

★ **(Don't) Stop Me if You've Heard This Before: And Other Essays on Writing Fiction****Peter Turchi**

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For creative souls who yearn to achieve greatness in their work, the insights shared throughout Peter Turchi's *(Don't) Stop Me If You've Heard This Before* will be game-changing.

Turchi's essays push past the solid but limited advice of 101 workshops ("show, don't tell;" kill your darlings) to advocate for greater awareness in the construction and revision of one's stories: "There is value in thinking the process through, in examining every part of what we do." Deconstructing notable novels and stories (and even personal anecdotes) to highlight instances wherein greatness arises, Turchi walks aspiring authors through the nuances of factors like imagery, narrative perspectives, character relationships, and even the dreaded first line. The upside to being so meticulous, he suggests, is that care enables storytellers to create works that don't only hold attention in the moment, but that last in people's memories—whose sharpest bits burrow into readers' beings.

"I encourage you to at least consider being a little more scheming, even a little devious," Turchi winks. Those daring writers who rise to the challenge will find their work enriched by *(Don't) Stop Me If You've Heard This Before*, the most valuable (and cost effective) creative writing course you'll ever take.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (January / February 2023)

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