

Writing Prompt 5: 10 Memories I hope not to Relive on my Death Bed

Have you ever acted out? Have you ever done something you were ashamed of later? Inspired by the radical honesty of Cheryl Strayed, her unflinching willingness to get at the truth, her openness about her grief, and her fearlessness, and inspired by Bernard Cooper's candor and humor about his coming-of-age, pick the humiliating, shameful, sad, and scary moments of your life that you think are fodder for writing. You can write this in an annotated list form, or find another way to structure the material.

Only write about moments that you feel like you have some distance on—that is, you need to be able to look at your writing on this topic, critique it, and make it better. Don't write about anything that will make you so unhappy you can't function well. You will know what you are able to do just by seeing where this prompt leads you. Just see what comes to you—what this topic inspires in you, along with the readings by Cheryl Strayed and Bernard Cooper.

This essay could also be funny, and could be about trivial things that drive you crazy. Let your muse be your guide.

Just follow the promptings of your muse without judgment.