

My Writing/Editorial Manifesto

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I believe that stories are priceless. They help us define and shape who we are as human beings, teach us empathy, and allow people – individually and collectively – to explore our place in the universe.

I believe that stories not only reveal history, but actively shape the future. Our individual lives and the broader cultures we live in are changed by the stories we tell.

I believe that a writer's desire and ability to create is both an expression of, and a connection to, that which is larger than ourselves.

I believe that storytellers have a responsibility to tell our stories to the best of our ability, regardless of whether those stories are meant as entertainment, instruction, or inspiration.

I believe that reading and writing work in partnership. Author and audience *together* shape a story. Audiences should be respected, never talked-down to, and never underestimated.

I believe good writing asks illuminating questions and/or evokes strong emotions.

I believe that writing is a process – a journey that is neither quick or easy, but has the potential to be a source of joy and growth.

I believe that everyone has a story to tell and that every story has value, whether it's meant for an audience of one or one million.

I believe in mentoring other writers on their journeys, using my experience, passion, and creativity to make a positive difference in their learning process.

I believe every author's unique voice should be preserved as much as possible, and that the final decision on editorial choices belongs to the creator of the work.

I believe that the true measure of success is a life lived well, and that authorial accolades and achievements are secondary to being a kind, loving person.