**TWR - episode 112**

Hey there think right revised listeners. I'm popping in to let you know that this episode is brought to you by my virtual summer writing groups program because Summer is starting very soon. And if you have writing goals, I would love to support you. This is a program that includes a series of weekly group coaching meetings to help you stay accountable to your writing goals, but also have a little bit of fun along the way.

Each virtual groups package includes these weekly meetings some private coaching sessions with me on topics of whatever you want to talk about access to my nine-part course on academic writing and Publishing and always a lifetime membership to prolific which is my online community for academic writers and we have so much fun over in prolific.

So if you're ready to tackle some writing goals, I hope you'll join in groups for summer 2019 start the week of June 10th. So you can check out the program today at Katie Linder dot work backslash. - writing - groups and you can also sign up to be notified for future offerings of the program if you want to think about it for the fall or winter.

I always offer this program about four times a year. I hope you can join in you're listening to think right revised episode 112. 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. In this episode.

I want to talk about the idea of choosing a next book project because this is an area of kind of mentioned in a couple of places that I've been starting to toy with this and try to kind of think about what I want to do next in terms of a larger book. And I've come to some conclusions about what I want to do next after doing some experimentation and some writing and some research and I thought it might be helpful to share my process a little bit so that if you're thinking about a next book project or just a next larger project, maybe this would help with that as well.

So the first thing that I did when I was starting to feel like I might want to take on a larger project and I should also say I took a bit of a break in between book. X I had just come off of maybe four books in a very short period of time these were two edited collections that I worked on for my work with Oregon State my book on managing professional identity online and then another book I have coming out this fall on alternative academic careers, and those all basically happened within the same to your period and it was a lot I definitely loved every single project.

I also ended that period feeling a little bit burned out on the book writing. And so I took some time to really think about what did I want to do next and why and in the middle of that, you know, there were other things that I worked on like this little by Design course that I created and some other projects and so when I started to kind of get back into the mode of thinking maybe I want to do another book, here's what I did first.

I set aside a good amount of time to just brainstorm ideas. And this was a something that. Over a period of months. It wasn't like I took a week and then, you know started to draw conclusions. I gave myself quite a bit of time to like swim around in the concept of doing another book and to start to just think about like, what do I care about right now?

What are the things that I'm experiencing that? I wish I had a book to talk about and this is often where my projects come out of is all be like actively working on something and it's on my mind a lot. And so I'll think about well, maybe there's a book that needs to come out of this because I am experiencing something and this is definitely where managing your professionally identity online came out of was my own experiences of kind of managing my brand and trying to make values-based decisions of where I wanted to be online.

So I set aside some time to kind of think about that and I started to jot down some notes and some questions a primarily in a Google doc. So not really anything in like a formal way and I started to kind of narrow in on one particular idea. And this is something that I might use in the future spoiler alert.

I'm not going to write the book on it now, so I'm not going to go into detail about what the topic was, but it was the one that I was thinking the most seriously about for a long time to the point where I checked out like 40 books from the library. I started to really do some kind of experimental writing to see if I you know felt good about this.

So this gets into the next couple steps that I would recommend one is to just read a lot to find the gaps if you have. Into something that you feel like is a good fit start to look around and just see who's talking about it how they've talked about it when they talked about it. Sometimes we need to kind of bring something back that hasn't been talked about for a long time and just you know, what are the angles what are the disciplinary angles that people are taking to talk about certain topics and subjects.

And so when I checked out, you know, the 40 books from the library. I was really just trying to familiarize myself with what if people done in this area and do I need to do something. Is there a contribution? I feel like I could make that would be unique. So reading a lot to find those gaps I think is really important and then I think you can start to kind of draft small pieces start to feel it out I was starting to write what I thought could be may be aspects of like an introduction or a book proposal and really I was being very playful with it and just kind of trying to get like the tone of it and what would my Approach be?

Even just some even basic structural pieces of what I want to include in this kind of book. Now as you're doing this, I think the question you're really trying to figure out is what will hold your attention for the long term. What is something that you want to spend, you know, the next year or two or more depending on how long it takes you to write a book of your life really focused on and for me I usually takes me between 9 to 12 months.

To do a book manuscript and I really need to feel interested in that. I need to feel engaged in that topic. And so this is something that when I dove into this topic initially I had been thinking about it for a long time. It was a personal interest to me, but I wasn't sure it was going to hold my attention for the long term.

That is I wasn't sure if it was just like a personal thing that I was dealing with right now or if it was something that I actually felt like I needed to. Put into like my brand and my career because when you write a book it is associated with you. I mean, it is something that it is associated with your brand in a long-term way.

Your name is on that thing people come to know you as as being someone who's written on that topic and so I wasn't sure if it was something that I wanted to keep more personal in terms of my own exploration, or if it was something that I felt like I needed to talk about in a more public way. Now as you can hear I've decided for now that I want to keep it more personal and I'm not talking about it in a public way and it's not anything secretive.

