie Goldberg's love of writing stems from her desire to connect with herself. In this audio version of her bestselling *Writing Down the Bones*, this is a potentially self-absorbed wish, especially considering that the author reads from her own work and interjects morsels of wisdom gleaned from a long writing career, which includes books on writing (*Wild Mind, Long Quiet Highway*), creativity (*The Well of Creativity*), and art (*Living Color*). However, Goldberg's relaxed narration and Everywoman sensibility help her avoid this danger. The classroom-like reading gives listeners a growing acquaintance with Goldberg and a friendly assurance of her methods as she quips: "you can hear my New York Jewish voice nagging you." The recording also includes an interview with Goldberg, focusing on her use of Zen meditation in writing and offering additional insight into her own rule-free writing habits. (Running time: 9 hours, 6 cassettes) --
Bryony Angell

From School Library Journal

YA Goldberg will catch readers interested in writing with her opening confession that she was a ``goody-two-shoes all through school" and should hold them until she pulls the last page from her typewriter, one ``Sunday night at eleven." Part writing guide, part Zen philosophy, and part personal diary, this book has the smooth, fast flow of a conversation with a good friend who, while struggling with her own writing, has picked up more than a few tips that she eagerly shares. Definitely not another ``how to write better themes" or a rehash of the writing process, Goldberg's short, quirky chapters give the finer points of how to write in a restaurant and why bother to write at all. The earnest, slightly Bohemian, occasionally vulnerable voice will endear her to young writers who are looking not so much for a teacher or text as for validation that they can write and for some simple but intriguing tips to get them started. While there are the required chapters on using detail and keeping a journal, the most important thing Goldberg has to say to young people is that ``we have lived. Our moments are important. This is what it is to be a writer: to be the carrier of details that make up history. "Carolyn Praytor Boyd, Episcopal High School, Bellaire, Tex.

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Review

"The author's style is refreshingly informal. This book is highly recommended to readers who would like to develop their ability to write, and to those who would like to know how to use writing as a Zen-like activity to help them on their personal journeys toward self-discovery."—*New Age Retailer*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Jones:

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Micah Clark:

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Anthony Wilson:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Writing Down the Bones, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

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