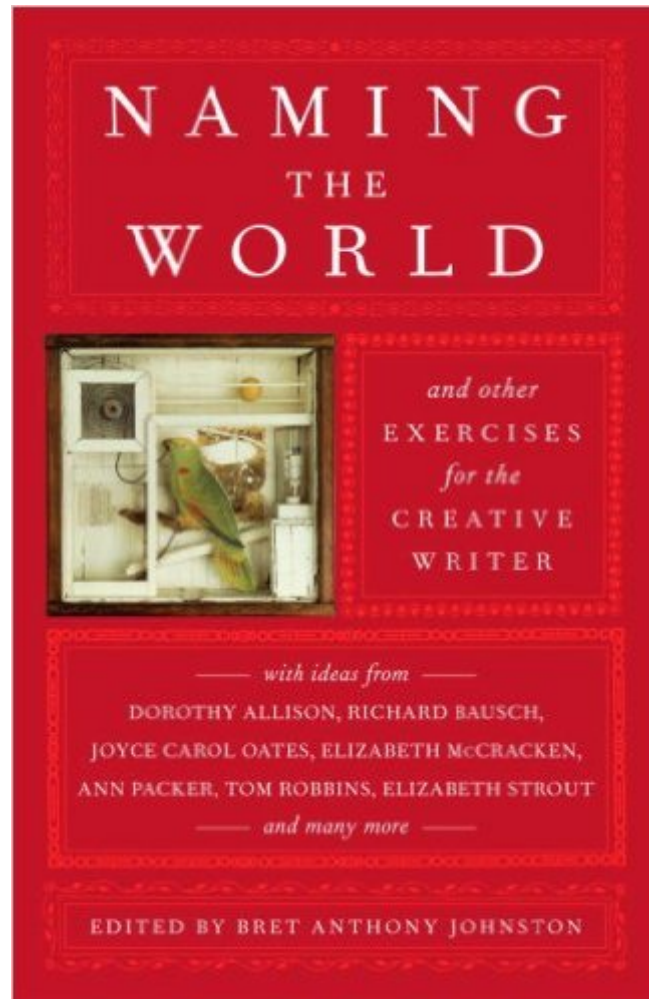


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Naming The World: And Other Exercises For The Creative Writer



Synopsis

You already have the tools to become a gifted writer; what you need is the spark. Harvard creative writing professor and acclaimed author Bret Anthony Johnston brings you an irresistible interactive guide to the craft of narrative writing. From developing characters to building conflict, from mastering dialogue to setting the scene, *Naming the World* jump-starts your creativity with inspiring exercises that will have you scrambling for pen and paper. Every chapter is a master class with the country's most eminent authors, renowned editors, and dedicated teachers.

- Infuse emotion into your fiction with three key strategies from Margot Livesey.
- Christopher Castellani dumps the "write what you know" maxim and challenges you to really delve into the imagination.
- A point-of-view drill from Susan Straight can be just the breakthrough you need to flesh out your story.
- Jewell Parker Rhodes shares how good dialogue is not just about what is being said but about what is being left unsaid.

Brimming with imaginative springboards and hands-on exercises, *Naming the World* has everything you need to become a stronger, more inventive writer. A delicious book. Imagine yourself at a cocktail party crammed with literary lions. You have the chance to spend a few moments with each of them. Wit and wisdom abound.

- "Julia Cameron, author of *The Artist's Way*—A highly useful and perceptive book. With charm and intelligence it touches on nearly every teachable aspect of the devilishly difficult art of writing."
- "Ethan Canin, professor of creative writing at the Iowa Writers Workshop, and author of *Carry Me Across the Water*—These entertaining and useful exercises, intelligently organized, are a boon for both beginning and experienced writers."
- "Andrea Barrett, National Book Award-winning author of *The Air We Breathe*—Forget about getting an MFA! For any writer struggling with his craft, here is the equivalent of a master class in writing by some of the best writer/teachers around."
- "Betsy Lerner, author of *The Forest for the Trees: An Editor's Advice to Writers*

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Customer Reviews

If you are as yet unfamiliar with the work of Bret Anthony Johnston, dear writer, there are two things you should know. The first is that his fiction is tight, controlled, alluring and fresh, so he knows whereof he speaks. (And if you haven't discovered him yet, I highly recommend purchasing *Corpus Christi* along with *Naming the World*; the former is a collection of Johnston's short stories.) The second is that Bret Anthony Johnston is currently one of our most vocal and devoted cheerleaders for the craft of writing. Like Ray Bradbury, Johnston is a writer's writer, someone who can become just as enthusiastic and excited about the process of writing as he can about the finished product itself. The introduction to *Naming the World* begins, "I don't believe in talent... Truth be told, I'm not at all sure that writing can be taught. I am positive, though, that it can be learned. What I believe in, as a writer and a teacher, is dedication." I once heard author Douglas Clegg say, "I don't believe the great American novel will be written by a writer who is 'great'; I believe it will be written by a writer who writes." He went on to say that, as writers, the greatest obstacle we have to conquer is the self-doubt that keeps us from writing. Because after all, as tired of a cliché as it may be, practice does indeed make perfect--or close enough to perfect to publish. For those of us, from novice to professional, whose lives are sustained by writing, *Naming the World* offers a buffet of appetizers, prepared by some of my favorite writers, designed to intensify our hunger for putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard. Johnston names dedication, stubbornness and discipline as the traits he believes will lead to writing as a vocation.

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