Twitter Thread by Joanne Harris



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Okay, this one looks good. Follow #TenThingsAboutStartingOut to collect them all!

> Hmmm New Year means lots will be possibly attempting to write for the first time? Ten Tweets on getting started?
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> — Wonder Weir 84 (@jon_weir) January 22, 2021

One of the hardest things about writing is how to make a start, and when. Many would-be writers spend their lives planning to write a book, and never get round to it. If this is you, maybe consider the following. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

1. Lots of people spend their lives waiting for "the right time" to start writing. Full disclosure: There IS no right time. There's only now, and whatever time you're willing to give to writing. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

2. In the same way, lots of people think that if they wait long enough, they will feel ready to begin. That's not how it works. You'll never feel ready. But if you start now, you will have begun your writing journey. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

3. Some people feel that they need to wait for "inspiration to strike." That's not how it works. You don't wait for fitness to happen to you when you're embarking on a get-fit scheme. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

4. Start small. Build a routine. Getting started as writer is a lot like starting a fitness programme. You can't expect to be a top athlete straightaway. But with regular practice and realistic, manageable goals, you can improve over time. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

5. Manage your goals. Don't start writing because you think it's going to make you rich and famous overnight, or because you like the idea of being a writer. Write because you love it, because you want to improve, and because it will enrich your life. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

6. Make sure the people around you allow you time and space for your writing. Make sure they understand that it's important to you, and that you need their co-operation. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

7. Some people find that it helps to have a writing buddy or online writing circle. As with most training regimes, if you start off alongside someone else, you're less likely to give up. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

8. Be realistic about making time. Most people won't be able to find hours every day to write. You don't need to: half an hour's writing every day is far better for you than a six-hour marathon Sunday. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

9. Your writing may not be all that good at first. This is absolutely normal, and nothing to be afraid of. Creative writing is a skill that comes with time and practice. Keep at it: you will improve. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

10. Read across as many genres as you can. Reading is the best way to develop your awareness of how storytelling works, and when it doesn't. Be curious. Be analytical. Everything you read will feed your writing. #TenThingsAboutStartingOut

Ready? If so, you might want to check out my book... https://t.co/AJ3ON9LksR