

# Lisa Montanaro Writes



Ciao!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Prosecco & Prose.

While I've had a blog on this website for awhile, and a newsletter for my executive coaching and speaking business, I decided it was time to officially launch a newsletter on my writer website. I have so much I want to share! So whether you're a reader, writer, or lover of the creative journey, I'm thrilled that you're joining me.



Like many of you, I'm an avid reader, so every newsletter will include Reading Recommendations. I read across many genres, and review books on my writer website, Goodreads, Netgalley, Amazon, and social media. I love to help promote books written by my writer friends, as well as my writer coaching clients. Being a good literary citizen is important to me. If we haven't connected on some of those platforms yet, please do so. I would love to see what you're reading too!

I had the pleasure recently of co-presenting on the topic of "Productivity for Writers During the Pandemic" on Clubhouse, hosted by the literary agent Carly Watters. If you're not yet familiar with Clubhouse, think of it as podcasting with participation. It is currently for

TUE, APR 13 9:30 AM

 **BOOK TALK: Writers & Productivity During The Pandemic**

From PUBLISHING PROFESSIONALS 



w/ Carly Watters, George Jreije, Joanna Chiu, Lisa Montanaro & Jean Pendziwol — We talk all things productivity: how are writers getting things done during the pandemic? What does productivity look like right now? Are people meeting their deadlines?

iPhone users only, but will open up to other smartphone users in the future. If you'd like an invitation to join Clubhouse, [email me](#) with your cell phone number and I will send you one. If you missed that talk, no worries. I plan to highlight some productivity tips in future newsletter issues, so stay tuned!

On June 8th, I will be presenting "The Brand Called You: Personal & Professional Branding for Authors" for the Jericho

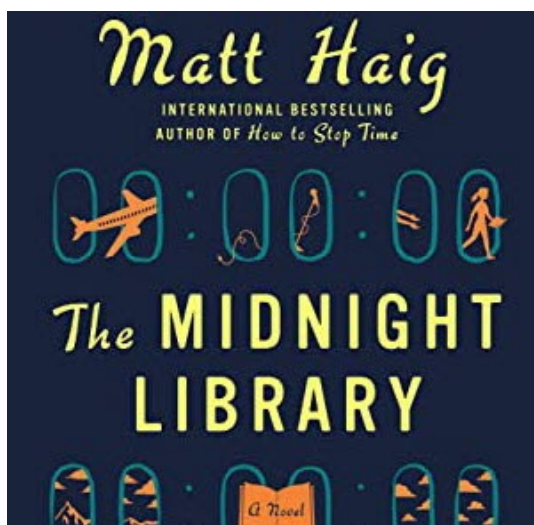
Writers Summer Festival of Writing, an online event with tons of fabulous professional development for writers. [Click here for more info.](#)

I've been working on my current manuscript for several years now. It is the one I hope will become my debut novel. It has been quite the journey! I feel almost like I've given myself a DIY-MFA the last few years, as I've dove deeply into craft, writing methodology, and rewritten and revised many versions. This project started as a series of personal essays then morphed into a memoir. Once I decided to turn it into a novel, the words really flowed. But that also meant heavily rewriting and revising large portions of the book. The book you start with is almost never the book you end up with. And that's okay. It's all part of the process. Onward!

Cheers

~ Lisa

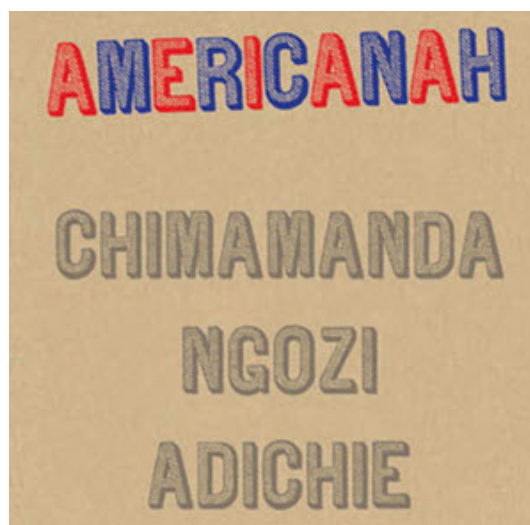
## Reading Recommendations



### The Midnight Library

by Matt Haig

This book is so clever, creative, unique, and gripping. I listened to it on audio and loved that Carey Mulligan is the narrator. I was completely immersed in Nora's story,



