

# Novel Advice:

*Motivation, Inspiration, and  
Writing Tips for Aspiring Authors*

Kevin T. Johns

Copyright © 2017 by Kevin T. Johns.  
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the copyright holder, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission for other uses, write to the copyright holder at [kevin@kevintjohns.com](mailto:kevin@kevintjohns.com).

First Edition (print and electronic), 2017.

Novel Advice / Kevin T. Johns. — 1st ed.  
Paperback ISBN 978-0-9952932-3-6  
E-book ISBN 978-0-9952932-2-9

Published by Cat & Bean Publishing.

Special discounts are available for bulk purchases. To inquire, write to the author at [kevin@kevintjohns.com](mailto:kevin@kevintjohns.com).

[www.kevintjohns.com](http://www.kevintjohns.com)

## More Books by Kevin T. Johns

### Non-Fiction:

[\*The Novel Writer's Blueprint\*](#)  
[\*Smash Fear and Write like a Pro\*](#)

### Fiction:

[\*The Page Turners: Blood \(Book I\)\*](#)  
[\*The Page Turners: Economy of Fear \(Book II\)\*](#)  
[\*Rocket Princess vs. Snaggletooth the Dragon\*](#)  
[\*M School\*](#)

## Bonus Content

Your purchase of this book includes additional audio and video bonus content. To access your free gifts, visit <http://www.kevintjohns.com/novel-advice-bonuses>



## Praise for Novel Advice

“Motivating! This is the pick-me-up you need to finally get your novel written and published.” — **Jason B. Ladd**, award-winning author of *Book Review Banzai*

“Practical and Inspiring. If you're dealing with creative doubt, writer's block or feelings of inadequacy, this book might have just the words you need to hear. It will be especially useful for first-time authors having trouble finishing their book.” — **Derek Murphy**, bestselling author and founder of @creativindie

“Author/writing coach Kevin Johns is ace at all things novel--from craft to publishing to the internal struggles we writers face--and his new book, *Novel Advice*, proves it in spades. In a voice crackling with wit, wisdom and tough love, he details the writer's journey from inception to promotion, offering up actionable advice and real-world examples every step of the way. There's a career's worth of knowledge and insight in here, and any novelist serious about making it would be wise to dip in. I know I am.” — **Doug Kurtz**, author and founder of Write Life Coaching

“*Novel Advice* by Kevin T. Johns is a smorgasbord of writer's tips, inspiration and hints about the writer's life. Woven throughout are stories about everything from roofers to rock stars to abstract painting. This is my favorite kind of book--inspirational, full of good advice, and fun!” — **Charlotte Rains Dixon**, author of *Emma Jeans Bad Behavior*

“Important mindset shifts for the beginning author—steeped in fun and exciting stories that will fire you up to write!” — **Monica Leonelle**, author of *Write Better, Faster*

“*Novel Advice* is filled with easily digestible pieces of advice about being a professional writer which are equally beneficial if you're just thinking about writing or if you've got five published novels under your belt.” — **Caroline Frechette**, author of *Unblocked: The Surefire Way to Get Rid of Writer's Block Forever*

“*Novel Advice* provides aspiring authors with a simple and compact set of power tools, inspiring them to write from their own strengths. Written in a straightforward, informative and lighthearted style, this book is chock full of practical advice with actionable steps in each chapter. A “must-have” for every

would-be author.” — **Susan Friedman**, CSP, international bestselling author of *Riches in Niches: How to Make it BIG in a Small Market*

"Diligence is essential if you want to write. Kevin Johns consistently blows me away with his diligence as a professional writer. I want to learn how he does it!"  
— **Chase Reeves**, founder of Fizzle.co

### Introduction: Work like a Roofer

I do most of my writing at the dining room table.

From where I sit, if I glance up above my laptop's screen, I can see through a window and across my backyard to the rear of my neighbor's home.

One day a couple of years ago, my neighbors were having their roof re-shingled. When I sat down at my computer to write at nine a.m., half a dozen shirtless men in cargo pants and work boots, their bodies bronzed from the blazing sun, were already hard at work.

I put in three solid hours of writing that morning, and then called it a day. In the afternoon, I sat and drank beer in my backyard while one of my daughters dug in her sandbox and the other kicked a soccer ball across the lawn.

Up above us, the roofers continued to work.

When I made dinner that evening, I did so to the *rat-tat-tat* sound of shingles being nailed down.

As my family finished dinner a little past six p.m., the men atop my neighbor's home finally began to wrap-up their day's work. The roof was not yet complete, but they had made significant progress on their project; I suspect much more progress than I had made on my novel that day.

The experience was an excellent lesson.



I realized that day just how lucky I was—how lucky *we* are—to be writers. We aren't risking our lives up on rooftops. We don't have to work ten hour days just to pay the bills. But that doesn't mean we should wrap things up after three hours either.

Being a writer doesn't mean we get to be lazy.

Without ever saying a word to me, those roofers taught me I could work harder on my writing.

The great thing about the hard work of writing is the more you do it, the easier it becomes. When you commit to a focused and consistent writing habit, before you know it, the hard work of writing transforms into a joyful process. That's where I am now at with my writing. I love to do it.

What about you?

Are you ready to improve your craft? Are you willing to push through the resistance to do the writing you were born to do? Are you prepared to work like a roofer, put in the hours, blood, sweat, and tears, so that you can live a writer's life?

If so, this book will help.

*Novel Advice* is a collection of articles culled from material originally published on my website: [www.kevintjohns.com](http://www.kevintjohns.com). Almost every one was written in response to a question or challenge brought to me by one of my writing clients.

You see, I'm a professional writing coach, which means I get to spend my days working with writers and aspiring authors, helping them to get ideas out of their heads, onto the page, and into readers' hands.

The challenges and questions my clients grapple with will be similar to those you face in your writing. The answers to those questions and the solutions to those challenges will be found within the pages of this book, organized into three sections.

### **Part 1 – Motivation and Inspiration**

This section of the book is a collection of articles related to motivation, and the ability to press through the roadblocks we all encounter when trying to write a novel. These articles will inspire you to keep on writing when the going gets tough.

### **Part 2 - Writing Tips**

This section addresses general tips and tricks regarding the craft of creative writing, including my 12 step road map for writing a novel.

### **Part 3 - Writer's Life**

This section explores other aspects of life as a writer, such as the importance of forging community, the challenge of dealing with the financial realities of being an author, and how to achieve your writing and publishing goals.

Some of these articles are longer. Others are quite short. All of them will help you become a better writer.

If you have any questions about the material contained in this book, or about any aspect of writing and publishing, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kevin T. Johns, writing coach

[kevin@kevintjohns.com](mailto:kevin@kevintjohns.com)