

Form in Fiction:
The Development of 'I dream of Magda'

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Abstract

People who write books are invariably asked how they do it, by people who read them, in a similar way, for example, to how pilots might be asked ‘How *do* you fly a plane?’ by passengers who couldn’t imagine steering several tonnes of metal through the sky at 30,000 feet.

Although there is a consistent, if complicated, logic to the flying of planes, I’m not sure there is a definitive one with regards to writing books. Creative processes, in whatever genre, are by their own nature constantly evolving and redefining their own boundaries.

I decided to remain acutely aware of the creative processes involved with writing the novel for my PhD, ‘I Dream of Magda’. I also made note of external inspirations and practical considerations I encountered along the way. This resulting exegesis is an attempt to explore the genesis and creative evolution of my novel. Specifically, it will address the various challenges and benefits involved in writing the novel to a pre-determined form, which, in this case, was the musical form ‘sonata’, adapted for literary expression.

In the end, it may not be any more helpful in addressing a general question on how to write a book, but it should go a long way to explaining how the initial idea for this book, in particular, took off and eventually flew at 70,000 words.

Statement of Originality

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any other university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where reference has been made in the text.

I give consent to this copy of my thesis being available for loan when deposited in the University Library.

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