

WINTERING

Aim: to write with intensity and imagination of Eiseley and Selzer, but since I lack their special fields of expertise to fuel the prose, I must take history, personal experience, rumination, as my specialty.

Make this a good-humored book, able to laugh at myself a bit.

Concentrate on description.

I give you the most heartfelt toast: May you live forever, and I never die.

Sequence for next to last day:

lead--But of course he fell considerably short of forever, although he likely came nearer than I will. On the Ooth..

next--gravestone, amid lofty merchants' tombs, his is like lectern

next--Across town, in museum, tattered pages of Pt. T paper: quote abt Indians at his casket.

Last day: One more visit to be made...I have heard that it still exists... calculate ahead to going to Cape F with C to look for whales, then to end of winter aboard ferry...then the carved swan. Describe, conclude by saying that it is something different By now from art or fossil, singular, a portion of the coast.

to write with the detail of a scrimshander and the scope of a mapmaker

WINTER

From readers' comments, Sky evidently is, as Marsh once said, a dense book. Should Winter be as dense, or more crystalline?

winter

reveal Swan--tell his background--piecemeal through the book.

WINTER

(possible lead)

Questions: (go on with immediate list of several)

winter

Eyoke Dad and Grandma a time or two, and let it go at that.

emphasize Swan's curiosity

vary the rhythms of using Swan's quoted words within my own narrative sentences--  
as in Qn Ch narrative--by having some of his quotes first in ~~some~~ sentence, ~~or~~ an  
occasional one in the middle, etc.

winter

give birds, and all else of nature, a selfhood.

portray Swan fully as possible by his quotes: paste up the quotes separately  
and see how they stand on their own.

Make each section of the book unique and deep: a single portrait, linked to others by detail and commonality of narrative technique.

do a personality sketch, and complete physical description, of

Swan, and see that it emerges completely in the course of the ms.

Three characters must come to life in the book: Swan, me, and Swan's words.

WINTER

Give the book drama, pace, storyline--make it a story, with some suspense.

WINTER

find a supple form for the book

Make it plain Swan is not my blood-relative. But perhaps in Day 2, insert to reader, Think of him as some uncle or grandparent distant in time...

17  
lead:

*used*

God, how the blood strums in weather like this.  
(air)

There, then, is Swan. Or rather, a start on him, for he has several angles of approach.

(use after Swell incident in Day 2?)

I have been housebound for 00 days, lost in Swan's words and mine.  
Tomorrow, to..1

cabin fever

check S's diary entry for the day Peter Scott Doig was born in  
Scotland; or day the Carpathia left with first Doig for America?

like brothers, we could quarrel about that.

lead:intersperse a quoted incident from Swan

--Makah ceremony as savage as 20 years before

--waves making organ note at NB

piled extracts from the diaries, yellow pads of notes, filecards--

my ~~office~~ workspace is beginning to look like Swan's office piled with artifacts.

Apt enough: he is the tribe I am interested in.

I have watched to see what comments Swan had on ~~xxx~~ events of the time.

Custer's massacre...Nothing. OO. Nothing. It takes something stupendous:

(quote on Garfield's ass'n)

~~Technique~~

Solve - leads.

technique:

use of quotes from Swan should build--quicken, become more natural--  
until in the Qn Ch narrative it is a fluent blend of my words and his, even  
within sentences.

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Write as an alien in nature; as a creature, badger-like, within the glass hill  
(of house) against which birds fly to their deaths.

We (S and I) talk within these pages: we could discuss...

winter (Day 30+ -  
Jan. 19+ →

Forbes cabin: describe the cabin, weather, the mountain.

Write of presence of Trudy and Howard: Trudy's story of start of WWII-- when word came in Sept., '39, her father came from house and called to Trudy and her sister, "Better come in now, girls, the war has begun." (used in Eng. Act)

Howard's short war: trained to storm Hitler's redoubt, taught German phrases (use some), Germany surrendered the day he landed.

winter

examples of talking to myself

Are we, then, kin of this season? Very well. Winter brothers.

technique: move Swan in and out of present tense. By Qn Chs, make it entirely present tense?

WINTERING

describe neighborhood: Boeing Creek, Hidden Lake, walk around the block, hang-gliders' hill. Then into legal description--rectangular survey. On to history of WSS house?

Roy Silen's "Double Planet" musings on owning land.

cut all literary quotes from ms

Between Port Townsend and the sea...

*(use as a Day lead)*

a sort of archive...

Swan and diaries as living archive...

point up the good humor of NW Coast and some of Swan's other writing