

WD Author Interview: Nancy Ellen Dodd

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The Writer's Compass author Nancy Ellen Dodd talks about writing and the writer's life in this exclusive Q&A.

When did you first know that you wanted to be a witer?

As a child I was writing stories in my head all of the time. In those stories I was always the star. At the time I thought I wanted to be an actor, but then one day, sometime in junior high or high school, I started writing and I realized that was my bliss.

What was the first thing you ever wrote?

I believe it was a story about an interracial relationship, which didn't happen where I grew up. So it was something very daring. But the writing project that really moved me forward was a play I wrote in high school about the Vietnam War called "The Hero." My teacher told me that I should do something with it, if I didn't he would. Over the years I worked on it as a short story, then as a play. A friend of mine read it and said, "We are going to produce this." I was asked to update it to the war in Afghanistan and we produced a 37-minute film, which received recognition in some film festivals. I've since expanded it to a feature-length screenplay. I guess the moral to this is that if you are passionate about a story, don't give up on it.