



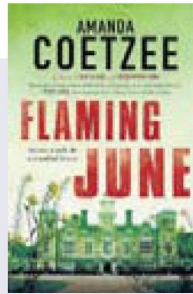
book blog

BOOKS LIVE

This year I have been fortunate enough to attend a couple of literary festivals and network with readers and authors alike.

One of the questions regularly raised regards the mechanism of writing: does it organically occur in a creative mist of inspiration or is it more daily grind and planning?

It has been unsettling for me to discover how many writers free fall into a creative space where the stories unfold and characters weave their own tales. I say unsettling because my own approach is somewhat pedestrian in



comparison. I research, I plan, I sift, I even happily draw mind maps and character sketches and have a fairly concrete idea of what I am going to try and write.

Is it dull to hear that producing a book has as much to do with organisation as creativity? Possibly. Is it drudgery to create within a framework?

Not on your life; it's my personal brand of magic.

• *Amanda Coetzee's latest novel is Flaming June*
<http://amandacoetzee.bookslive.co.za/blog>