

# Drafting/Not Drafting

To draft or not to draft...

As artists, we all have our own creative processes. Some of us enjoy writing a chapter at a time, going back to painstakingly edit, then moving on. Others insist that editing as you go is a faux pas like no other, sacrilege to the process of writing in general. And others still, though well-meaning, insist that the first draft is the last draft. Aside from general editing, this draft is the final product.

That, to me, is the ultimate faux pas.

It's important to draft. Drafting allows you deeper insight into your process and the characters you create through that process. It's often painful to do more than one draft, but drafting is essential to the production of a clean final product. It doesn't matter that your favorite author doesn't draft (or says he doesn't.) Some people might be able to write a novel in a week, others in five years. We are all unique artistically and the more time and effort we put into our craft the better we become at harnessing our inner writing spirit.

Personally, it might take me a year to draft an entire novel if I'm really in tune with the characters and the story/action. The second draft might only take me 6 months. The third, and final, draft of a completed work is faster still. It's important to note that not every writer's story will pan out this way. It might take you longer than others to craft a second draft. It really depends on how much of a perfectionist you are. I'm not really a perfectionist, I just find the consistency in the process calming.

As Hemingway once wrote, "The first draft of anything is shit." It seems like an odd thing for him to say, but who am I to judge?

In my opinion, completing a novel through the drafting process is the only way to fly and the end result, no matter how many months it may take, it's well worth the work.

Happy Scribbling!

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