**Writing**

**Why do we want to have alternate worlds? You have to imagine something before you do it. Therefore, if you write about something, hopefully you write about something that's better or more interesting than circumstances as they now are, and that way you hope to make a step towards it. *(Joan Aiken, British novelist)***

**It took me 15 years to discover that I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous. *(Robert Benchley)***

**Everything goes by the board: honor, pride, decency, security, happiness, all, to get the book written. If a writer has to rob his mother, he will not hesitate. *(William Faulkner)***

**Once upon a time there was a young man who wanted to become a great writer. “I want to write things the whole world will read,” he declared. “Stuff that will elicit strong emotions from people in every walk of life. I want my writing to make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger.” He now lives happily ever after in Redmond, Washington, writing error messages for Microsoft. *(Richard A. Wright, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The best kind of fame is a writer's fame. Just enough to get a good table at a restaurant and not enough for someone to interrupt you while you are eating. *(Fran Lebowitz, author)***

**There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, nobody knows what they are. *(W. Somerset Maugham)***

**To write is to sell a ticket to escape, not from the truth but into it. *(Alexander Chee, novelist)***

**The historian will tell you what happened. The novelist will tell you what it felt like. *(E. L. Doctorow, in Time magazine)***

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