**TWR - episode 96**

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Learn more about prolific and sign up for your free two week trial at prolific dot mn/dot Co you're listening to think right revised episode 96. Hey there and welcome to think right revised a podcast that offers a peek behind the scenes of productive writing life. I'm your host. Dr. Katie Linder.

On this episode. I want to give you some more ideas for writing inspiration. Now, this is a topic that I Circle back to on a pretty regular basis because I know there are a lot of times throughout the year when you might just not be feeling super motivated about your writing for a number of reasons things get really busy or you have the project that you're kind of scared to jump into or you're just kind of feeling a little bird out when it comes to writing.

So I wanted to give you some things to consider the. Might kind of give you a little bit more energy when you're going to sit down to do some of your. So the first is an exercise that I recently LED all of my writing group members through and that is picking a song that gets you motivated and ready to go in terms of your writing and I gave everyone in the group's a couple of minutes to think about their song.

And then we posted links so people could look out the YouTube videos what people posted and I'll tell you what my song is it's a song by a group called Daft Punk called harder better faster stronger. I will post a link in the show notes, but this is a song that when I'm feeling a little bit low and energy or just not super motivated.

It's a great beat. It's a great message in the song and it always gets me pumped up and ready to go. So some of the writing inspiration could come from you in terms of. The things that you know, always get you motivated pumped up and ready to go. Here are a few more things that I think could help with writing inspiration.

If you're feeling like you need a little bit more. So the first one is a book that I'm not sure if I've mentioned on the show before or not, but you may have heard of it is called Big Magic by Elizabeth Gilbert. And this is a book that Elizabeth Gilbert wrote several years ago. So it's been kind of floating around for a while.

And basically she talks about the practicalities of creativity, but also gets into some of the kind of mysticism around creativity as well, which I think is really interesting. With Gilbert is maybe most well known for her book Eat Pray Love, but she has written several other things as well and has a couple of TED Talks one specifically on creativity that I can also recommend as a piece of writing inspiration.

It's something I often recommend to my writing group members, but I think big magic is a great book. If you're just kind of feeling a little burnout on creativity in general and need a little bit of a boost in that area. Another resource that I want to recommend is a series of books that are interviews from Paris review with different authors and these go back over a pretty significant period of time.

I think there are at least three volumes and this is a great set of resources to just kind of dip in and out of if you want to read a couple of these interviews maybe like right before you go to bed or right before a writing session or. Just you know at some point during your day where you have a few minutes where you can tuck in a quick little interview.

Can I always love hearing about other writers processes? I really appreciate and motivated by hearing what other people do and especially when I understand that every writer does things in a different way. There is no one way to do this right or correctly. And so I really always appreciate hearing about other people's process and just the kinds of things that serve to motivate them and keep them going and also Paris review is really focused on.

Writers who are for the most part I think full-time writers. So you just get to hear a little bit about the writing life and I always enjoy that. So kind of along the same lines. I also want to recommend the Atlantic and also the New York Times book review for the profiles that they do on writers.

I always find these kind of shorter pieces to be really inspirational and just interesting to hear about kind of some of the background. Writers that we read their work and the New York Times in particular has a series or a column called by the book where they will interview writers and find out you know, what are they currently reading?

What are some of the things that they're motivated by that they're inspired by and this is something that comes out regularly and can be checked out on the web. And it's always really interesting because there are typically picking a writer who has a recent book that's just come out so you can hear a little bit about that person and if you wanted to follow up and read their book you could do that as well.

Okay one last resource that I find incredibly inspiring is Louise desalvo's book The Art of slow writing and again, I'm not sure if this is something I mentioned on the show before it was a book. I picked up in the last couple of years. So. Totally possible that I have mentioned this but what I appreciate about dissolve those book issue talks a lot about writing and time and I feel like in the academic world in particular.

This is such a challenge for us because we're always under deadlines it seems and we're always kind of rushed and trying to move on to the next thing and because of things like tenure clocks. There's a lot of pressure to do writing in a certain timeframe or to always be moving a project for. Heard and on last week's episode.

I talked about the importance of taking writing breaks and I feel like with Louise desalvo's book. She talks about the importance of just slowing down a little bit with our writing. Now Louise is although is coming more from kind of a memoir fiction perspective. But as I've talked about on the show before I really believe we can learn a lot from our counterparts who are memoirist and fiction writers in Academia, because I think they think about writing quite a bit.

They think about it as craft. They think about it as a lifestyle which is not always something that we take the time to consider ourselves in the academic world. So this is also a book that you can dip in and out of in just little pieces if you have some time here or there. I always think of writing inspiration as the really kind of little things that you can fit into your writing life.

It doesn't have to be setting aside hours at a time to engage with a particular thing instead. It's finding kind of little things that can inspire you where you could pick up a book and read an essay before you start writing or you could listen to a song for a few minutes before you start writing and it's just a way to.

And of ease you into the process give you that boost of energy that you might need. When things are feeling a little bit tough with your writing, so, of course, I also want to hear what kind of writing inspiration is working for you right now. You can always email me at contact it kitty litter dot work.

You can tweet to me at Katie double underscore lender. You can connect with me on Instagram @ KD underscore lender, and as you know for maybe earlier podcast episodes, you can now write to me you can address it to Katie Linder PO Box 1621 in Albany, Oregon. Nine seven three two one. Hope to hear from you that way as well.

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