



Livid and Continuous

ESSAYS AND EXERCISES FOR WRITING FICTION

JOHN McNALLY



Vivid And Continuous Essays And Exercises For Writing Fiction

WJ Hussar



Vivid And Continuous Essays And Exercises For Writing Fiction:

Vivid and Continuous John McNally, 2013-03-15 Taking off from The Creative Writer's Survival Guide John McNally's relentlessly blunt bracingly cheerful and immensely helpful map to being a writer Vivid and Continuous is an equally blunt cheerful and helpful map to learning to be a writer While acknowledging that many fine books cover such essentials of fiction writing as point of view characterization and setting McNally sets out in this new book intended as a supplement to beginning fiction writing classes or as the sole text for upper level or graduate courses to solve the tricky second tier problems that those books cover only in footnotes Vivid and Continuous takes its inspiration from John Gardner whose essential truths in On Becoming a Novelist clarified McNally's goal of communicating a vivid and continuous dream with his own writing In fifteen concise energizing chapters he dispenses advice gained from almost thirty years of studying writing and teaching How do you avoid the pitfalls inherent in the most common subjects for stories How do you create memorable minor characters What about managing references to pop culture without distracting your readers revising a story to bring its subtext into focus or exploring the twenty most common craft related quirks that lessen immediacy for your readers How do you keep from overdosing on similes and metaphors or relying on too many flashbacks to provide necessary backstory How do you learn to listen when your story tries to talk to you Finally how can you resist John McNally's Sure Fire Formula for Becoming Funnier in 30 Days McNally cites many novels and short stories as examples that best illustrate the lessons he wants to impart the writer's life or the writer's craft as well as his own favorite authors novels and short story collections Exercises at the end of each chapter reinforce its point and serve as practical catalysts for new writings and directions Just blunt enough to get your attention but not blunt enough to crush you challenging but not discouraging personal but not ego ridden snarky but not mean John McNally will prompt you to think more deeply about a variety of issues that will push you toward writing more meaningful more accomplished work

After the Workshop John McNally, 2010-02-10 Life is hard for a literary wunderkind after a decade of writer's block in this ribald deconstruction of an industry in love with its own absurdities Kirkus Reviews You graduate from the Iowa Writers Workshop with a short story published in The New Yorker and subsequently Best American Short Stories You stay in town and work on your novel And work on your novel Until finally twelve years have passed and you are working as a media escort for author tours and your unfinished novel sits in a box under your bed Now your girlfriend has left you Your car is missing a muffler Your neighbor is walking around naked because his hands are bandaged and he can't unzip his pants You are at the whims of a slew of increasingly unhinged writers and when one of them disappears an insane New York publicist begins stalking you This is the life of Jack Hercules Sheahan a character well understood by author John McNally McNally is also a graduate of the Iowa Writers Workshop as well as a former media escort and these misadventures are brought to life by his very own Recalling the wry humor of novels by Nick Hornby and Michael Chabon After the Workshop tells the satirical story of a writer who confronts the demons from his past

while escorting those of his present *The Promise of Failure* John McNally, 2018-06-15 *The Promise of Failure* is part memoir of the writing life part advice book and part craft book sometimes funny sometimes wrenching but always honest McNally uses his own life as a blueprint for the writer's daily struggles as well as the existential ones tackling subjects such as when to quit and when to keep going how to deal with depression what risking something of yourself means and ways to reenergize your writing through reinvention What McNally illuminates is how rejection in its best light is another element of craft a necessary stage to move the writer from one project to the next and that it's best to see rejection and failure on a life long continuum so that you can see the interconnectedness between failure and success rather than focusing on failure as a measure of self worth As brutally candid as McNally can sometimes be *The Promise of Failure* is ultimately an inspiring book never in a Pollyannaish self help way McNally approaches the reader as a sympathetic companion with cautionary tales to tell Written by an author who has as many unpublished books under his belt as published ones *The Promise of Failure* is as much for the newcomer as it is for the established writer **The Promise of Failure** John McNally, 2018-06-15 *The Promise of Failure* is part memoir of the writing life part advice book and part craft book sometimes funny sometimes wrenching but always honest McNally uses his own life as a blueprint for the writer's daily struggles as well as the existential ones tackling subjects such as when to quit and when to keep going how to deal with depression what risking something of yourself means and ways to reenergize your writing through reinvention What McNally illuminates is how rejection in its best light is another element of craft a necessary stage to move the writer from one project to the next and that it's best to see rejection and failure on a life long continuum so that you can see the interconnectedness between failure and success rather than focusing on failure as a measure of self worth As brutally candid as McNally can sometimes be *The Promise of Failure* is ultimately an inspiring book never in a Pollyannaish self help way McNally approaches the reader as a sympathetic companion with cautionary tales to tell Written by an author who has as many unpublished books under his belt as published ones *The Promise of Failure* is as much for the newcomer as it is for the established writer **Motives for Fiction** Robert Alter, 1984 For many serious readers Robert Alter writes in his preface the novel still matters and I have tried here to suggest some reasons why that should be so In his wide ranging discussion Alter examines the imitation of reality in fiction to find out why mimesis has become problematic yet continues to engage us deeply as readers Alter explores very different sorts of novels from the self conscious artifices of Sterne and Nabokov to what seem to be more realistic texts such as those of Dickens Flaubert John Fowles and the early Norman Mailer Attention is also given to such individual critics as Edmund Wilson and Alfred Kazin and to current critical schools In Alter's essays a particular book or movement or juxtaposition of writers provides the occasion for the exploration of a general intellectual issue The scrutiny of well chosen passages the joining of images or themes or ideas the associative and intuitive processes that lead to the right phrase and the right loop of syntax for the matter at hand all these come together unexpectedly to illuminate both the text in question and the general issue Recent