It's just you know idea of like a transition that I'm kind of working through and I wanted to know is there a way that I can write about this in a way that would be helpful for other people and I'm just not sure that. I can yet in part because it's not over and I'm still in the midst of kind of working through a lot of questions and ideas and you know, like I think sometimes writing from the middle of that can be useful but I've chosen right now not too it just doesn't feel like it's as useful to me, but I came to that realization because I started writing it and I started thinking about what is the angle in which I want to approach this and what actually kind of happened was I realized it was hard for me to write it without having kind of.

Negative angle that I was writing from and that is not the angle that I wanted to write it from and and so I started to kind of feel it out and realize like the timing might not be right for me to do this project right now because being in the middle of it can be very confusing it can be frustrating and I don't know that that's the perspective that I want to be writing from.

So a couple other questions that I kind of asked myself during this period was at a more fundamental level. Do I need to write another book? Is this really where I want to be putting my energy right now given where I'm in where I am in my career and given what I've just recently done which is basically produced for books in a very short period of time like a no one is asking me to write another book.

My CV does not require me to write another book and so. If I write another book, it's because I want to and it's because it's something that I feel led to do for maybe a range of different reasons and I really started to think like I'm not sure I want to do it. Like I think that I was exploring it and thinking about it because for a long time I've identified as a book author and I still do of course because I'm actively producing the manuscripts that are coming out later this year.

But at the same time taking a break from that to pursue other. Things absolutely makes sense, and it's okay for me to make those choices. So the other question, of course that that led to for me is well, if you're not going to write a book, what do you want to do? Like, what where can you try something new or devote that Creative Energy?

Because I'm someone who likes big creative projects like falling into that work is important to me. It's important to my flow State. It's important to my creativity and my mental and emotional health to be doing those kinds of big creative. And really where I landed which you've heard me talk about in a couple other places is I think I want to put that energy into creating a coach training curriculum, which I think is the equivalent of writing another book.

I think I'm going to basically put together a manual. It makes it sound kind of so clinical. I it's not, you know, it's just a packet of information but it's a big packet and so it's basically a book and I think that by putting that together it's basically the next big project and I'm not sure if it's something that I will actually like get printed as a book like that's still a question in my mind.

When I went through my own coach training, I was provided with a couple of books that had been written by the master coach that I was trained under and so it's definitely a process in a structure that I'm used to as someone who went through coach training, but I don't know like I'm not entirely sure how that curriculum will go and because I have experience creating online courses and things like that through subtlebydesign.

I'm not sure if it's going to be something that I do like in the form of videos and. B I don't do something that is a print book, but I know it's going to involve a lot of creativity. I know it's going to involve a lot of writing and I'm going to have to kind of think about the structure of that and it's going to take over probably the next six months or so of my creative work.

So to think about that and to think about the idea of working on a separate Book Project just did not make sense to me. Knowing that I want to launch that coach training program in early 2020. I really need to devote my Creative Energy right now to the curriculum for that and to designing it and it's a heavy lift.

So that also can help you. I think make a decision about a next book is what are you going to have to give up if you choose to write that book and it could be time with your family. It could be other projects that you're not gonna be able to move forward. I mean you do make sacrifices when you work on these creative projects and you can try to be as balanced as possible.

But you still have to choose certain projects over other projects. And when we prioritize bigger things on our plate, it means that something has to give. So in this case for me as I'm thinking about this next book project the thing that is giving in my creative life is I'm not going to do another book right now.

I'm going to focus on the curriculum and see where that takes me and maybe after that I'll return to this idea. I still have all my notes and my kind of writing around it and I still think it's an interesting idea to pursue. I just think the timing is not quite right. So there's a little bit of the behind the scenes of how I'm thinking about my next big creative project and some of the questions that I ask myself.

I would love to hear if this is something you're doing right now. If you're trying to figure out, you know, waiting through different ideas trying to figure out what's next for you. Of course, you can always email me at contacted Katie Leonard artwork. You can tweet to me at Katie double underscore lender.

You can connect with me on Instagram @ KT underscore lender, or you can write me a letter at Katie Linda. PO Box 1621 in Albany, Oregon 97321. I always love to hear from you. Thanks for listening. Thanks for listening to this episode of think right revised show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at Katie lender dot work / podcasts think right revised is part of the radical self-trust podcast Channel a collection of content dedicated to helping you seek self-knowledge nurture your superpowers playfully experiment live your core values with intention.

Practice loving kindness towards yourself and others and settle into your life's purpose learn more about the rst channel at Katie leader dot work / podcasts. If you found this episode helpful, please also consider rating and or reviewing the show in iTunes. Thanks for listening.