



John Gardner's Collection on Writing: On Becoming a Novelist, On Writers & Writing, and On Moral Fiction

By John Gardner

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A special three-in-one edition of celebrated author John Gardner's explorations of modern fiction: *On Becoming a Novelist*, *On Writers & Writing*, and *On Moral Fiction*

In *On Becoming a Novelist*, John Gardner advises the aspiring fiction author on such topics as the value of creative writing workshops, the developmental stages of literary growth, and the inevitable experience of writer's block. Drawn from his two decades of experience in creative writing, Gardner balances his compassion for his students with his knowledge of the publishing industry, and truthfully relates his experiences of the hardships that lie ahead for aspiring authors.

In *On Writers & Writing*, acclaimed novelist John Gardner discusses the craft of fiction writing, taking to task some of his best-known contemporaries in the process. Gardner criticizes some for writing disingenuous fiction, and commends others who produce literature that acts as a life-affirming force. He offers insights into and exacting critiques on such writers as Vladimir Nabokov, John Updike, Saul Bellow, and John Cheever, while addressing his personal influences and delivering broad-ranging observations on literary culture.

And in *On Moral Fiction*, John Gardner's thesis is simple: "True art is by its nature moral." Since the book's first publication, the passion behind Gardner's assertion has both provoked and inspired readers. In examining the work of his peers, Gardner analyzes what has gone wrong, in his view, in modern art and literature, and how shortcomings in artistic criticism have contributed to the problem. He develops his argument by showing how artists and critics can reintroduce morality and substance to their work to improve society and cultivate our morality.

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John Gardner's Collection on Writing: On Becoming a Novelist, On Writers & Writing, and On Moral Fiction By John Gardner Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #55574 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-12-10
- Released on: 2013-12-10
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

“[John Gardner is] one of the greatest creative writing teachers we’ve ever had.” —Frederick Busch

About the Author

John Gardner (1933–1982) was born in Batavia, New York. His critically acclaimed books include the novels *Grendel*, *The Sunlight Dialogues*, and *October Light*, for which he received the National Book Critics Circle Award, as well as several works of nonfiction and criticism such as *On Becoming a Novelist*. He was also a professor of medieval literature and a pioneering creative writing teacher whose students included Raymond Carver and Charles Johnson.

Users Review

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As people who live in the particular modest era should be upgrade about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what kind you should start with. This John Gardner's Collection on Writing: On Becoming a Novelist, On Writers & Writing, and On Moral Fiction is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

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