



# The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction

*John Dufresne*

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# The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction

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**The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction** John Dufresne

"This is the most practical, hard-nosed, generous, direct, and useful guide to writing fiction."—Brad Watson

Finally, a truly creative—and hilarious—guide to creative writing, full of encouragement and sound advice. Provocative and reassuring, nurturing and wise, *The Lie That Tells a Truth* is essential to writers in general, fiction writers in particular, beginning writers, serious writers, and anyone facing a blank page.

John Dufresne, teacher and the acclaimed author of *Love Warps the Mind a Little* and *Deep in the Shade of Paradise*, demystifies the writing process. Drawing upon the wisdom of literature's great craftsmen, Dufresne's lucid essays and diverse exercises initiate the reader into the tools, processes, and techniques of writing: inventing compelling characters, developing a voice, creating a sense of place, editing your own words. Where do great ideas come from? How do we recognize them? How can language capture them? In his signature comic voice, Dufresne answers these questions and more in chapters such as "Writing Around the Block," "Plottery," and "The Art of Abbreviation." Dufresne demystifies the writing process, showing that while the idea of writing may be overwhelming, the act of writing is simplicity itself.

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