

# What I Learned from Writing my Breakout Book - Karen Dionne

## 1. Begin with character

- Character is less likely to be a stereotype
- Character shapes the story at the developmental stage, instead of reacting to events, they cause them

## 2. Explore writing techniques you haven't used before

Get the basics down, but don't be afraid to try something new. No writing is ever wasted. In the process, you might discover you're a better writer than you thought.

## 3. Listen to your gut

Is the book you're working on going to knock people's socks off? If not, why not? Can this be fixed? Or would your career be better served by setting it aside in favor of one that will?

## 4. It's all about emotion

In order to resonate with readers, a book has to touch them on an emotional level, and not just an intellectual one. Particularly in a psychological thriller, it's less about **what happens** in the story, and more about **who it happens to**.

## 5. Universal themes

You want your novel to do more than intrigue or fascinate readers; you want to touch them deeply. One of the best ways to achieve that is to give them a commonality with the character that they can relate to

## 6. Novels should be novel

You want your novel to feel fresh, surprising, and unexpected.

## Links

"Why Do You Want to be a Writer?" by David Morrell

[davidmorrell.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Morrell-SuccessfulNovelist-Ch1.pdf](http://davidmorrell.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Morrell-SuccessfulNovelist-Ch1.pdf)

Breaking Out by Changing It Up: Write Something New by Karen Dionne

[www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/guide-to-literary-agents/breaking-changing-write-something-new](http://www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/guide-to-literary-agents/breaking-changing-write-something-new)