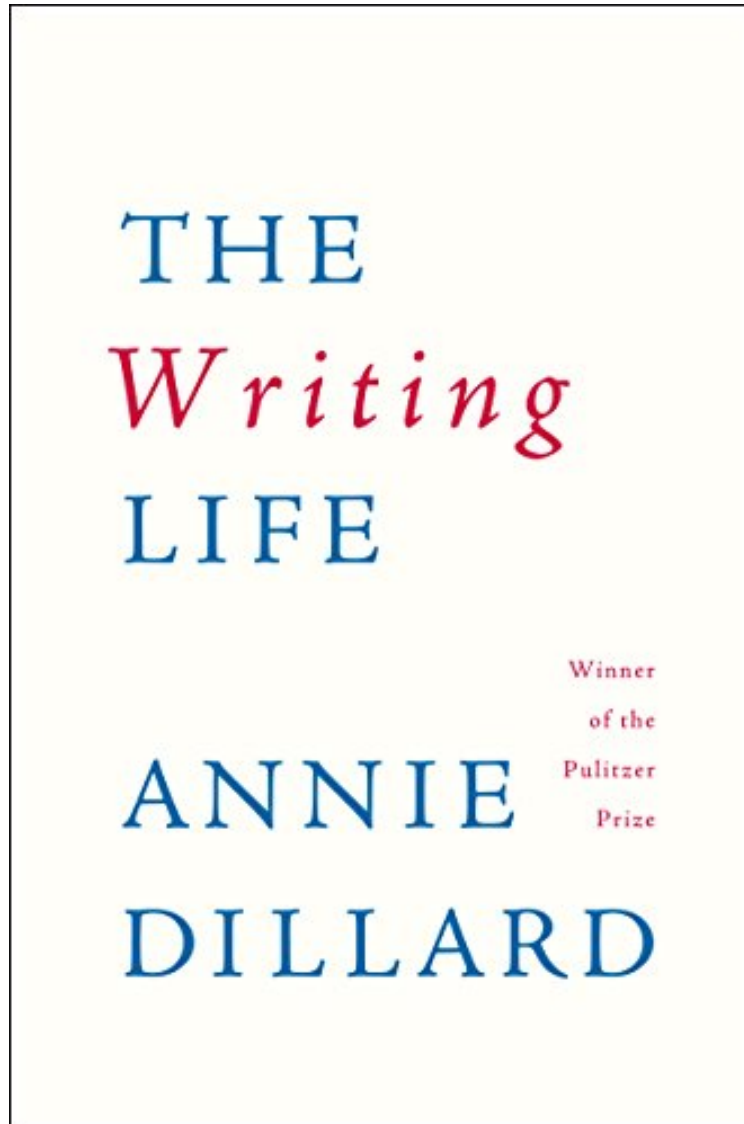


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## The Writing Life

Von Annie Dillard

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**Von Annie Dillard : The Writing Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Writing Life:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Gertrude and Virginia Write a How-To Book?Von B. LapadatWonder what it would be like if Virginia Woolf and Gertrude Stein collaborated on "how to" book for writers? Well,wonder no more...meet Annie Dillard and her book "The Writing Life." While this book is supposed to inspire writers and offer useful tips on becoming writers, it instead

drowns in overly-smug images, metaphors and useless information--like a "stream of consciousness" textbook! After reading it, I got the feeling that one sometimes gets when one doesn't understand a modern painting--"Well, then YOU must be too stupid!" Picking out the pearls of wisdom on writing through the flowery prose isn't worth the effort. For a much, much better inspirational book for writers with GREAT suggestions and tips, get "Bird by Bird" by Anne Lamott.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sit back. Relax. Enjoy The Writing Life! Von Ein Kunde Annie Dillard's The Writing Life, for me, was like having a relaxing conversation with a friend about the pains and joys of writing. I identified with every sentence -- from starting over again on a writing project, to disliking the beginning of a work but loving the middle, to growing in this craft, etc... It is an addiction, and addictions are not easy to explain, so I understand the negative reviews of this book as well. Writing is an unexplainable yet enjoyable frustration. Annie Dillard's metaphors trying to explain the positive and negative aspects of writing -- from painting, to reeling in a log and fighting the forces of nature, to flying -- they are clear-cut, precise views of what writing is all about. This book is great for writers who just enjoy what writing is: annoying, aggravating, frustrating, soul-searching, creative, self-understanding fun. Read this book. Relax. Enjoy The Writing Life.2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not a How to Guide Von TKP The Writing Life is filled with beautiful language, and many thoughts that any writer can relate to, but it is no how-to guide. Dillard describes what it is like to be a writer - what a writer may think (or need to think). The book offers inspiration, but little practical help.

Kurzbeschreibung Annie Dillard has written eleven books, including the memoir of her parents, *An American Childhood*; the Northwest pioneer epic *The Living*; and the nonfiction narrative *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. A gregarious recluse, she is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters..de Annie Dillard has spent a lot of time in remote, bare-bones shelters doing something she claims to hate: writing. Slender though it is, *The Writing Life* richly conveys the torturous, tortuous, and in rare moments, transcendent existence of the writer. Even for Dillard, whose prose is so mellifluous as to seem effortless, the act of writing can seem a Sisyphean task: "When you write," she says, "you lay out a line of words.... Soon you find yourself deep in new territory. Is it a dead end, or have you located the real subject? You will know tomorrow or this time next year." Amid moving accounts of her own writing (and life) experiences, Dillard also manages to impart wisdom to other writers, wisdom having to do with passion and commitment and taking the work seriously. "One of the few things I know about writing is this: spend it all, shoot it, play it, lose it, all, right away, every time. Do not hoard what seems good for a later place.... Something more will arise for later, something better." And, if that is not enough, "Assume you write for an audience consisting solely of terminal patients," she says. "That is, after all, the case.... What could you say to a dying person that would not enrage by its triviality?" This all makes *The Writing Life* seem a dense, tough read, but that is not the case at all. Dillard is, after all, human, just like the rest of us. During one particularly frantic moment, four cups of coffee and not much writing down, Dillard comes to a realization: "Many fine people were out there living, people whose consciences permitted them to sleep at night despite their not having written a decent sentence that day, or ever." --Jane Steinberg.com Annie Dillard has spent a lot of time in remote, bare-bones shelters doing something she claims to hate: writing. Slender though it is, *The Writing Life* richly conveys the torturous, tortuous, and in rare moments, transcendent existence of the writer. Even for Dillard, whose prose is so mellifluous as to seem effortless, the act of writing can seem a Sisyphean task: "When you write," she says, "you lay out a line of words.... Soon you find yourself deep in new territory. Is it a dead end, or have you located the real subject? You will know tomorrow or this time next year." Amid moving accounts of her own writing (and life) experiences, Dillard also manages to impart wisdom to other writers, wisdom having to do with passion and commitment and taking the work seriously. "One of the few things I know about writing is this: spend it all, shoot it, play it, lose it, all, right away, every time. Do not hoard what seems good for a later place.... Something more will arise for later, something better." And, if that is not enough, "Assume you write for an audience consisting solely of terminal patients," she says. "That is, after all, the case.... What could you say to a dying person that would not enrage by its triviality?" This all makes *The Writing Life* seem a dense, tough read, but that is not the case at all. Dillard is, after all, human, just like the rest of us. During one particularly frantic moment, four cups of coffee and not much writing down, Dillard comes to a realization: "Many fine people were out there living, people whose consciences permitted them to sleep at night despite their not having written a decent sentence that day, or ever." --Jane Steinberg