

### [What Makes a Good Writing Guide?](#) [1]

November 6, 2013 [Advice](#) [2]

[Book Reviews](#) [3]

[Journalism](#) [4]

## TW Review by Emily Toth

### From Classics to “Dummies”: The Rage for Nonfiction

I grew up believing that **The Great American Novel** should be a writer's goal. The novel was the queen, the form that mattered. I wrote my first when I was nine. Thirty years later, I actually published one. Just one.

I hope the world's not waiting for a sequel to my *Daughters of New Orleans*. I hope my fans have gone on with their lives.

That's because nonfiction—biographies, advice columns, food writing—has turned out to be where I've found my voice. I like to dig around in other people's dirt and ask impertinent questions. In nonfiction, you can expose, hector, pontificate, chortle—and get published doing it.