



Writers at Work: The Paris Review Interviews, First Series

Malcolm Cowley (Editor)

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Paris Review First Series is the first of collection literary interviews published by The Paris Review (1959), edited by Malcolm Cowley (and includes his introduction, "How Writers Write").

Interviews: Francois Mauriac, E.M. Forster, Joyce Cary, Dorothy Parker, James Thurber, Thornton Wilder, William Faulkner, Georges Simenon, Frank O'Connor, Robert Penn Warren, Alberto Moravia, Nelson Algren, Angus Wilson, William Styron, Truman Capote, Françoise Fagan.

Writers at Work: The Paris Review Interviews, First Series Details

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C says

Would give it six stars if I could.

Mark says

I have no idea how interviews with writers were conducted before *The Paris Review* debuted in 1953, but the interviews in this volume set the standard for how to talk to writers about their ideas, their creative process, and their work.

Some of more successful than others, but I believe this has more to do with a particular author's reticence than with the interviewers' methods. Even so, I gleaned something from each of these interviews, even the ones with authors whose work I have not read--and there are lot of those in this volume. I hadn't even heard of a few of them (Joyce Cary and Françoise Sagan), which is either because they are not as widely read now as they were sixty years ago, or because I just haven't discovered them yet.

In any case, an enjoyable collection.

D.N. says

Skipped around in this a lot because some interviews are more compelling than others. On the whole, though, it's an outstanding series of interviews that reveal many insights into the craft of writing.

Annette says

There are more of these and I intend to look for them...I like reading about artists, finding out about their thought processes or at the very least a little about their personalities.

Karen says

David Bowie's Formative Reading List of 75 Favorite Books
#35

Satisfying Quick Reads for Short Attention Spans

A collection of fifty years of interviews with famous authors from The Paris Review, famous for these golden interviews. The writing is conversational because these were actually conversations, and the question and answer format makes it easy to come to a stopping place.

João Barros says

Uma aula sobre como realizar entrevistas com elegância, inteligência e perspicácia.

Jeff says

Having read a number of interviews from authors I enjoy the most: Forster, Capote, Faulkner, etc.; I can say that this collection certainly provides insight into the personalities of these writers just as much as it makes suggestions about their craft.

Printable Tire says

All these books are awesome. 99% of what you hear about famous authors comes from the interviews in these books. You've got to pick them up.

Nina-Marie Gardner says

A great bedside table book - read an interview an evening. The Paris Review has a series of these, but this is my favorite for the Dorothy Parker interview alone. Nelson Algren discussing *The Man with the Golden Arm* was not what I expected (and kind of disappointing - in terms of my perception of Algren both the man & the writer... ah well.) There's Faulkner & Truman Capote too, both fantastic, fascinating interviews. And Styron, this one stayed with me and will be the one I go back to - *Lie Down in Darkness* easily one of my favorite books of all time. (Apparently RICHARD YATES wrote a screenplay for *Lie Down in Darkness* - can you imagine?!!! Holy crap it boggles the mind - what I would give to read that!!! I found it once on Amazon - the screenplay - but it cost about \$250 and was way out of my budget. Now who knows where it might be?) Anyway, the Styron interview is epic - once you get past the racism at the beginning. Actually, I found it online - you can read it here:
<http://www.theparisreview.org/intervi...>

Kerry Kenney says

David McCullough says "I read a wonderful account of, in an interview with Thornton Wilder, the great playwright, in a collection of interviews done by the Paris Review called, *Writers at Work*. I still go back and read those interviews for inspiration and understanding; these date from the late 1950s/early 1960s"

Sharon Barrow Wilfong says

The Paris Review interviewed many authors for the last sixty-eighty years. This is the second edition which

was published in the fifties. It includes E.M. Forster (the oldest author interviewed), Dorothy Parker, James Thurber, William Faulkner, Georges Simenon, Truman Capote as well as many others.

I found the interviews to be especially enlightening since I enjoy writing. Each has his own philosophy, reason for writing, what defines good writing and so on.

Thanks to this book I got read about some of my favorite authors opinions and what makes them so good and also discovered a few authors whose works I now want to read.
