

Booklife by Jeff VanderMeer
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A 60 Second Guide to *Booklife: Strategies and Survival Tips for the 21st-Century Writer*

Re: Networking to nowhere

If you build a “network” that is all about you, that isn’t about people, then you don’t really have a network. Instead, you have a way to send electric telegrams.

Re: Your online presence

Level 1: Distant and Static. Level 2: Nearby and Available. Level 3: I Only Feel Alive and Manifested on the Internet.

Re: Should you release your Evil Monkey?

I would up creating an alter ego called Evil Monkey. I use Evil Monkey when my mischievous side comes out and I need to say something that will get me in trouble...

Re: Picasso vs. Chagall

The question is: Do I want continuity or flexibility? Another way to ask this question is: Do I want to be Picasso or Chagall? The mercurial, ever-curious Picasso was always changing his style, while Chagall used one style and perfected it throughout his career. Each approach to creativity requires a different approach to branding.

Re: Finding Inspiration

You can’t be madly in love all of the time. But if you’re not in love some of the time, how do you continue? Why do you write if not for that moment when you’ve opened up to the point where there’s nothing left of you but the story and the characters and the words?

Re: The nature of distraction

Work on my last novel, *Finch*, went well because every morning my long-suffering yet often amused wife Ann would hide the Internet router and my cell phone.

Re: Relinquishing all fetishes

These days I don’t care where I am when I write, who I’m with, or whether it’s midnight or noon. I don’t care if I scribble on a piece of toilet paper or in some fancy goatskin-lined tome.

Re: Writing a Novel in Two Months

Full on battles in temple ruins. Deadly African crocodiles. A secret Thai military base. A strange alien virus. Double crosses and last stands. Love and death in the tropics...

Re: Evil Monkey’s Guide to Creative Writing

Never trust writers who not only dress in black but also wear black pajamas. Do not go to a writer’s workshop and end up in a cult. No one has ever written truly immortal poetry about how good their dog looks in knitted garments.