discussions of mimesis in fiction generally proceed from a single thesis By contrast *Motives for Fiction* offers an empirical approach attempting to define mimesis in its various guises by careful critical readings of a heterogeneous sampling of literary texts Intelligent and good humored the book is also old fashioned enough to wonder whether mimesis might not be a task or responsibility to which much contemporary fiction has not proved entirely adequate **What If?** Anne Bernays,1990

Organized by the elements of fiction and comprised primarily of writing exercises this text helps students hone and refine their craft with a practical hands on approach to writing fiction *Exercises in Latin prose composition, with intr., notes* George Gilbert Ramsay,1885 **The Athenaeum** ,1884 **The Athenaeum** James Silk Buckingham,John Sterling,Frederick Denison Maurice,Henry Stebbing,Charles Wentworth Dilke,Thomas Kibble Hervey,William Hepworth Dixon,Norman Maccoll,Vernon Horace Rendall,John Middleton Murry,1884 *The Scottish Educational Journal* ,1920 Athenaeum and Literary Chronicle ,1870 **The American School Board Journal** ,1916 **The Illustrated London News** ,1882 The Literary Digest International Book Review Clifford Smyth,1923 **Pater the Classicist** Charles Martindale,Stefano Evangelista,Elizabeth Prettejohn,2017-02-23 Pater the Classicist is the first book to address in detail Walter Pater s important contribution to the study of classical antiquity Widely considered our greatest aesthetic critic and now best known as a precursor to modernist writers and post modernist thinkers of the twentieth century Pater was also a classicist by profession who taught at the University of Oxford He wrote extensively about Greek art and philosophy but also authored an influential historical novel set in ancient Rome *Marius the Epicurean* and a variety of short stories depicting the survival of classical culture in later ages These superficially diverging interests actually went closely hand in hand it can plausibly be asserted that it is the classical tradition in its broadest sense including the question of how to understand its workings and temporalities which forms Pater s principal subject as a writer Although he initially approached antiquity obliquely through the Italian Renaissance for example or the poetry of William Morris later in his career he wrote more and more directly about the ancient world and particularly about Greece his first love The essays in this collection cover all his major works and reveal a many sided and inspirational figure whose achievements helped to reinvigorate the classical studies that were the basis of the English educational system of the nineteenth century and whose conception of Classics as cross disciplinary and outward looking can be a model to scholars and students today They discuss his classicism generally his fiction set in classical antiquity his writings on Greek art and culture and those on ancient philosophy and in doing so they also illuminate Pater s position within his Victorian context among figures such as J A Symonds Henry Nettleship Vernon Lee and Jane Harrison as well as his place in the study and reception of Classics today *Wisconsin Journal of Education* ,1899

New York Magazine ,1983-05-30 New York magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the New York Herald Tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country With award winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion the magazine s consistent mission

has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself while celebrating New York as both a place and an idea Kliatt Young Adult Paperback Book Guide ,1998 **Publishers' circular and booksellers' record** ,1897 The Nation ,1897

The Enigmatic Realm of **Vivid And Continuous Essays And Exercises For Writing Fiction**: Unleashing the Language is Inner Magic

In a fast-paced digital era where connections and knowledge intertwine, the enigmatic realm of language reveals its inherent magic. Its capacity to stir emotions, ignite contemplation, and catalyze profound transformations is nothing short of extraordinary. Within the captivating pages of **Vivid And Continuous Essays And Exercises For Writing Fiction** a literary masterpiece penned by a renowned author, readers embark on a transformative journey, unlocking the secrets and untapped potential embedded within each word. In this evaluation, we shall explore the book's core themes, assess its distinct writing style, and delve into its lasting effect on the hearts and minds of those who partake in its reading experience.

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