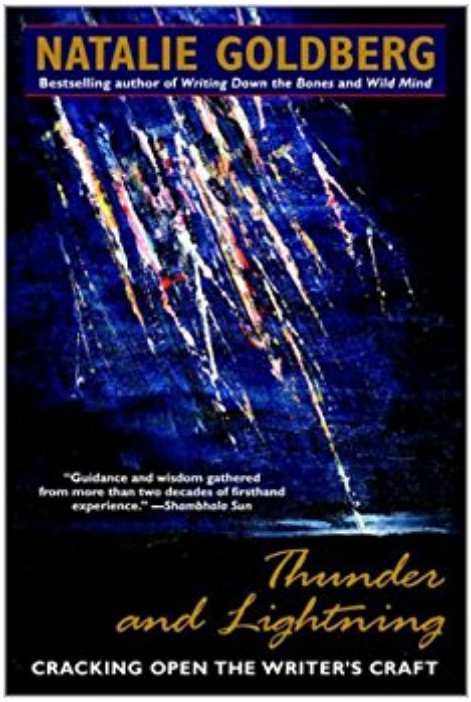
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Thunder And Lightning: Cracking Open The Writer's Craft



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Synopsis

In this long-awaited sequel to her bestselling books Writing Down the Bones and Wild Mind, Natalie Goldberg, one of the most sought-after writing teachers of our time, takes us to the next step in the writing process.YouÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve filled your notebooks, done your writing practice, discovered your original voice. Now what? How do you turn this raw material into finished stories, essays, poems, novels, memoirs? Drawing on her own experience as a writer and a student of Zen, Natalie shows you how to create a field big enough to allow your Ã¢â ¬Å“wild mindÃ¢â ¬Â• to wander Ã¢â ¬â • and then gently direct its tremendous energy into whatever you want to write.Here, too, is invaluable advice on how to overcome writerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s block, how to deal with the fear of criticism and rejection, how to get the most from working with an editor, and how to learn from reading accomplished authors. With humor and compassion, Goldberg recounts her own mistakes on the way to publication Ã¢â ¬â • and how you can avoid the most common pitfalls of the beginning writer. Through it all there is a deep celebration of writing itself Ã¢â ¬â • not just as the means to an end, but as a path to living a deeper, more fully alive life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

More musings from Natalie Goldberg on writing as a spiritual path, as "an authentic Zen way." Goldberg has some nice things to say about the importance of the process of writing. She recommends her students spend two years at writing "practice" before undertaking a specific project, so that they can "get in touch with their wild minds." The most inspired writing, she says,

comes when one’s conscious mind gets out of the way. Still, we are puzzled by Thunder and Lightning: is it really meant to show us how to turn "our flashes of inspiration ... into a polished piece of work," as the book jacket touts? It comes off more as a collection of Goldberg’s ruminations on writing and reading. Goldberg tells us about her friend Julie’s writing process. Another pal, Kate, talks about plot. We study Styron with Goldberg’s workshop students and take a road trip through the South to try to figure out just how some of the poorest states in the union managed to produce so many great writers. There are some good stories here, and it’s vaguely interesting to know what Nat likes to order when she does her cafÃƒÂ© writing or lunches with her editors, but we end up desiring a little less wandering and a little more focus. --Jane Steinberg --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Goldberg here urges aspiring writers to go beyond the Zen-inspired writing practice she presented in her 1986 bestseller Writing Down the Bones and the subsequent Wild Mind. Writing practice was a means Goldberg devised of observing the mind by moving the hand, writing through our endless judgments and opinions until the unstoppable stream of thought becomes transparent and we can see clear through the mind to the vibrant life force that shines up from the bottom. In this guide, Goldberg seeks to help students find the organic formsAthe resonant questions and questsAthat exist deep down within us. She doesn’t teach technique so much as affirm that the life force carves a particular channel in each of us. The title came to Goldberg several years ago in Costa Rica, as she stood at the foot of an active volcano and experienced the sudden power of a tropical storm: "I thought, some divine structure has just whipped through here." Goldberg describes her various book projects as inspirations that crash down like lightning, absorbing her and vanishing. As she delves into her own process and the process of other writers, however, it becomes clear that the work of discovering form can be as long and painstaking as an archeological dig, and as painful as surgery. Great book and story ideas do tend to come in flashes, she confirms. But they come to those who have gotten by the barking dogs of the conventional mind only to face the raw truth about what is. Goldberg writes as someone who has been there and back. She guides readers without handing out any illusions about how easy the trip is. BOMC, QPB, One Spirit Book Club and Reader’s Subscription alternates. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Collecting experiences from the turbulent storms of life and intuitive flashes of inspiration is one thing. Refining them creatively into a brilliant piece of work is another. Bringing clarity to that

transformation process is what Ms. Goldberg offers in "Thunder and Lightening". She covers fear of criticism and rejection, the value of writing workshops and the benefits of an editor. She shares her own mistakes and her vulnerability. She says, "writing opens us wide so that our own individual suffering becomes universal suffering". This personal window into the author's life says much about the expressive depth of her writing. You may want to add this "thunderbolt" to your writing kit. It is a an excellent follow-up to Ms. Goldbergs, "Writing Down The Bones" and "Wild Mind".

Natalie Goldberg is a master of description and writerly advice. I am deep within the book and enjoying it very much!

More depthful that 1996 Writing Down The Bone....a Ph.D writing on the craft of writing...a skilled and encouraging read, lots of underlining.

What is not to love about Natalie Goldberg? I wish they'd re-release this on CD. I had to buy it anyway, because I needed to hear her voice again-- then scrambled around the house looking for a tape player that still worked.Totally worth it. You want to write? Nat'll tell you how. She'll calm you and stoke you and help you have compassion for yourself in the process.

I'll read anything by Natalie Goldberg. This isn't a how-to writing book, but I find it inspiring and have already read it three times.

I love reading Natalie Goldberg's books. This one was no exception. I am always sad when I get to the end of the book and I feel as if I've only touched the surface of the author's amazing way of getting to the essence of creating. I am left satisfied and yet wanting more time to spend with her. This is a great read!

Natalie Goldberg's teachin genius shines through once again. She gets right to the meat of things, breaks through our fears of writing and supports us at the same time. This book demystifies the writing craft and helps the writer become accountable and ready to step up and put it all down, all those rich and juicy moments in one's history in ways that break through from whining into solid plot and character. This book is especially valuable when paired with Writing Down the Bones (for beginning writers) or Old Friend From Far Away (for those who want to write memoir).

Love Natalie’s writing.Engaging and alive and personal as well as honest about her process as a writer

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