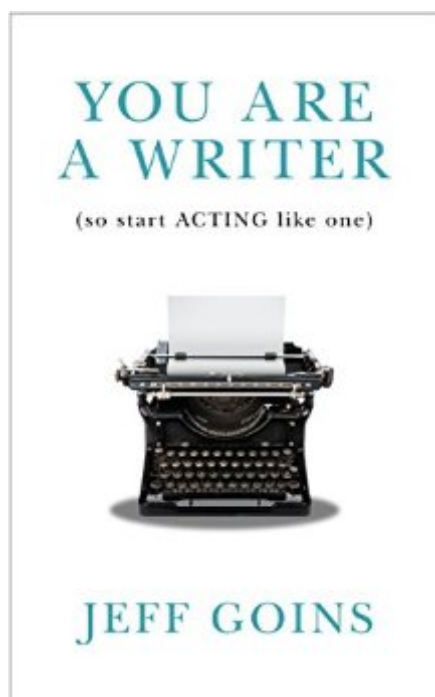


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# You Are A Writer (So Start Acting Like One)



## Synopsis

Becoming a writer begins with a simple but important belief: You are a writer; you just need to write. In *You Are a Writer*, Jeff Goins shares his own story of self-doubt and what it took for him to become a professional writer. He gives you practical steps to improve your writing, get published in magazines, and build a platform that puts you in charge. This book is about what it takes to be a writer in the 21st Century. You will learn the importance of passion and discipline and how to show up every day to do the work. Here's what else you will learn:- How to transition from wanting to be a writer to actually being one- What "good" writing is (and isn't)- How to stop waiting to be picked and finally choose yourself- What it takes to build a platform- Why authors need to brand themselves (and how to do it)- Tips for freelancing, guest blogging, and getting published in magazines- Different ways to network with other writers, artists, and influencers- The importance of blogging and social media and how to use it well to find more readers and fans of your writing *You Are a Writer* will help you fall back in love with writing and build an audience who shares your love. It's about living the dream of a life dedicated to words. AND IT ALL BEGINS WITH YOU.

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## Customer Reviews

I am not a writer. I write, but I write in order to. For me, writing isn't about writing; writing is a tool to achieve something else. A more concrete example: I cook, but I'm not a chef, and it's not because I don't get paid for it. I'm not a chef because my cooking is in service of eating, not of cooking. I cook in order to eat, or so others can eat, but cooking isn't at the core of who I am. Neither is writing core. I write in order to teach minds and train souls. Jeff Goins is a writer. More than that, Goins is a writer who wants you to be a writer too. He doesn't just want you to write, or to write in order to. Goins wants you to be a writer too. In his new e-book, *You Are A Writer (So Start Acting Like One)*, Goins tells you how to be a writer when writing is core. Even when something else is core for you, like teaching minds and training souls is for me, there's a lot to be gleaned here. In his easy, conversational style, Jeff Goins lightly shares his own failures and successes, so that you, his reader the writer, might find succor and sustenance in them. But his warm tone is just slightly deceiving, because Goins isn't going to let you off the hook. He is very clear: writing is work, and sharing your writing is work too. You must find your audience (they are there), find your voice (you have one), and get your voice out where your audience can hear it. It's that piece that Goins wants to help you with, "building a platform, so you don't have to pitch or sell yourself." How does he help you? By teaching you how to pitch and sell yourself. Goins' insights are summarized with this early claim, "Every successful communicator has three important tools, in some form or another. They are: 1. A platform to share your writing. 2. A brand to build trust with readers.

One of my favorite writers, Thomas Merton, wrote: "If you write for God you will reach many men and bring them joy. If you write for men--you may make some money and you may give someone a little joy and you may make a noise in the world, for a little while. If you write for yourself, you can read what you yourself have written and after ten minutes you will be so disgusted that you will wish that you were dead." I love this quote, but I disagree with Tom. And so, it seems, does Jeff Goins. Early in *You Are a Writer*, Jeff says, "[Writers] need to do what they love. They need to write. Sounds idealistic, right? But I believe this is the key to creating your best work." In other words, you should write for passion, for love of the craft, for the implicit joy of writing. For yourself. We hear a lot of people these days saying, "Follow your bliss. Live your dream. Make money off your passion." It

sounds great. If only it worked. Unfortunately, passion only takes you so far, and following your dream is easy until it's not, until you run into some obstacles and things get painful and then really painful. Jeff himself admits following your passion to be a writer is really hard, and step two of the book, after you follow your passion, is to learn how to market and sell your writing. To write for yourself, in other words, you have to write for others. And there's the problem with this follow your bliss advice. The dream of writerly bliss becomes painful and then you have to discipline yourself and learn how to write for others. Eventually, Jeff seems to say that if you're just writing for yourself, you'll quit. You have to learn to enjoy writing for an audience. I don't disagree with Jeff. I disagree with Merton.

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