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# Back To Creative Writing School



## Synopsis

The creative writing bible Catherine Quinn, bestselling author of Thief Taker BACK TO CREATIVE WRITING SCHOOL It's about using 30 imaginative writing exercises to experiment with new ideas. It's about defeating the blank page. It's about producing the best kind of writing you can achieve. Written with passion, authority and gentle humour, it's recommended by bestselling authors, creative writing lecturers and students. What bestselling authors say: An indispensable tool for anyone wanting to write fiction... Sarah Rayner, author of One Moment, One Morning It's more than a writer's handbook - it's a book which anyone could read and if they did they would probably find their pleasure in words and the world heightened. Lizzie Enfield, author of What You Don't Know and Uncoupled What creative writing lecturers say: Accessible, practical, useful advice from a true professional; what more could you want? There are exercises here for every situation and you are guaranteed to improve as a writer if you follow them. I recommend this book to all my students, and I recommend it to you. Great stuff. Alex Pheby, Programme Leader for Creative Writing, University of Greenwich If you have any aspirations to pursue creative writing, this is an ideal book to help you keep focused. A must buy. Ashley Lister, writer and creative writing lecturer, Blackpool and the Fylde College One exercise triggered a sudden rush of character development for my third novel: a pivotal moment akin to falling in love. Dr Naomi Foyle, writer and creative writing lecturer, Chichester University Bridget Whelan is a novelist, prize winning short story writer and creative writing lecturer who has taught on undergraduate courses and in adult education. She has also been Writer in Residence for a medical charity and at a community centre for the unemployed & low waged.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I received a free copy as a blogging friend of the author, but this is an honest review. I'm not normally a writer who enjoys writing craft books based on exercises or prompts - That's because I normally have no problems in having plenty of ideas to start off stories, and generally as a novel writer where the writing process is much slower I have too many! Being forced into coming up with new ideas as a creative writing exercise is an impact to my normal writing process, not a help. So, despite having a need to improve my writing knowledge, via many self-study sessions, taking short internet courses, and having a huge collection of writing craft books - I tend to avoid ones that expect us to take the time to do homework. BUT. This month I've been struggling within NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). I had intentions to write a lot of short or flash fiction, but that was scuppered with a lack of enough ideas. I moved onto a novel I had an idea for, which has been going well, but without the preparation and rough outlining I needed to have done beforehand, I have now found myself stopped short with a lack of ideas to get through the middle act of the novel. Enter Back to Creative Writing School - it appears to be kismet. The author points out in the introduction - "This book is about writing. About defeating the blank page. It's about taking risks, experimenting, giving yourself the freedom to make mistakes. It's about finding ideas and developing them. Weaving stories in your head while you travel to work or sit daydreaming is not writing. Something happens when you put words into the hard concrete of type or the softer clay of pen or pencil." The author is right.

Reviewed for Rosie Amber's Book Review Team There are two distinct schools of thought concerning creative writing courses and 'how to' books: those who consider writing a skill that can be taught, and those who think that the ability to write compellingly is an innate talent that you either have or you don't; yes, your craft can be improved upon, but if you don't have what it takes to keep readers turning the pages, no amount of diligent study will make that much difference. I stand, arms folded, in the latter camp and, thus, approached this review choice with cynicism. I am delighted to report that I now bow to Bridget Whelan's expertise! Back To Creative Writing School is a charming

and inspiring book that encourages the reader to discover the rhythm and beauty of words. At first I thought it was just a basic beginner's guide for the student who has never tried to write so much as a descriptive paragraph; some of the instruction goes right back to the things you learn at school (hence the title, I'm guessing), like the difference between similes and metaphors. Many of the exercises, though, are so clever and unusual that they might help undiscovered talent to bloomâ "which is, I think, the book's strength. By the time I was half way through I'd found myself thinking, 'hmm, yes, that's a good point' several times, to the extent that I'd recommend any fellow 'old hands' to give this a read, too. I'll be the first to agree that writing is a constant learning process, and it's good to remind oneself of the basics.

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