

Bringing the Devil to His Knees

Bringing the Devil to His Knees

The Craft of Fiction and the Writing Life

Edited by

Charles Baxter and Peter Turchi

Ann Arbor

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Everything I have written up to now is trifling compared to that which I would like to write and would write with great pleasure. . . . Either I am a fool and a self-conceited person, or I am a being capable of becoming a good writer; I am displeased and bored with everything now being written, while everything in my head interests, moves, and excites me—whence I draw the conclusion that no one is doing what is needed, and I alone know the secret of how it should be done. In all likelihood everyone who writes thinks that. In fact, the devil himself will be brought to his knees by these questions.

—ANTON CHEKHOV, in a letter to Alexei S. Suvorin,
27 October 1888

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