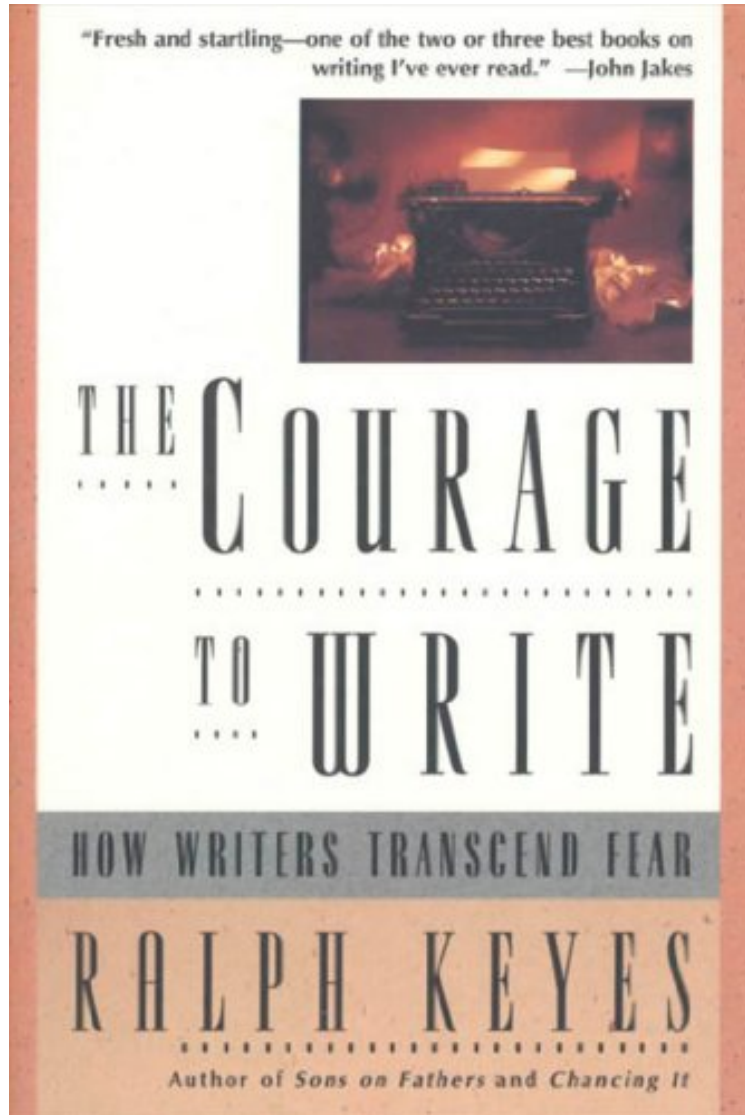


(Download pdf) The Courage to Write: How Writers Transcend Fear

# The Courage to Write: How Writers Transcend Fear

Von Ralph Keyes

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**Von Ralph Keyes : The Courage to Write: How Writers Transcend Fear** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Courage to Write: How Writers Transcend Fear:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I've been looking for a book like this for a long time.Von Ein KundeThis book helps me in dealing with the fears that have prevented me from writing. Keyes does not deal with "writer's block" in a detached, academic manner. He reminds the reader of the definition of courage and offers myriad examples of writers who have forced themselves to write even if it hurts. He offers no exercises or "quick fix" advice. The book inspires and warns. The ideas he presents may not be

