



## Keep Going: 10 Ways to Stay Creative in Good Times and Bad

*Austin Kleon*

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The world is crazy. Creative work is hard. *And nothing is getting any easier!*

In his previous books—*Steal Like an Artist* and *Show Your Work!*, *New York Times* bestsellers with over a million copies in print combined—Austin Kleon gave readers the key to unlock their creativity and then showed them how to share it. Now he completes his trilogy with his most inspiring work yet.

**Keep Going** gives the reader life-changing, illustrated advice and encouragement on how to stay creative, focused, and true to yourself in the face of personal burnout or external distractions. Here is how to **Build a Bliss Station**—a place or fixed period where you can disconnect from the world. How to see that **Every Day Is Groundhog Day**—yesterday's over, tomorrow may never come, so just do what you can do today. **How to Forget the Noun, Do the Verb**—stop worrying about being a “painter” and just paint.

Keep working. Keep playing. Keep searching. Keep giving. Keep living. **Keep Going.** It's exactly the message all of us need, at exactly the right time.

## Keep Going: 10 Ways to Stay Creative in Good Times and Bad Details

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Author : Austin Kleon

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## **From Reader Review Keep Going: 10 Ways to Stay Creative in Good Times and Bad for online ebook**

### **Becky says**

Another gem from Austin Kleon! So many tips, Kleonisms and words of inspiration. Fans will devour this quick and easy read and new fans will appreciate his wisdom. Most definitely a book to read again and again!

Note: I received a Netgalley advance copy and will definitely purchase this book.

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### **Ashley Holstrom says**

A real review will come eventually. But this book is just what I needed.

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### **Kalyn says**

This book is a to the point reminder of what we need to do to remain creative despite the chaos of the world around us. Entertainingly illustrated and peppered with encouraging quotes from other creatives. Kleon has pulled together the 10 things that creatives need to know about creating, but often lose sight of when we get frustrated or bogged down in the negativity that is so present at this moment. This lovely book is the perfect gift for a creative who seems to be struggling or second guessing their passion.

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### **Kelly Lynn Thomas says**

Keep Going is a practical pep talk for writers, artists, and creatives of all types. It's full of wisdom on how to walk the creative path to have a fulfilling, happy, and not awful/stressed out/falling apart. For the most part, I think the 10 "tips" were spot on, though I wish he would have spent more time on a few of them.

The chapter on "Slay the Art Monsters" could have used more fleshing out. In it, he brings up the issue of artists who happen to be horrible people and cautions us not to fall into that trap. It's one of the shortest chapters, but one I think bears more exploration. As artists, how do we reckon with artists in our field who might have produced brilliant art but are also horrible people? Kleon doesn't suggest throwing the baby out with the bathwater (i.e. dismissing horrible people's art out of hand because they were horrible), but doesn't offer much in the way of figuring out how to approach this kind of art/artist.

One other thing missing from this book was a discussion of community. It comes up a few times, but I think he could work it in a bit more. Community is important to any artist, and that's a place where a lot of new/beginning artists tend to struggle.

Still, overall, this is a great book, and one I will gladly hand out to young artists in my family, and to my adult friends who are just starting on a new creative journey.

Note: I read an advanced reading copy from the publisher, so the final content may be slightly different than what I read. I'll update my review when the book comes out if I need to.

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### **Anya says**

I liked Austin Kleon's first two works. They were short and to the point, acting as a reminder of what, how and why we do art and creative work. I also enjoyed *Keep Going*, which as a procrastinator, I do struggle with the most. He's making the reader reflect on why we do what we do and what we as individual artists want to express. A cute compendium that fits on every artists shelf. The perfect SOS book to grab if you are in a slump and need a pick up. I received a copy from Netgalley and all opinions expressed are entirely my own.

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### **Ramona Mead says**

I enjoyed Kleon's previous works. I appreciate his honest approach to being a creative type: It isn't easy, and it's what we are called to do, so it can take work to find balance, and continue creating when we don't feel like it. I like *Keep Going* best of Kleon's books because it's broken down into 10 chunks that address different aspects off living a creative life. As always with his work, there's humor, unique poems and illustrations, plus plenty of quotes and advice from other creatives.

Many thanks to NetGalley for an advanced digital copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Erik Tanouye says**

Got an ARC of this at Housing Works after taking some old books there to donate today.

