

HALFWILD CREATIVE.COM



WHITNEY DURMICK

MEDIA KIT

WHITNEY DURMICK



Inspired by books and wanderlust, Whitney spent her early life traveling in search of a place that felt like home. Her adventures continued to lead her further from her true residence, which she ultimately found in a small, beating space within her chest. She writes to make sense of a complex world and to function as a channel for the muse, who loves it when she lets her eyes roll back in her head and her fingers dance wildly across the keyboard.

Whitney graduated with a degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Colorado, where she put on a masterclass in procrastination and binge drinking. She currently works remotely as a strategic content manager for a technology startup accelerator where she builds storytelling frameworks for entrepreneurs. She loves to systemize, and will someday apply that skill to her personal blog and newsletter, published under the HALF WILD name at halfwilddispatches.com.

Whitney loves dogs, dinner parties, and talking to strangers. Her love of nature, lush greenery, and gentle competition compel her to the golf course or the hiking trail as often as possible. She is passionate about exploring ways to eat, live, love, and travel well. She is happily settled—for the moment—in the mountains of Asheville, North Carolina.





HALF WILD

A Prayer for a Generation of
Roaming Malcontents

Part road trip, part existential crisis, HALF WILD is a richly told story of discovery through the lens of a woman navigating work, life, and bad habits in her late twenties.

HALF WILD bears compassionate witness to our powerful capacity for healing, growth, and creativity.

What Readers Are Saying

"HALF WILD is such a page turner. I had to slow myself down from reading just so I could enjoy it longer. The author's writing is so fluid and authentic. Absolutely loved every part of this book and it had me reflecting on my own journey, bringing me fresh perspectives and new inspirations."

"I so deeply related to this book. I was instantly drawn in by the incredible writing and as the narrative unfolded just kept thinking "me too." The beauty of this writing is in the connection it creates. Reading it, I realized I wasn't alone. Someone else is going through it and putting it into perfect words. That was this book."

"Prepare for the ride of a lifetime. Whitney so accurately taps into the psychology bred by western society's dysfunction, but she leaves room to inspire readers to transcend the environments that wound them. Her transparency says what we are all feeling, yet aren't yet wild enough to say."

Available on Amazon, Etsy, Barnes & Noble



HALF WILD Dispatches

Travel Blog | Newsletter

HALF WILD is a newsletter that delivers insightful and gripping travel narratives sprinkled with musings on existence, health & wellness, and living your life's purpose.

100+
ENGAGED
SUBSCRIBERS

Travel - Philosophy - Sobriety - Mental
Health - Wellness - Animals -
Cutting Through the BS

Recent Appearances

- Podcast Appearance on "Recover with Colleen"
- Talk at *Hearts Unleashed* live
- *Trains, Tracks, Passing Through*

Contact

- ☎ +303-350-7799
- 📍 Asheville, NC USA
- ✉ whitney.durmick@gmail.com



Introduction Points

Whitney spent 10+ years in enterprise tech.

- She graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a degree in Comparative Literature, History & Philosophy.
- She landed as a data analyst at an early social media startup in 2011. Oracle bought the company soon after.
- She spent over a decade with Oracle doing product management, customer success, go-to-market strategy, and product marketing before joining the startup accelerator.
- She trained, managed, and evangelized clients and startups from all over the world.
- She led the accelerator's content team for 4 years before going freelance.

She is a lifelong nomad.

- Whitney lived in 5 different states (CA, IA, WI, VA, OH) before attending high school in Northern California.
- She loves road trips and won't balk at a 14-hour day on the road.
- She continues to explore on a secret search for "home."
- On a lifelong quest for freedom, Whitney quit drinking alcohol in 2016.
- She landed in Asheville in 2020 where she wrote her book, met her fiancé, and left her full-time job.

Whitney's areas of expertise.

- Whitney loves words and is an enthusiastic storyteller in both writing and speech.
- She speaks with depth and vulnerability informed by experiences with both the highs and deep lows of loss, intense anxiety, and substance abuse.
- She is passionate about living with integrity and building a life of freedom, beauty, growth, and meaning.
- She knows a little bit about a lot of subjects.

Interview Resources

Bio Talking Points

- Moving, Living Nomad, Finding Home
- Quitting Drinking and Living Sober
- Writing HALF WILD
- Full-Time Corporate to Freelance

Interview Topics

HALF WILD: A Prayer for a Generation of Roaming Malcontents

Using travel as a catalyst for growth and self-understanding. Confronting the parts of ourselves that we hide from. Embracing our stories and identities in fluid moments. Reckoning with the truth of our experience. Making peace with limiting beliefs and bad habits.

