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WRITING WELL

“This is a book about what writing is, about how you do it so it works, and how you do it so it lasts.”

Writing Well is a workbook on technique, style, and manners for everyone who writes and wants to do it better. It’s a practical guide to making your prose sing. Writing is talk tidied and transcribed. It’s speech heightened by art, and most of the art can be learned. And that’s what this book is about.

Writing Well is a guide to the poetic disciplines of creative writing and the functional disciplines of professional prose, and it’s a reflection on the moral obligations and creative agonies of the writing life. Enriched by examples of fine prose from great writers, flush with exercises, informed by the author’s expertise in both creative and functional prose, *Writing Well* is a stylish and readable guide to stylish and readable writing.

MARK TREDINNICK is a poet, essayist, and writing teacher. His books include *The Land’s Wild Music* (2005) and *A Place on Earth* (2003). He runs acclaimed writing programs at the University of Sydney and at writers’ centers in Australia and the USA.

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For Maree,
the meaning and the music
and for the children,
whose world it is we're trying to tell

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Do but take care to express your self in a plain, easy Manner, in well-chosen, significant and decent Terms, and to give an harmonious and pleasing Turn to your Periods: Study to explain your Thoughts, and set them in the truest Light, labouring, as much as possible, not to leave 'em dark nor intricate, but clear and intelligible: Let your diverting Stories be express'd in diverting Terms...

MIGUEL CERVANTES, "Preface," *Don Quixote*

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I learned to write by listening and, later, by reading; I learned to write by writing; I learned to write by teaching others how to write. I didn't so much write this book as remember it; what you have here is everything I haven't forgotten of what's come to me from a life lived in sentences—most of them other people's.

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