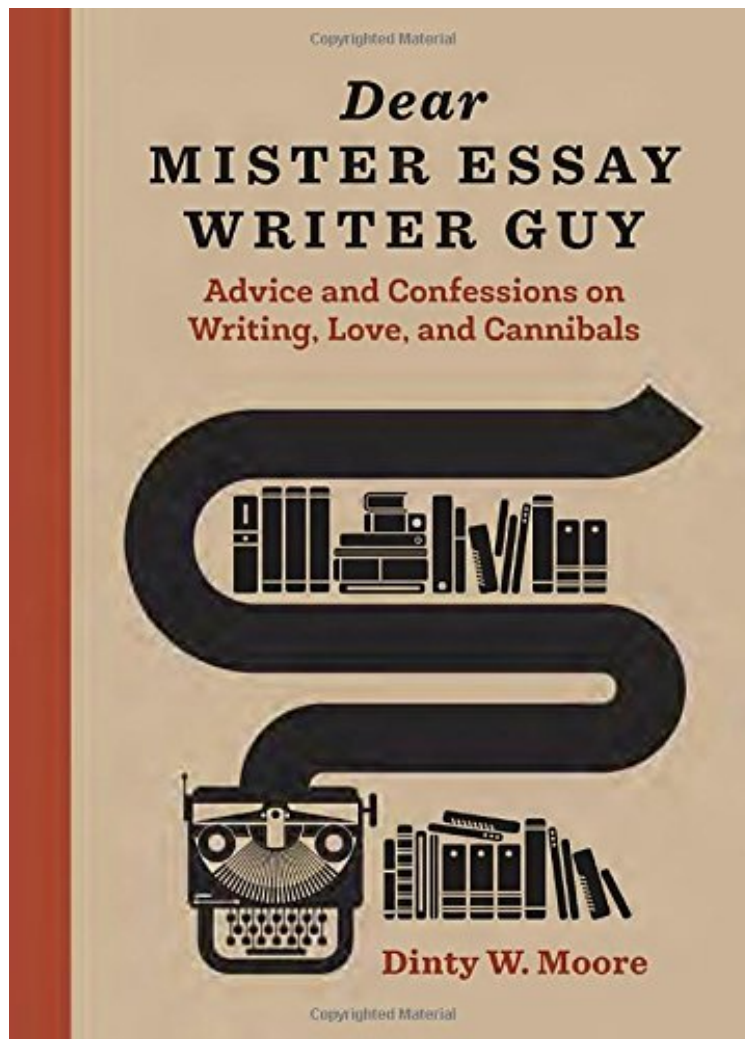


[Download free pdf] Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy: Advice and Confessions on Writing, Love, and Cannibals

Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy: Advice and Confessions on Writing, Love, and Cannibals

Dinty W. Moore

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#987802 in Books 2015-08-18 2015-08-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.27 x .81 x 5.22l, 1.25 #File Name: 1607748096208 pages | File size: 72.Mb

Dinty W. Moore : Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy: Advice and Confessions on Writing, Love, and Cannibals before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy: Advice and Confessions on Writing, Love, and Cannibals:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. a delicious expose...By p.j. lazosDinty W. Moore's new book, Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy, Advice and Confessions on Writing, Love, and Cannibals, is a droll, delicious expose of the inner workings of Moore's mind. Oh, and it's a writing tutorial as well, although not in the instructional sense

— commas here, apostrophes there, watch those dangling participles — but in the classic show don't tell sense. Moore shows you how to write the most sublime essays in answer to questions posed by contemporary essay writers — questions generated in response to a query from Moore on their thoughts regarding the art of essay writing. As a bonus, he throws in more than a few tidbits of enlightened instruction along the way such as his rumination on the em dash. I, like the questioner, Cheryl Strayed (think "Wild"), am enamored of em dashes — so much so that perhaps it's become an unhealthy relationship — but that's my problem — and I'll deal with it — someday — maybe. Then there's Moore's history lesson. Did you know that the sixteenth-century French nobleman Michel de Montaigne was the father of the modern essay? (I know. I never heard of him either, but I googled him and all I can say is that I must have been sleeping during my Humanities class.) Also that "Montaigne was a bum, of sorts," and that he was afraid of something, but I forget now what that was. In addition to those tantalizing tidbits, *Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy* reminds us of the importance of self-effacing humor in memoir writing. The book exudes waggishness and charm, and will be a wonderful asset to every writer's library. The essays are insightful, humorous, and instructional, the best kind of tutorial. One of my favs was, "Mr. Plimpton's Revenge," which gave me hope for rising above some of my own more serious gaffes; obviously, Moore has flourished despite his, and from reading *Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy*, they were pretty — well, let's just say you have to read the book. My friend who taught me how to ski at the very late age of 25 always said, "those who can't, teach." I never really understood that line. My friend was and is a wonderful skier, and also a great teacher. Similarly, Moore has spent most of his adult life teaching at various institutions of higher learning around the country and abroad, yet he can write with the best of them. I've been a fan of Moore's since I read, "The Accidental Buddhist." Moore's style has evolved to the point gleaming with the spit and polish that years of practicing a craft bestows. If you want a good belly laugh and to learn something about the writing process in the interim then *Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy* should be on your to-read list.