HALF WILD Creative

Supporting small businesses as they tell their story more effectively to attract and retain their ideal client profile. Writing as coaching. Pivoting from corporate to consulting.

Coming of Age Topics- Highly relatable points

- Constant moving during childhood
- Adopting high-performing people pleaser tendencies
- Turning to numbing behaviors like drinking, scrolling, travel, checking out.
- The painful reality of presence with yourself.

Currently Promoting

HALF WILD: A Prayer for a Generation of Roaming Malcontents

HALF WILD Creative Agency

Interview Resources

Sample Interview Questions

- What is your book HALF WILD about?
- Describe the experience of leaving the comfort of a full-time job for the relative uncertainty of consulting.
- What did you learn from traveling so much as a kid?
- What advice do you have for yourself 5, 10, 15 years ago?
- What's your worst habit?
- How do you navigate the complexity of working full time and writing/promoting your own work?
- Of all the places you've been, why settle in Asheville, NC?
- What advice do you have for writers who are struggling with capturing real, raw emotion?
- What was your most unique job?
- What does it take to create rich emotional landscapes in writing?



Interview Resources

Sample Questions / Answers

What did you learn from traveling so much as a kid? Moving so much necessitated that I became an excellent adaptor. I could become a whole new person to fit in at a new school in a new town. But it happened so often that I kind of lost touch with who I actually was. By the time I was an adult, all I knew how to do was adapt. Instead of having a firm identity, I was great at being who I needed to be for other people - my parents, professors, bosses, society, social media. My book is all about navigating my way back to self-understanding after those chameleon survival tendencies kept me distance from myself. I love writing about the existential crisis that arises from the modern tech-saturated landscape.

What advice do you have for yourself 5, 10, 15 years ago? I don't think I could give my younger self advice. She's got to go through it, you know? I had an editor tell me once that my writing needed to be less analytical and more "in-scene" and it made me realize how much time I spent outside of my body and outside of my experience. My growth all comes from actually going through it. So if I had to give my younger selves some advice, I'd tell them to just be where they are and feel what they feel. They would see things happen WAY faster!

What's your worst habit? My survival technique has always been to numb out. And even though I quit drinking 7+ years ago, I'm definitely *not sober*. I still check out by doom scrolling in weird parts of the Internet or online shopping for versions of myself that will never exist. And I get sucked into dark shows that validate my cynicism like *Succession* and *Dopesick*.

How do you navigate the complexity of working full time and writing/promoting your own work? I don't! I have a hard time doing everything at once. What I do instead is trust that everything is cyclical, and that I'll get things done in batches when the time is right. I write in bursts and batches. I promote that way, too. I've had to learn a lot about separating myself from what I think I *should be* doing versus what actually makes sense for my schedule and work style.

Interview Resources

Sample Questions / Answers

Of all the places you've been, why settle in Asheville, NC? I had no choice in the matter. I landed in Asheville and felt like I was wearing magnetic boots. This place sucked me in. Within a matter of weeks of arriving here I had a wider community, closer connections, and more creative expression than anywhere else I've been. I don't think it's forever, but it's a beautiful place to rest for a while.

What advice do you have for writers who are struggling with capturing real, raw emotion? It's ALL about the senses. When I need to establish a scene that you can really feel through the page, I'm tapping into how it smells, what I can hear, and what those sensory experiences remind me of. I'm creating deep connections between the experience of the place and how I feel about that experience. It takes the reader on a journey. Beyond that, it's the classic advice: show don't tell. I won't say "he was angry" when I could describe how a vein was pulsing in his beet red forehead. Writing should be about painting a picture with words. When in doubt, just shut up and trust the muse.

What was your most unique job? Most unique? Probably working the assembly line at a Lean Cuisine factory. But my favorite was my college job at an all-natural dog and cat food store on Pearl St. in Boulder. I knew every bougie dog in town and their favorite snacks. I got to hang out with dogs all day and research healthy pet food which was actually what got me interested in human nutrition, too. I started feeding my dog organic buffalo and sweet potato and wondered why the hell I was still eating Taco Bell at 2am. If I could make 6-figures chilling with dogs all day, I'd be there. They're just so honest, expressive, and joyful. I feel at peace with pups.

What does it take to create rich emotional landscapes in writing? It takes experiencing rich emotional landscapes in real life. For me, that was a challenge because I tend to want to check out and intellectualize everything. Once I gave myself permission to actually feel, it became much easier to express those emotions through writing. In fact, I feel more closely tuned to my emotions when I write than any other mode of expression. I think readers can tell that my writing is extremely cathartic (for both of us!)