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## ~ 5 QUESTIONS ~

with

# BEN WALTER

of earth shattering importance

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### 1. If you could take one book to a deserted island, what would it be?

A blank one, to get some writing done.

### 2. What is your writing space?

I have recently been writing at a laptop-sized desk in a thin hallway on the side of a shed through most of my free days. But my wife and I had a baby three days ago, so I guess the answer now is whenever and wherever I get the chance.

In fact I can't believe I'm actually answering these questions.

### 3. If you are in a writing rut, how do you get yourself out of it?

It depends on the type of rut. If I just haven't been working because I've been busy or lazy, then I like to use a time-management tool like the Pomodoro Technique to reestablish the habit. But if I'm worn down by writing a lot then I really need to refuel by reading or going on walks; climbing mountains if possible.

### 4. Pen, pencil, computer, typewriter, lipstick on a mirror - what is your preferred tool of trade?

I use a computer, as this is how I started writing and my style is very editing intensive. At times I use a notepad and pen to form initial, sketchy directions or ideas but I rarely do substantial writing this way.

So maybe the deserted island answer above is stupid and I should just have gone with Proust.

### 5. If the world was going to end in a week and you had to choose between a small remote island or a metropolis to live out your last days, which would you choose?

A small remote island, because I would be calmer about it all and feel centred in the world as it stood. And I like to chat to birds.

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## ~ About the author ~

**Ben Walter** is a writer of lyrical poetry and fiction. His work has appeared in a wide range of journals, including *Southerly*, *Island*, *Griffith Review* and *The Lifted Brow*, and he was recently shortlisted in *Overland's* Judith Wright Poetry Prize.

You can read his story, *Fall on Us* in **Islands and Cities: A Collection of Short Stories from Tasmania and London**

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