



MYNOVEL AUTHOR SERIES

PRACTICAL GUIDES FOR BUDDING INDEPENDENT AUTHORS

BOOK
5

WRITING YOUR FIRST DRAFT

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO TURNING YOUR
IDEAS, CHARACTERS AND PLOT INTO
A FINISHED MANUSCRIPT.

*From blank page
to first draft...
and beyond*

IDEAS
CHARACTERS
PLOT
OUTLINE
FIRST DRAFT
REVISION

INCLUDES
PDF GUIDE
+
**EDITABLE
WORD
WORKBOOK**

*A
First Draft
Brings Your
Story to
Life*

First Draft Plan

- ☒ Write consistently
- ☒ Bring characters to life
- ☒ Follow the story
- ☒ Keep going
- ☒ Finish the draft!

Chapter 1

*Twelve years after the accident, Sarah was still
trying to make sense of the events that had
shaken her world. She had lost her job, her home,
and the person she loved most. Now she was
struggling to put her life back together, one day
at a time. She had a long way to go, but she
was determined to finish the draft.*

MIKE GROBLER

FREE PREVIEW

WRITING YOUR FIRST DRAFT

MyNovel Author Series — Book 5

Mike Grobler

This short preview contains the introduction and the opening of
Chapter 1.
The full guide includes 15 chapters plus an editable Microsoft Word
workbook.

*A practical guide to turning your ideas, characters and plot into a
finished manuscript*

Introduction — The First Draft Has One Job

Planning matters. Characters matter. Plot matters. Dialogue matters. But eventually the writer has to stop preparing to write a novel and begin writing the novel itself.

The first draft has one main job: to exist. It does not have to be elegant, perfectly paced or ready for publication. It has to carry the story from its opening to its ending in a form that can later be revised.

Many writers make the first draft harder than it needs to be because they expect finished-book quality from unfinished work. They rewrite Chapter One repeatedly, polish sentences that may later be cut, and lose momentum before the story has had a chance to develop.

A first draft is not a failed final draft. It is the raw material from which the final book will be made.

In this guide we will again use Leah Daniels and the neglected coastal guesthouse as a recurring example. The earlier books helped shape Leah, her conflict and the broad plot. Now the question changes from What should happen? to What do I write today?

WORKBOOK: Complete Exercise 1 — Before You Begin in the accompanying editable Word workbook.

1. Start Before You Feel Ready

Writers often wait for confidence, inspiration or the perfect opening sentence. None of those is required. A workable plan and a willingness to begin are enough.

The first pages may feel awkward because you are still discovering the voice of the book. That is normal. Some of the strongest decisions in a novel only become obvious after several chapters have been written.

Give yourself permission to write badly

A weak paragraph can be improved later. A blank page cannot. If you know what the scene needs to accomplish, write the clearest version you can and keep moving.

Practical Example

Leah arrives at the guesthouse. You may not yet know the perfect first line, but you do know she expects a difficult renovation and is about to discover that the financial situation is worse than she thought. Start there. The exact wording can wait.

WORKBOOK: Complete Exercise 2 — Write the First Page Without Polishing in the accompanying editable Word workbook.

THE PREVIEW ENDS HERE

Continue with the full guide to learn how to build a sustainable writing routine, turn plot plans into writing sessions, shape scenes and chapters, control point of view and tense, maintain momentum, manage research, overcome difficult writing days and reach the end of your first draft.

Your purchase includes the complete PDF guide and an editable Microsoft Word workbook.

PURCHASE THE FULL BOOK