

Mistakes I made so you don't have to.



(You're welcome.)

StephanieMorrill.com/OYANer

Writing Mistake #1

Writing the same few chapters
over...and over...and over
again.

- You can't finish a book this way.

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- You're experiencing diminishing returns.

The law of diminishing returns

“A concept in economics that if one factor of production (number of workers, for example) is increased while other factors (machines and workspace, for example) are held constant, the output per unit of the variable factor will eventually diminish.”

BusinessDictionary.com

The law of diminishing returns for writers

“If one factor of creating a novel (time spent writing and rewriting the first few chapters, for example) is increased while other parts (hours invested on writing the complete draft) are held constant, the amount of books you can write will eventually diminish.”

Writing Mistake #2
Writing (somewhat)
autobiographical novels

- Be intentional about main character choices.

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- Read books/articles that expose you to different cultures and schools of thought.

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- Listen to others. Ask questions that invite conversation. “That’s interesting. Tell me more.”

Writing Mistake #3

“But it worked for Sarah Dessen!”

Writing Mistake #4

Not understanding how much
character ages matter

Writing Mistake #5

Hinting at a Big Moment in the character's backstory ... but never writing the scene out.

Writing Mistake #6
Thinking I would find The Perfect
Novel Writing System

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- Reading my manuscript in as few sittings as possible.
- Editing big changes first, then editing scene by scene.

Publishing Mistake #1

Thinking agents and publishers would see my youth as an asset.

Publishing Mistake #2

Thinking my pitch sentence was just
for agents and editors

Publishing Mistake #3

Being excited that I sold my book
with no platform.

Publishing Mistake #4

Signing a multi-book contract for a series.

Publishing Mistake #5
Thinking other people are as
invested in my book as I am

Publishing Mistake #6
Believing my first novel would be
the hardest to sell.

Publishing Mistake #7
Not honoring my reality.
(Or “Ignoring my W’s”)

Honor your W's!

WHERE are you in life right now? In your writing journey?

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WHEN can you write?

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WHEN can you write?

WHAT kind of writer do you want to be?

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WHEN can you write?

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WHY do you write?

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- I shut my door.
- I learned from the many mistakes I made.