How To Think Sideways: Weird Time Travel Moment

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Your own personal Stranger

I was digging through the weblog, trying to remember when exactly I suggested doing the **How To Think Sideways** course, and when readers voted on that course above all others as the one they wanted next.

And it was here:

My Top Twelve New Course Ideas

Reading over those course ideas, I'm amazed (and a bit disturbed) at how many of them ended up incorporated in **How To Think Sideways**.

Small Writing Courses

- *How to Start Your Novel*
  Yes. It's in there.
- *How to Finish Your Novel*
  Yes. It's in there.

- *How to Polish and Submit Your Novel*
  Yes. It’s in there.

- *How to Pitch Your Novel to Pro Markets*
  Yes. It’s in there.

- *How to Make Your Story Break Their Hearts*
  Yes. It’s in there.

- *How to Write Page-Turning Scenes*
  No. WAAAY too much info to cover in just one lesson—but I did follow up by making it its own separate course.

BIG Writing Courses

- *Create A World Clinic*
  No. Not in there. But it’s the last writing course on my schedule, and it is about a third done.

- *Crit of the Month Club*
  I’m poleaxed by this one. Yes, it’s in there, as the Walkthrough. Not completed yet. It’s what I’ll be doing while I write WARPAINT.

- *Novel Writing Secrets*
  Yes. It’s in there. Every single solitary bit of it.

- *How to Think Sideways*
  Yep. This is all in there, too.

- *Character Clinic Upgrade*
  Yes. Even most of THIS is in there.

- *Learn to Write in a New Genre in One Month*
  I cut it down to *How To Learn A New Genre in One Lesson*. But yes. It’s in there.

Now here’s the part that’s just really, truly wacky.

I did not consult that list while I wrote **How to Think Sideways**. I just wrote what I thought was that one course idea, and used the examples I needed to use to make my points…and somehow almost everything else on that list shoehorned its way in.

The subconscious mind, however, is a tricky, twisty creature—and mine clearly was up to something during the whole seven-eight months it took me to create the first version of the course…and then the many, many months I’ve spent doing upgrades and additions.

Today, I came around a corner and surprised my Muse at work, and it looked at me, winked, and said “Gotcha.”

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