



Unless It Moves the Human Heart: The Craft and Art of Writing

By Roger Rosenblatt

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Multiple award-winner Roger Rosenblatt has received glowing critical acclaim for his exceptional literary works—from the hilarious novels *Lapham Rising* and *Beet* to his poignant, heartbreaking, ultimately inspiring memoir *Making Toast*. With *Unless It Moves the Human Heart*, the revered novelist, essayist, playwright, and respected writing teacher offers a guidebook for aspiring authors, a memoir, and an impassioned argument for the necessity of writing in our world. In the tradition of Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird*, Rosenblatt's *Unless It Moves the Human Heart* provides practical insights and advice on the craft, exquisitely presented by one of contemporary literature's living treasures.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Culled from his experiences teaching writing workshops, novelist, essayist, and longtime professor Rosenblatt (*Making Toast*) tackles the "why"--not the "how"--of writing by chronicling his winter/spring 2008 semester of "Writing Everything," wherein students discuss and write short stories, essays, and poetry. Chapters include these students' work; Rosenblatt's humor, wit, and wisdom; and classroom discussions of questions both obvious (how does a story differ from an essay?) and remarkably precise (how does James Joyce convey so much in the first sentence of "Clay" and what does it all mean?). The author repeatedly points out that he cannot teach his students to be professional writers, but rather to simply write better than they did before. Less a how-to book than a measured reflection on teaching, the work nonetheless offers aspiring writers many concrete suggestions (let your nouns do the work; go for imagination over invention; write with "restraint, precision, and generosity"). And the oft-invoked words of other authors should resonate with readers and writers alike. (Jan.)

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Review

"Less a how-to book than a measured reflection on teaching, [*Unless It Moves the Human Heart*] nonetheless offers aspiring writers many concrete suggestions...And the oft-invoked words of other authors should resonate with readers and writers alike." (Publishers Weekly)

"With this slim volume, Rosenblatt offers his take on the challenges and responsibilities facing would-be writers...The informal and succinct format makes [*Unless It Moves the Human Heart*] a fast read but not a simple one...an artful take on the writing life." (Library Journal)

"Roger Rosenblatt is the teacher you always wished you had... Adept and inventive, Rosenblatt encourages his students to write with moderation but think with grandiosity...Having skillfully addressed matters of style, he ends by eloquently approaching the spirit." (Boston Globe)

"*Unless It Moves the Human Heart* is right up there with Natalie Goldberg's "Writing Down the Bones," although less Zen, and Anne Lamott's "Bird by Bird," although less confessional... The book is filled with humor and practical advice..." (Washington Post)

"There is much to love and ponder within these passionate pages." (People)

From the Back Cover

For more than forty years, distinguished author Roger Rosenblatt has also been a teacher of writing, guiding students with the same intelligence and generosity he brings to the page, answering the difficult questions about what makes a story good, an essay shapely, a novel successful, and the most profound and essential question of them all—*why write?*

Unless It Moves the Human Heart details one semester in Rosenblatt's "Writing Everything" class. In a series of funny, intimate conversations, a diverse group of students—from Inur, a young woman whose family is

from Pakistan, to Sven, an ex-fighter pilot—grapples with the questions and subjects most important to narrative craft. Delving into their varied lives, Rosenblatt brings readers closer to them, emotionally investing us in their failures and triumphs.

More than a how-to for writers and aspiring writers, more than a memoir of teaching, *Unless It Moves the Human Heart* is a deeply felt and impassioned plea for the necessity of writing in our lives. As Rosenblatt wisely reminds us, "Writing is the cure for the disease of living. Doing it may sometimes feel like an escape from the world, but at its best moments it is an act of rescue."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Randy North:

Now a day folks who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside can be true or not require people to be aware of each information they get. How many people to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Examining a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Unless It Moves the Human Heart: The Craft and Art of Writing book because book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Betty Freeman:

This Unless It Moves the Human Heart: The Craft and Art of Writing is great book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it information accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Unless It Moves the Human Heart: The Craft and Art of Writing in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no publication that offer you world within ten or fifteen second right but this publication already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt in which?

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