

Behind the Book
***No Exit* by Taylor Adams**

On Sale January 22nd, 2019 | HC ISBN 9780062875655 | \$26.99/\$33.50 Can.

12 Things I Learned Writing *No Exit*

- 1. My writing “power hours” are apparently 5 a.m. to 7 a.m.**
Thank God for coffee.
- 2. Book titles are hard.**
Originally this one was *No Rest*, which, although poetic and loaded with narrative meaning, didn’t quite convey the intensity/genre of the novel. My mom came up with the title *No Rest*, which made changing it extra hard!
- 3. Nail guns can penetrate soft targets, such as human flesh, at distances up to around 10 feet.**
Thanks, YouTube.
- 4. Shutting your fingers inside a door hurts.**
Not sure why I felt the need to test this at home, but the findings are hard to argue with.
- 5. According to Google, there’s a lot of crime at rest stops.**
After hours + high vehicle traffic + low police presence = a fun setting for a thriller.
- 6. *No Exit* has an alternative ending.**
Maybe I’ll do a blog piece on the ending I’d originally planned... this resolution was darker and twistier, but ultimately felt like too much additional “ending” bolted onto the story’s climax.
- 7. Hold onto your favorite ideas – you never know when they’ll come in handy.**
There’s a certain plot twist to *No Exit* that I’d been literally waiting to use for years. I’d always wanted a chance to fit it into a story, and I finally got to.
- 8. The very first word of a novel probably shouldn’t be “F***.”**
I have my editor to thank for that insight.
- 9. Suspense is about uncertainty.**
With this novel, I used many of the techniques that worked with *Eyeshot*, but hopefully with more finesse. The story is more complex, and develops through more reveals and reversals. The setups are better drawn, I think, and the payoffs are richer.
- 10. Heroes should make mistakes.**
Throughout the chaotic night, Darby screws up almost as much as she succeeds. But I hope the protagonist’s realistic stumbles – and the ways she digs in and overcomes them – make her eventual victories all the more badass.
- 11. Heroes are only as good as their challenges.**
Every win should be hard-fought. Every loss should hurt. And ultimately, as in real life, no one is immune to the cruel whims of bad luck.
- 12. On that note, heroes don’t always survive to the last page.**
I hope you enjoy...