



## March '25 Scoops4Scribes from Barbra Rodriguez

Writing tips, publishing industry  
insights, and more for developing  
authors

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### Adding Impact in Chapter and Book Endings



One of the writing and editing groups I'm in on social media has a "First Line Friday" event because authors have it hammered into their heads that the first sentence of a book is key to capturing readers' interest. While that's important, people tend to remember most the last thing they read, such as the end of a sentence. That's why feature writers will often end a paragraph with a sentence that has a kick to it, and why

it's worth considering your chapter endings, as well as your work's overall finale. Having a high energy closing to chapters partly helps readers stay motivated to continue on, and helps in feeling satisfied enough to share recommendations once done.

Learn about several ways to change up the energy of your chapter finales, such as leaving a question hanging about a protagonist's fate, or providing a startling fact in nonfiction. You'll also learn in my blogpost about the value of being clear about each chapter's main point, or theme, and some approaches for ending a book that up energy. This includes more subtle ending approaches, such as the way Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich leaves things murky in the braided memoir, *The Fact of a Body*, that interweaves their family story related to a pedophile, and thoughts about a convicted child murderer's guilt.

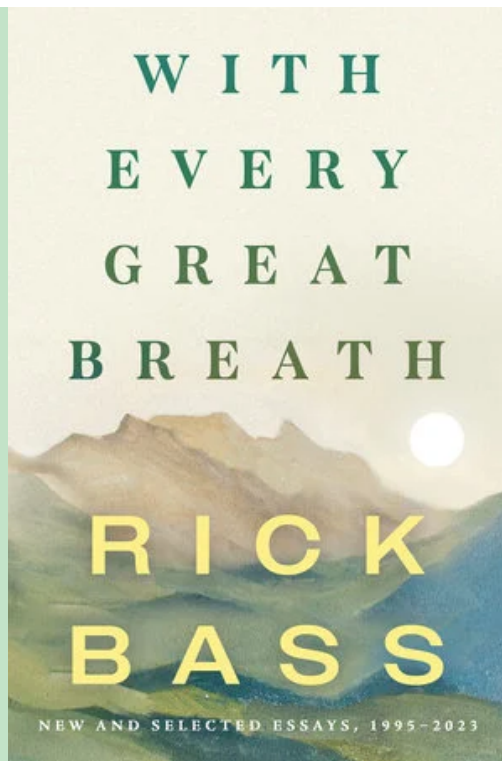
Often, doing this developmental work on themes and endings brings a win-win, leading writers to a deeper appreciation for why they felt compelled to cover a topic in the first place.

Creating Impactful Book Content Endings

## Writing Tips & Treats

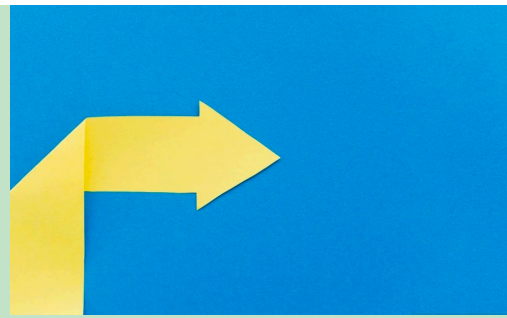
Writing insights are just a click away, as are behind-the-scene editing tips, ways to dig deeper into life experiences, and more. In each issue of Scoops4Scribes, you'll benefit from the bounty bookmarked for you.





## When Work is Passion

One gift of helping publishers and independent authors develop books is discovering new-to-you talent. Though I'd read Barry Lopez, Terry Tempest-Williams and others, Rick Bass was a new name for me, and clearly is also a skilled writer, sharp observer, and deep thinker. I highly recommend his new wide-ranging, sometimes poignant, [nature essay collection](#), which I provided the first-round proofread of for an imprint of Penguin Random House.



## New Service Offering

For writers with a book idea or MS in the early stages who want exposure to book coaching, and details on the book development process, I now offer a two-session coaching option.

In the first Mini Road Map session, we'll discuss your 1-page book summary related to the theme, your writing goals, and factors such as the ideal reader -- aspects that I've trained to coach on as an Author Accelerator-certified coach, using their Blueprint for a Book approach. In session two, we'll cover remaining questions from the Mini Road Map, and address general marketing, or publishing, questions. [Reach out](#) by March 16 to receive a \$20 discount on this \$199 investment.



## Fighting the Rise in Author Book Bans

Organizations like the American Library Association have been tracking book bans for years, and their staff noted at a journalists and authors' conference I attended in '22 the coordinated nature of an increasing number of attacks, and efforts that attempt to change policy, or defund public libraries (across Missouri in 2023, for instance). This January, the Department of Education announced the goal of dismissing complaints against current and pending book bans, and elimination of a DOE book ban coordinator position.

Beyond shopping for banned books from online lists of your choice, consider joining a new author-specific organization to stay informed and learn ways to address record-high book bans nationally. They often target content that educates about LGBTQIA+ and other underrepresented communities, characters, and topics, environmental concerns, and more (even *The Lorax* from Dr. Seuss has been targeted). The Authors Against Book Bans FAQ page highlights anti-ban org.s and resources and next steps if your work gets targeted.

## Narrative Tools for Nonfiction



Learn tips for upping the human interest aspect of developing real-world content meant to engage non-expert readers.

## Copyright and Song Lyrics



The ins and outs (mostly outs) of trying to quote song lyrics in your book, with lines of poems often considered equally tough.

## Key Content-Refining Asks



Spur on your content's development by selecting the best who, what, where, when, why, and how questions from a list of 20-plus.

## Promoting Your Authorly Self



A former marketer turned comic book writer turned novelist shares what he's learned over the years about how to publicly engage as an author.





## Vital Wordplay

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