



A Manner of Being: Writers on Their Mentors

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What do the punk singer Henry Rollins, the Guatemalan writer Rodrigo Rey Rosa, the American authors Tobias Wolff, Tayari Jones, and George Saunders, the Canadian writer Sheila Heti, and the Russian poet Polina Barskova have in common? At some point they all studied the art of writing deeply with someone.

The nearly seventy short essays in *A Manner of Being*, by some of the best contemporary writers from around the world, pay homage to mentors—the writers, teachers, nannies, and sages—who enlighten, push, encourage, and sometimes hurt, fail, and limit their protégés. There are mentors encountered in the schoolhouse and on farms, in NYC and in MFA programs; mentors who show up exactly when needed, offering comfort, a steadying hand, a commiseration, a dose of tough love. This collection is rich with anecdotes from the heartfelt to the salacious, gems of writing advice, and guidance for how to live the writing life in a world that all too often doesn't care whether you write or not.

Each contribution is intimate and distinct?yet a common theme is that mentors model a manner of being.

Selections include:

Arthur Flowers on John O'Killens

James Franco on Harmony Korine

Mary Gaitskill on an Ann Arbor bookstore owner

Noy Holland and Sam Lipsyte on Gordon Lish

Tayari Jones on Ron Carlson

Henry Rollins on Hubert Selby Jr.

Rodrigo Rey Rosa on Paul Bowles

George Saunders on Douglas Unger and Tobias Wolff

Christine Schutt on Elizabeth Hardwick

Tobias Wolff on John L'Heureux

. . . and many more

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From reader reviews:

Terry Grissom:

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