



Dearest Writers,

There are times when a blank page can be the most frightening thing in the world. You stare at the empty screen or gaze at the bright, white page and wonder how on earth you can ever fill it.

When I feel like this my editor tells me, “Don’t get it right, get it written!”

The scene is in your head. You know what’s supposed to happen but for some reason putting it down in words seems like the hardest thing in the world.

But it’s not. It’s really easy, so long as you don’t get scared. Just write! Start and don’t stop until you’ve described every bit in your head. And don’t worry whether it’s any good. You can worry about that later. Simply start writing. Start in the middle if it helps, or start at the end and work your way backwards. Try making a list of everything you want to include in the scene. I bet you’ll find yourself filling in the gaps in your list with more and more detail simply because it’ll be impossible to resist describing the wonderful scene that’s crowding your imagination. And don’t worry if the words tumble out messily or clumsily. Once it’s written, you can change it, improve it, make it sound better. *You’re* the writer! Make the words do what you want; don’t be frightened of them.

Kate Cary (Erin Hunter)