

# [I am setting...]

In this chapter, the author embarks on a unique literary endeavor: writing a book of elegies for individuals whom they have never met. This project is acknowledged to be marked by a certain level of hubris, as the author grapples with the audacity of attempting to capture the essence of lives they cannot truly know. The narrative is reflective, showcasing an awareness of the complexities and ethical implications inherent in taking on such a task.

The author expresses an understanding that there is an arrogance not only in constructing narratives about others' lives but also in the act of writing itself. This meta-commentary highlights the philosophical dilemmas faced by writers when they engage with the lives and experiences of others.

The elegies serve as a medium through which the author hopes to connect with and honor these unseen individuals, suggesting an aspiration to evoke empathy and understanding despite the barriers of unfamiliarity. The intention behind writing elegies implies a desire to reflect on themes of loss, memory, and the human condition, underscoring a universal search for connection and meaning amid life's transience.

Ultimately, the chapter sets the stage for a significant exploration of identity, memory, and the role of the writer. The author's journey into the realm of elegiac writing brings forth questions about ownership of narrative, the ethics of representation, and the limitations of understanding the lives of others. Through the lens of what might at first seem an unattainable goal, the writer opens up a dialogue about the very essence of storytelling—a venture that transcends personal experience and seeks to resonate with the broader human experience.

This introspective approach to writing elegies lays a thoughtful groundwork for the narratives to come, filled with both uncertainty and a profound desire to honor the lives of those who have otherwise remained unheard.