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. This Is a Golden Nugget of Writing By Eric Selby Dinty W. Moore--I laugh whenever I see or write his name because of the beef stew!--is an amazing essayist. In a previous book he includes an essay he wrote about Boca Raton, specifically about trying to walk from place to place where the network of highways and the fortified condos allow nothing like that, not even access to the beach. I live in South Beach and am relieved that at least not yet has it become that awful. So when I read about this book, I knew I have to get it. It is so wonderful and so unique. He begins each chapter with a letter from someone asking questions such as the first one about the em-dash which I happen to love to use--I just love, love, love to use it! (I just did!) And then he responds with an essay about the over-use of the em-dash as well as a history of how it and the en-dash (yes, there's a difference) have been used over the years. And why the em-dash has become so popular. Then there's the essay about George Plimpton, one of our most well-known essayists and the connections then-college-student Dinty W. Moore had with him. And that essay comes as a result of the question from someone who loves his Google map and has been a voyeur of his neighborhood and wonders how ethical it might be--or not be--to write about what he observes. And without the reader being aware of what is happening in this unique book, one is learning more about how to write effective personal essays although I have a long way to go to become even close to the author's (or George Plimpton's) writing skills. You can't go wrong with this, especially if (1) you have a sense of humor, (2) like good writing, (3) like unique writing and/or (4) want to improve your own writing skills. Oh, yes, it is a small book, kind of a 5 by 7. Purse size!

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Not Your Mama's Writing Advice Book By Melissa Grunow If you owned all of the self-help/advice books for writers by writers, your neighbors would probably call the fire department and report you for hoarding. Because nobody wants book-loving to be perceived as a threat to public health, you have to make choices as to which books to buy, keep, and continually reference each time you feel a little blocked, a little frustrated, a little inadequate, or a little in need of a serving of humble pie. *Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy: Advice and Confessions on Writing, Love, and Cannibals*, is definitely one of the craft books you should have in your arsenal. The book follows a three-part structure: A letter to Mister Essay Writer Guy from a fellow author (Cheryl Strayed, Brenda Miller, Judith Kitchen, Lia Purpura, Sue William Silverman, Roxanne Gay, Lee Gutkind, and other big league creative nonfiction writers), followed by Mister Essay Writer Guy's response in which he gives advice, and then an essay written by Mister Essay Guy in which he follows (sometimes loosely) the advice that he gave. It's kind of brilliant, actually. So what appears to be an advice book on writing (sometimes on craft) is actually a wonderful collection of quippy essays that play with language, form, and subject matter by Dinty W. Moore. Some of the questions posed and the advice given are important and somewhat serious, but most are not, and that's what separates this book from the heady and heavy texts that are stuffed with useless writing prompts, worksheets, and pep talks that float down from the author who is perched on the pedestal of publishing. How many more of those books do we need on the market? How much else is there to say about what it takes to be a good writer? How many more conversations can we have about the same challenges that are unique to writers? *Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy* is a refreshing break from all of that self-importance gabbing. This book is good because it's clever, the essays thoughtful and well-written, and the writers seeking advice are the last ones who need it. It's humbling and cute and best of all? There are pictures hand-drawn on cocktail napkins and a Dinty Moore self-portrait. Read it chronologically in one sitting, skip around the topics, or read it in pieces, but no matter how you approach it, you will definitely read it again. And isn't that the point of a good

advice book?

Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy, I have a hot crush on the em dash. What does my need to stuff—while simultaneously fracturing—my sentences—with the meandering, the explanatory, the discursive, the perhaps not-entirely-necessary—say about me? —Cheryl Strayed Have you ever wished there were an advice columnist for writers, but one who didn't take things so damned seriously? This unique writing guide pairs questions sent in by top contemporary essayists with hilariously witty answers and essays from acclaimed author Dinty W. Moore. Phillip Lopate asks for advice on writing about your ex without sounding like an ass, Julianna Baggott worries that to be a great writer you must drink like a fish, and Roxane Gay asks whether it's kosher to write about writing. Taking advantage of all the tools available to today's personal essayist—egregious puns, embarrassing anecdotes, and cocktail napkins—Professor Moore answers these questions, and more, demystifying the world of nonfiction once and for all. With a tip of the hat to history's most infamous essay—Montaigne's "Of Cannibals"—this book provides rollicking relief for writers in distress.

". . . a guide to writing essays that is both brilliantly instructive and wonderfully entertaining. . . . Highly recommended for writers and anyone who loves to laugh out loud while they read."-- Library Journal (starred review) "[Moore's] witty and disarming new book is framed as an advice column for accomplished writers. . . He is fun to read (don't miss Mr Plimpton's Revenge: A Google Maps Essay, in Which George Plimpton Delivers My Belated and Well-Deserved Comeuppance). And he sneaks in answers so we are left with a touch of wisdom as well as laughter."-- BBC.com "Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy is Moore at his best. It's witty but also substantial, and the conversations between Moore and his interlocutors get to the heart of what makes the essay such a compelling form: its capacity to render, on the page, the human experience."-- The Rumpus". . . the book as a whole will leave you feeling educated, amused, and perhaps even inspired."-- The A.V. Club "Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy is an enjoyable read. . . Its witty, modest tone belies the artistry of the essays contained, which are exemplars of the short form." -- Shelf Awareness About the Author DINTY W. MOORE is a highly regarded essayist and author of numerous books, including *The Mindful Writer*, *Crafting the Personal Essay*, and the memoir *Between Panic and Desire*, winner of the Grub Street Nonfiction Book Prize. He has been published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine*, *Gettysburg*, *Harper's*, and *Crazyhorse*, among others. He also edits *Brevity: The Journal of Concise Literary Nonfiction* and has served as coordinating editor for the annual anthology *Best Creative Nonfiction*. Moore currently teaches as director of Ohio University's BA, MA, and PhD in Creative Writing program. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction Perhaps you are standing in the bookstore, scanning this introductory chapter, wondering just what sort of book you have in hand. You are a good-looking person whose minor flaws seem to only accentuate your considerable charm. You are intelligent. And immune to flattery. Moreover, you admire those who are plain-spoken, so let me be entirely forthright: This is the most important book ever published, except for a very old book that Moses started writing back in 800 BCE, one that a bunch of saints and raggedy disciples had to finish for him over the next thousand years. Talk about missing a deadline! Boy, his editor must have been mighty ticked off. In any case, that other book is all well and good, but it rapidly bogs down in questions such as how many goats must be slaughtered to atone for beheading your eldest son and who begat whom. Good stuff if you are a theologian, but stop to think a moment: are you a theologian? Probably not. The book you are holding here tackles more urgent questions, questions more relevant to the modern reader, questions such as "What is the essay? And why? And how ought we to feel about it, given that there is nothing on television this evening?" To that end, I have reached out to contemporary essayists such as Phillip Lopate, Cheryl Strayed, Diane Ackerman, Lee Gutkind, Steve Almond, Lia Purpura, Ander Monson, and a host of other fine writers, many of whom are close friends with Oprah Winfrey. I asked each of them to send me a question about the contemporary essay, in an attempt to once and for all settle the burning question: who reads this stuff? My inspiration here is the sixteenth-century French nobleman and father of the essay form Michel de Montaigne. He broke literary ground by writing mainly of the self, bravely admitting to the reader, "I cannot keep my subject still. It goes along befuddled and staggering, with a natural drunkenness." Drunkenness, befuddlement, the occasional staggering. What's not to like? For those of you who have wondered, by the way, the name Montaigne is pronounced this way: Montaigne. So this is a Writing Guide of sorts, but since the true arc of the essay is the author's thoughts moving on the page in a compelling fashion, this is also a Thinking Guide. If you have trouble thinking, this is the book for you! Enjoy yourself. Consider reading passages aloud to your spouse or partner, or just slither up to a complete stranger at the corner coffee shop and let loose a chapter or two. You'll find yourself making lifelong friends that way. And afterward, if you have questions, or are wondering where to send flowers, feel free to contact me (misteressayguy@gmail.com). I do so look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Dinty W. Moore aka Mister Essay Writer Guy