

DIVE IN: A ten month course starting Friday September 10th

In this highly practical, structured course, novelist and renowned writing mentor Jill Dawson will work with you in a series of webinars and discussion to offer techniques, inspiration, encouragement and the discipline needed to make this the year you write that novel you've long dreamed of writing. Each monthly Friday webinar Jill – or a guest writer or agent - will explore a key aspect of writing a novel. The sessions will be an injection of energy and inspiration to help you get the novel inside you onto the page and learn how to create, improve, rewrite and shape it into something really special. You will be part of an exclusive writing community, and enjoy input from special guests (to be confirmed) from our Gold Dust team, insider tips from the publishing world and a webinar from a top literary agent.

This ten month online course is suitable for writers at all levels, whether you have an idea for a novel and a desire to write it, or whether you're an experienced writer who simply wants some deadlines, prompts, cheer-leading and accountability to get you to the end.

One, Friday September 10th, 2021 2-4pm

Welcome and beginnings.

Starting a novel & making a plan. Where do our ideas come from? Why *this* novel, *now*? (Should I write the other idea I have for a book?) What do I need to develop it and keep it going? How much planning should I do? What research do I need? How do I begin? Jill will give you all her best tips for cutting through the confusion and getting started, with a gentle plan and accountability so that you can meet the next month with a slightly clearer idea of where this novel is going.

Two, Friday October 1st 2021 2-4pm

Character

Techniques of characterisation: Who is my central character? What about two- handers, ensemble novels, and minor characters? What does a protagonist need to carry a whole novel? How to grow the novel and cope with all the ideas and natural chaos of the early drafting stage.

Three: Friday 5th November 2021 2-4pm

Plot

Guest Gold Dust tutor from our Gold Dust team

One of our award-winning novelists will talk you through plot, structure and how to find the heart of your story.

Four, 3rd December 2021

2-4pm

Finding Time to Write

Tutor: Jill Dawson

Practical questions; developing a routine. What to do when you get stuck, keeping going, hitting the first major turning point – writing what you *don't* know. Dealing with breaks, family commitments, and yet still feeling like a novelist.

Five, January 13th 2022

2-4pm

Rebooting

Tutor: Jill Dawson

Starting again after a break. Reading our own work.

Research for novelists.

Seven points for novelists to consider when researching

Six, February 4th 2022

2-4pm

Genre

Guest Gold Dust tutor

Seven, March 4th 2022

2-4pm

Voice

Tutor: Jill Dawson

How does a writer create a distinctive voice?

Memories and autobiographical material, what is beneath the text.

Should I care if I don't have one? Some tips on voice, on the prose itself, on poetry.

Eight, April 7th 2022

2-4pm

Dialogue

Gold Dust tutor

Nine, May 5th 2022

2-4pm

Guest: Literary Agent

Second half:

Learning not to fear the synopsis – a special session with Jill Dawson

Ten, June 8th 2022

2-4pm

Checking in: where are you?

Jill Dawson

Redrafting, troubleshooting & next steps

Celebrating your progress and making a promise to yourself to finish. A chance to reflect on what you've achieved and plan your next steps.

1. Friday 10th **September 2021 Beginnings**
2. Friday 1st **October 2021 Character**
3. Friday 5th **November 2021 Plot** (guest)
4. Friday 3rd **December 2021 Finding Time**
5. Friday **January 13th 2022 Rebooting**
6. Friday **February 4th 2022 Genre** (guest)
7. Friday **March 4th 2022 Voice**
8. Friday **April 7th 2022 Dialogue** (guest)
9. Friday **May 5th 2022 Agent** (guest)
10. Friday **June 8th 2022 What next?**