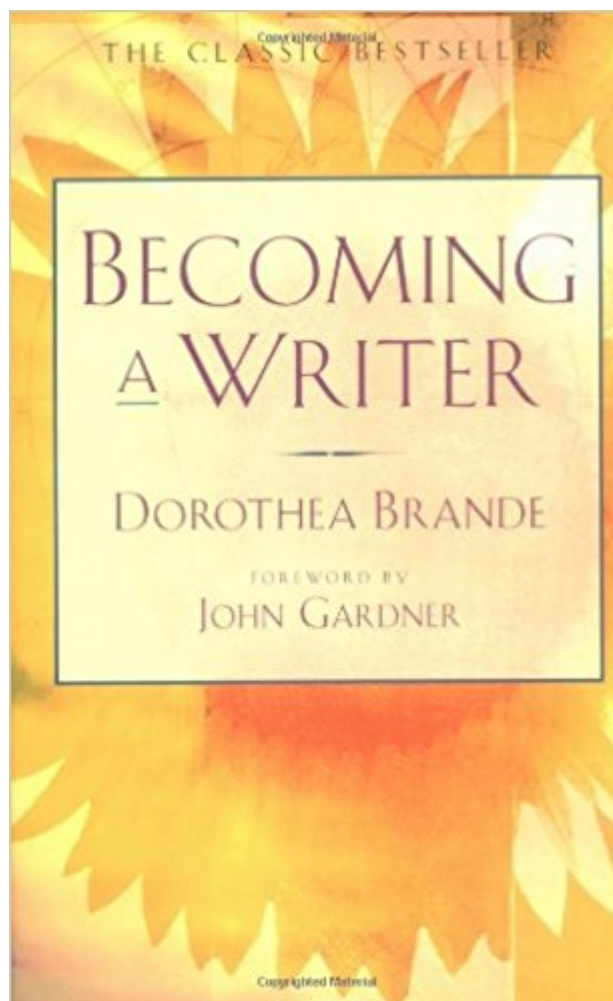


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# Becoming A Writer



## Synopsis

A reissue of a classic work published in 1934 on writing and the creative process, *Becoming a Writer* recaptures the excitement of Dorothea Brande's creative writing classroom of the 1920s. Decades before brain research "discovered" the role of the right and left brain in all human endeavor, Dorothea Brande was teaching students how to see again, how to hold their minds still, and how to call forth the inner writer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Even in 1934, Dorothea Brande knew that most writers didn't need another book on "technique" -- and this, before so many more would be published. No, she realized, as John Gardner notes in his foreword, "the root problems of the writer are personality problems," and thus her wise book is designed to simply help you get over yourself and start writing, with techniques ranging from a simple declaration to write every day at a fixed time -- no matter what -- to exercises that come close to inventing the TM and self-actualization movements that would follow a few decades later.

ROBERT W. HARRIS has been a freelance writer and designer since 1990. He has written twelve books, including *DOS*, *WordPerfect & Lotus Office Companion* and *When Good People Write Bad Sentences*. His books have been main selections in the Small Computer Book Club and the Book-of-the-Month Club.

Dorothea Brande writes about the habits and frustrations of writing and writers. She believes the

writer can soar if they get a few things right.

It's an oldie, but a lot of people recommend it and although it is not the most fun read ever, I can see why. It is because the author takes you through what it means to be a writer, from a mental and personality perspective. She wastes little time on mechanics and style at the beginning, preferring to work on your psyche, for want of a better word. I think it might be useful for young writers who don't really know what writing is all about.

It's a very practical book on becoming a writer. I enjoyed it and will use her method in writing my books. The only problem I had was that it was very esoteric and although there is meaning in that, I was hoping for more straightforward advice. Great read nonetheless and looking to implement her insights.

She describes the inner life of a writer and shares it with her readers so they can develop their own writing life. A treasure, in my opinion.

This book is an excellent introduction to engaging your creative faculties. Ms. Brande's advice is timeless and consistent even with many of the current leaders in contemporary creative enterprises. While the content is focused on writing, I found the advice to be useful and easily adapted for any work which requires regular output and out-of-the-box thinking. "Becoming a Writer" addresses challenges in adjusting an individual's personality and habits to optimize creative output by providing simple, effective exercises and advice. This is a must read for anyone who desires to pursue a creative career...especially if that career is writing!

This book explores territory untouched in the huge number of 'how to write' books. Written nearly 80 years ago, it addresses the issues that keep us from writing. First it looks at the genius issue and throws it away and then at the long held view by most writing teachers that writing can't be taught. Or more likely that 'good,' writing can't be taught. The major help this book provides for the beginning and the not so beginning writer is that it is worth the struggle. It does have tips and suggestions that will keep you at your keyboard. More important is the support given to those of us who pine to write, have given up on writing and long to say something to the world. So glad this is back in print and with a forward by the writer's guru, John Gardner.

Dorthea Brande's *Becoming a Writer* is something of a classic of its kind--rather than focusing on the basic points of craft that are the perpetual problems a writer faces, Brande explores the psychic hurdles to being a writer in the first place. She argues brilliantly and wonderfully, that writing is largely about allowing the unconscious mind to emerge in the act itself. This is a book about the creative spirit in a sense--and while some of her advice (e.g. that one should always right first thing in the morning) may not be true for everyone, there is still much of value here for the budding artist.

This is THE writing guide because Dorothea gets down inside your soul, to the psyche of what it is to be a writer. She doesn't waste time with grammar rules and the like, you can get that anywhere and she knows it. Buy this, read it, read it again, then unfurl your writer's flag.

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