EXTRACT USED IN 'BUILDING A NEW CHARACTER'

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Start Writing Fiction

Extract used in ‘Building a new character’

Josip Novakovich – Fiction Writer’s Workshop

Working with character


If you give quick, spontaneous answers, you might surprise yourself with the character that emerges. Don’t worry if this works like a Rorschach blot, if it reveals something about you. You might do it in a silly way, have fun, and still get an idea for a character. And you might do it quite thoughtfully, in relation to your plot, if you’ve chosen one. (Let’s say, your plot involves a son who gambles away his patrimony, until he becomes a father, and then works so hard to leave his son with a patrimony that he spend any time with him, and his son disowns him. You must devise character traits that would make him plausible.) If you don’t have a plot yet, some of the answers to these questions, particularly the last one – the character’s major struggle – might give you ideas.

Once you know almost enough – you hardly ever know enough – about the character, test her out. Portray her.