

Tip Sheet – General Q&A

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Debut Title: *The Book of True Believer*

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What's the best thing about being a writer?

I've always struggled to settle on just one occupation, fascination, pursuit, passion, direction, identity, (or noun!) for my life. From tree trimmer to software developer, artist to athlete, there are too many options to explore and too little time to try all of them. So, writing fiction is my compromise. The writing life is many lives in one. It gives me license to investigate the experiences of others and *become* other people for a bit while still maintaining my own identity.

Where do you get your ideas?

My story ideas all begin with real-life experiences. All day, every day, I scrutinize the world around me through the lens of, "What if?" This leads me down many creative rabbit holes. Though every real-life seed of story ultimately blooms into an unrecognizable piece of fiction, the small details, feelings, and philosophies that I write about remain grounded in reality. In this way, I endeavor to make my stories realistic and relatable for my readers.

How do you deal with writer's block?

The world is so bursting with inspiration at all times, so full of ideas ripe for the picking, that I've come to view writer's block (total lack of inspiration) as an indication that something is off-kilter in my life. I ask myself: why has the creative flow shut off? Is there a "kink in the hose" somewhere? This leads to an examination of the bigger picture and, oftentimes, the discovery that some anti-creative element or emotion has taken hold. Fear, frustration, doubt, burnout. Maybe the direction of my story is not what's it's supposed to be. Maybe some other part of life has taken necessary, if temporary, priority. And that's okay! Because honesty is key. Once I acknowledge the true root of writer's block, it's possible to alleviate it; then the creative flow resumes naturally.

What's your advice for aspiring writers?

Do it. Don't wait for it to become easier. Don't wait for the right time to magically appear. Accept that sometimes it'll be difficult, and you'll make mistakes along the way; learn from them. Keep going.

What are you currently working on?

My second novel! It's not exactly a sequel to my first, *The Book of True Believer*, but it's a *related* story (see if you can spot the connections!). This one will be a grittier, faster-paced tale about an underground fight club and a group of wronged women who are hungry for revenge.

Expected Released Date: July 11, 2022.

Stay tuned for updates on the writing and research process on Goodreads or on my website:

<http://mfunkwrites.com>.