Day 21

Today, before you start writing, identify for yourself where your interest lies in what you've been building. Think of interest as a draw, as something that draws you toward what you don't fully understand, or something with which you desire to be in a fuller relationship. Direct yourself toward that interest as you write. Feel no obligation to anything—sense, development, coherence—other than the heat of your own interest.

If you need something more generative and directed today, do the exercise below.

Warmup: Minute Lists

Choose four or use these: words for bouncy things, words beginning with Q, words that belong to a specific area of technical expertise, names you could give an imaginary friend.

Tuning: Mind Lodgers

Make a list of ten things that are occupying your mind today, both long-term lodgers and passing thoughts and images. Sit with your list and consider each one.

Generator: New Room with Old Images

Circle back to our beginning. Choose a set of images from a larger scatter of images, perhaps drawn from accumulated warmups or from inside your writing. Allow two or three images to get near each other in your mind's eye. What energy is there? What forces of attraction or repulsion?

Consider your writing as a building with many rooms. Find a new room in your writing that can house that constellation of two or three images. Hide them in the room however you wish. Make them major or minor. Reveal them if you wish. Animate them if you wish. Try to honor the energy you sensed in their combination. If your constellation feels too random, then repeat the first visualizing section of the prompt with deliberately chosen images until you find a combination that interests and surprises you.

Alternately, more secretly, take the energy you found between your images and see if you can take an existing scene or passage, perhaps even wherever you left off yesterday, and propel it into a transitional zone so it can take on this other energy.