original, but his presentation is; the author's choices helped me realize that I'll never find a magic pill to help me write without discomfort. I have to roll up my sleeves, dig in and learn to enjoy how it feels. If you've already experienced such a revelation, the book's not for you. But if you're teetering between giving up and diving in, give the book a try.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Thoughtful, Beautifully Written Von katagiri If there is one book that I would give a beginning writer--and wish I'd found much earlier--it is *The Courage to Write*. It would be suitable for writers of any level, in truth, for it is written so well, with such attentiveness to the writer's anxieties and struggles. The final chapter, focusing as it does on determination and will to write, versus brilliance without substance, is alone worth the price of the book. To be sure, the book does not dwell much on accumulated rejection slips that so often add further anxiety--that make one wonder if selling insurance wouldn't be better after all. In such a case, I would recommend reading the first and last chapters deeply and take their messages once more to heart: do you have the will and determination? do you have the courage (i.e. are you getting rejection slips because you are still skating on the surface of things, being glib, hiding behind a technique or style)? The chapter on foggy, impenetrable, jargon-laden writing is also invaluable. I see no crime in being clear; it is a substantial relief to read that I am not alone in this matter. The gift of this book to the college freshman in a composition course would be money well-spent. Perhaps of greatest benefit is that this book makes the reader/writer understand that he or she is highly typical in the fears, delay-tactics, rites and totems that are employed in the hopes of approaching, even taming, the empty page. Not everyone has access to writing courses or groups; some are impassioned and have the will and determination, but decide they'd rather not cloister themselves off in an M.F.A. program. A few good books will do as companionable guides in the hard but wholly rewarding work of writing. This book should be first among those chosen as such a companion.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Read this Book If You Want to Write But . . . Von Helene Hoffman This book is a remarkable tool for any writer. You want to write but: have no time, are too scared, think you are no good . . . whatever the reason, this book answers it, in such an understanding and powerful way, that you think you have no choice but to put pen to paper at last! It is truly unique. The author also dispels a lot of myths about writing (how difficult it is; you have to suffer, etc.), and, most importantly, deals with each and every fear a human being could possibly have which prevents him or her from creating. He states emphatically that all writing takes courage, sometimes tremendous courage, but that overcoming the fears, and finally doing the writing is well worth it. By the way, this book is definitely not just for writers; I gave it as a gift to an artist friend, and she found it to be so encouraging that she entered a work in a contest because of it. In addition, I also loved the section in the book where he explains that we naturally write about that which we have never "resolved" in our past; I had never seen this written about before, and it blew me away. The subject matter I write about definitely falls into this category. Do yourself a favor and read this book.

**Kurzbeschreibung** *The Courage to Write* is an invaluable book and essential reading for anyone who wishes to learn how to write well. Katherine Anne Porter called courage "the first essential" for a writer. "I have to talk myself into bravery with every sentence," agreed Cynthia Ozick, "sometimes every syllable." E. B. White said he admired anyone who "has the guts to write anything at all." An author who has taught writing for more than thirty years, In *The Courage to Write*, Ralph Keyes, an author who has taught writing for more than thirty years, assures us that anxiety is felt by writers at every level, especially when they dare to do their best. He describes the sequence of "courage points" through which all writers must pass, from the challenge of identifying a worthwhile project to the mixture of pride and panic they feel when examining a newly published book or article. Keyes also offers specifics on how to root out dread of public "performance" and of the judgment of family and friends, make the best use of writers' workshops and conferences, and handle criticism of works in progress. Throughout, he includes the comments of many accomplished writers -- Pat Conroy, Amy Tan, Rita Dove, Isabel Allende, and others -- on how they transcended their own fears to produce great works.

From Library Journal Keyes, a widely experienced writer and teacher of writing himself, confronts the major component of fear in every writer's life as most writing courses never do. He shows that while the writer's anxieties--of unearthing unsavory truths about oneself, of exposing oneself to ridicule, of hurting trusting friends--cannot be overcome, they can be harnessed and used to develop serious, powerful writing. Neither preachy nor judgmental, but written by one writer speaking to others, Keyes uses a wealth of contemporary writers from Margaret Atwood to E.B. White as examples, first to identify writers' most common fears, then to discuss how writers have successfully grappled with them. Strong on theory and written with rare directness and wit, his small book is above all practical. Highly recommended for anyone who writes, wants to write, or is taking a writing course.

Charles C. Nash, Cottey Coll., Nevada, Mo. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. Pressestimmen "Fresh and Startling--one of the two or three best books on writing I've ever read."--John Jakes, author of *North and South* "Anyone who is a writer, wants to be a writer, or knows a writer will want to pick up a copy of *The Courage to Write*. It is one of the best books about the writing profession ever published."--*The Fresno Bee* "Here's practical and positive advice that can help every writer capitalize on anxiety instead of knuckling under to it. Writers not only need this book--they know they need it."--

Judith Applebaum, author of *How to Get Happily Published*