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### **Jeremy says**

Note: I received this book as an ARC from NetGalley.

I thought this book was great. It's a short read that offers plenty of motivation to keep working on the stuff that makes you excited, and it made me want to continue my work. As any other artist, I often feel the sense of futility with my work. A common question is, "What's the point?" Austin Kleon's book makes a resounding statement that we should care about our work, and that it is important.

I really liked the brevity of the book. Too often I think we have the tendency to try and expound forever on a topic, but sometimes it's worth being brief and to the point.

I highly recommend this book to any other person looking to do work that matters.

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## **Jessica Gilham says**

I am IN LOVE with this book.

It could very easily end up being my favourite book of the year, even at this early stage.

I think there's something about the world that we live in that just needs more positivity. More hope. And somehow in the short 200 or so pages in 'Keep Going' I feel revived and ready to take on the world anew. I tend not to take these sorts of tip/self-help books so seriously, but THIS? My folks, THIS was brilliant. I feel so enlightened and inspired by not only Austin's words but all of the quotes that he included. I'm a quotes person, I am, but these were so meaningful that I'm here clicking my fingers and applauding like I was watching slam poetry. Plus all of the anecdotes of all the creatives - writers, artists, etc. were AH-mazing.

You know how people often ask you what is the one book you would recommend to EVERYONE? Y'all. This is the one. I feel particularly inspired to hand a copy to all the creative people in my life and also all of those who are in year 12 and beginning university. This was soul food and my soul is now FULL.

Needless to say, when this book hits the shelves I will be buying multiple copies.

Austin Kleon, sir, you have yourself a new fan.

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## **Rachel Watkins says**

During these heavy times, it's nice to get a little pep talk when you need it. Austin Kleon's newest, KEEP GOING, fits the bill. With kind advice that isn't cloying, Kleon helps us remember what is important. I read this straight through but know I'll pick it up to any random page from time to time for a little pat on the back. I'll be hand selling this as a gift book for graduates and those needing a boost.

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## **Teresa Svarc says**

Loved it!

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## **Karen says**

4.5 stars.

When I saw there was an Austin Kleon book coming out, I knew it was an occasion to celebrate. I was super excited when I got the approval email from netgalley, and not-shockingly, I read the whole wonderful book in one sitting. (I am sure he would tell me to slow down, savor, and appreciate the book. But I couldn't. I will just have to reread it so I can do that the second time around.)

I've read several of Austin Kleon's books and this has the same format as the others. It's a little book, full of wisdom. I highlighted so many parts of the book that I am not sure I can capture all of them here.

I am not a full-time artist, I don't make a living on art, or even make any money, but as someone who has stopped spending time being creative in the last year, I knew this book would help get me back on track.

And so much of the wisdom here is exactly what I am trying to implement to bring art/journaling back into my life. Here are some of the notes I took:

- a daily routine and observe, where are the spaces in my day (maybe i can book a 30 minute meeting at work to do art? could I pull that off?)
- choosing what I spend my time on (am I spending my time the way I want do, what am I doing on automatic?)
- make a list of all the todos, make a list of all the won't dos, make a list of all the want to learns
- i loved the journaling idea of thankful/"need help with"
- make a list of all i did that day, what i want from tomorrow, and then be done with the day (i love this as the ritual of letting the day go.) i also loved the idea of letting the day be (instead of crumpling it up.)
- "If you wait for someone to give you a job title before you do the work, you might never get to do the work at all." This is so true in so many areas. At my job, too!
- Practicing art is helps make your soul grow. so important for me to remember!
- i liked the idea about rereading my diaries. a bit scary, too :)
- i also loved the idea of visiting the past, reading old books, I should read some Seneca!
- i also loved remembering that art (like many things) happens in cycles and that maybe i was in a quiet cycle for the last year or so.

This is just a sampling of what I highlighted in this lovely book bursting with wonderful inspiration and quiet wisdom. It's a book I will keep coming back to again and again.

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### **Rebecca says**

I LOVED this! It's full of helpful tips to harness your creativity but also offers a piece of comfort. I feel like it's one of those books that I will keep going back to & rereading often.

I love the cover & the font used. The little comics are quirky and I enjoyed the quotes.

I'd definitely gift this to people!

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