

Writer's Prayer

It's okay if you don't feel like it. It's okay if you're scared it will be bad and you will be embarrassed and you may feel hurt because you wanted to be a good writer, but it turned out that you weren't, at least not this time.

Your worth is independent of your work. You are, and always will be, equal to one worthiness unit, just like everyone else on the planet (even Toni Morrison, Daniel Silva, Barbara Kingsolver, and Kiese Laymon). It's okay if there are thousands of books on shelves and there are so many books that libraries are throwing books away. It's okay.

Your job is to write this one book and to make it the best you can. It doesn't matter if people don't read it (even though you wish they would). It doesn't matter if it sells 10 copies (even though you wish it would sell more). The main person you are writing this book for is you. This is your marathon.

Here – this page – is where you write. This is where you put it on the page so you can make it better. This is your blue-collar job.

Say aloud, "I give myself permission to suck." Then write.