



# Kicking In the Wall: A Year of Writing Exercises, Prompts, and Quotes to Help You Break Through Your Blocks and Reach Your Writing Goals

By Barbara Abercrombie



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“I would go as far as I could and hit a wall,” said musician and memoirist Patti Smith. In response, playwright Sam Shepard advised, “When you hit a wall, just kick it in.” Writing teacher Barbara Abercrombie’s powerful writing prompts give us just the push we need to do it. Like a workout with a top trainer, her exercises warm up, stretch, and build creative muscle.

*Kicking In the Wall* includes quotes from famous writers to accompany the exercises, as well as real-world examples of completed exercises by the author’s students in the UCLA Extension Writer’s Program. Though Abercrombie says readers need only commit to five minutes per exercise, she writes, “I’ve seen novels, memoirs, and many essays get started in those five minutes, and a lot ended up being published.” Her playful method is essential fuel for writers trying to get off the starting block, persevere through challenges, and cross their personal creativity finish lines.



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Praise for Barbara Abercrombie's Writing Books:

"Barbara Abercrombie is a truly gifted teacher."

— **Jacqueline Winspear**, author of the Maisie Dobbs mysteries

"Funny and full of comfort (and the company of writing rock stars), this book is as essential to any writer as a verb."

— **Caroline Leavitt**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Pictures of You*

"There is something necessary in these pages for everyone, from the beginning writer to the widely published author."

— **Naomi Benaron**, author of *Running the Rift*, winner of the Bellwether Prize for Fiction

#### About the Author

A widely published author and editor, **Barbara Abercrombie** teaches at the UCLA Extension Writer's Program. She lives in Santa Monica, California.

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**Lowell Seymour:**

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