### Americanah

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

What a great book. At its core, it is a love story between two people that meet when they're young and then circle their way back to each other later in life, only to find

and found the book fast-paced and riveting...

that they and the world have changed considerably.

[Read More](#)

[Read More](#)

## Writing Reflections

### Surround Yourself with Believing Eyes on Your Creative Journey



The life coach, writer, and Harvard negotiator Martha Beck talks about the concept of believing eyes in her book *Finding Your Northstar* — a book that I devoured when I was making a major career transition from being a lawyer to launching my own business in 2002 on the heels of the 9/11 tragedy. This concept of believing eyes is that you should surround yourself with people that believe in your vision for the future. It's not only something I try to live by, but also share with my coaching clients and speaking engagement audiences.

A writer friend said something recently that really resonated with me. She said that

every book has a midwife that helps birth it into the world. I loved that concept. I was chatting with another friend and she said that once the book comes out into the world, your book also has godparents.

To me, these are all ways of saying something similar to what Beck was talking about with the concept of believing eyes.

So imagine my wonderful surprise, joy, and gratitude when I received a package in the mail recently and opened it to find a beautiful bracelet spelling out the words AUTHOR in an old-fashioned typewriter motif. This was gifted to me by one of my long-term close friends who I have known since we're fourteen years old. I've shared details about the book I hope will be my debut novel and she's listened with excitement. She always has my back and is there to support me on my writing journey. I will wear this bracelet proudly! And every time I look at it, it will remind me that she believes in me, and in this book and the story within it. That she is one of my believing eyes!

Figure out who your believing eyes are. And hold onto them dearly. They are worth their weight in gold.

## Coaching Corner

I was doing a coaching session with one of my writer coaching clients recently, and she shared how although she decided to coach with me to work on her branding and productivity, it was actually the mindset shifts that helped her the most. Yes, we worked on

her social media profiles, created content for her website, drafted her bios, and worked on her writing schedule. But the deep work we did on shifting her mindset as a writer is what freed her up to give herself permission to “put herself and her words out there.”

I happened to use the phrase, “*Writing a book is like getting a tattoo on your face*” during our coaching session and it struck us both how true that statement really is. You are said to bleed onto the page as a writer. It can feel revealing and a bit scary. Add to that the branding component that writers these days face in order to promote their work, and for some, it elevates that fear even more.



We need to come to terms with the fact that we are setting forth emotional truths when we write and release them into the world. Wear those tattoos proudly!

If you need help with branding, business, productivity, or mindset coaching, contact me to see if we are a good match. I promise my version of a writer's tattoo won't hurt. :-)



*"I interviewed a few writer coaches and felt like Lisa and I clicked during our initial Cappuccino Chat. I signed up for the 3-month Pronto Package and then added on an extra month to continue. Lisa helped me to see the focus of my fiction - my unique position of life experience to write exactly this, and my branding words. It was liberating - this is what I do, this is who I am, only I can write this.*

*I was amazed by not only Lisa's generosity and kindness, but also floored by her willingness to go into the ugly closet of issues I didn't think would come up (because I hide them so well), and how well she handled them when they did raise their ugly heads. I'm not sure other coaches would have wanted, or been able, to go "there" with me. It was so much more than productivity and branding for my writer career! It was the mental game, the issues that were holding me back. The chance to exorcise them with a kind, understanding, and capable writer coach was beyond helpful. It was, pretty much, either life-changing or game-changing- or both!"*

~ LuLu Johnson, Southern Writer, Woman of the World, <https://lu2johnson.com/>

## Need Some Writer Coaching?