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@courtneymilan

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A general note about in-group perception versus out-group perception, and how that can bias your writing.

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Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · 12 Jan 2018
Out-group perceptions of a group are what we call stereotypes. They are sometimes true for members of a group, but are basically never true for all of them.

1 5 29

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · 12 Jan 2018
If you are an out-group member, writing an in-group member, the fastest way to write something that is going to get you slammed is to attribute an out-group perception to the in-group.

1 6 44

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As an example: my mother is Chinese, so one out-group perception could be that she taught me to be submissive. And you might write a book about me, a half-Chinese woman, struggling with my mom teaching me to be submissive.

1 1 26

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · 12 Jan 2018
As an in-group member I have to say that I have not met a single Chinese woman in my mother's family who is either submissive, or would be described as such by anyone who knew her.

1 1 44

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · 12 Jan 2018
It is just Not a Thing.

Y'all made that up about us, I'm pretty sure.

1 1 40

Courtney!!! Milan @courtneymilan · 12 Jan 2018
And so, like hypothetically speaking, if someone WERE to write that book about Fictional Courtney in which she was struggling with the submissiveness she learned from her culturally submissive mother...

1 1 23

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...that would be an instance in which your belief in the out-group perception

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...that would be an instance in which your belief in the out-group perception screwed you over and made you put a stereotypical racist belief into your books as if it were truth.

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If you are going to try and write about someone who is not in your in-group, you cannot, CANNOT do it without interrogating whether your out-group beliefs about them are stereotype.

1 8 60

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Before you get a sensitivity reader. Before you start writing a word. Before you do any of that. The FIRST thing you have to do is dismantle what you think is true.

1 16 86

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But if you find yourself putting words in your characters mouth like "X people are all Y, ha ha, funny joke" then maybe, MAYBE you should not be writing that book at all.

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