

## **The Stuff of Fiction: Advice on Craft**

From the chapter "Closings":

After examining so many various endings for what makes each of them unique, it is important to close with an idea of what all good endings share. I said earlier in the chapter, in speaking of a particular closing, that what assured it its life, its resonant vitality, was that it left us as readers feeling that we still had some work to do.

Maybe that's it, the single factor that unites all successful closings – that they leave readers feeling they have some work still to do. . . If this idea is valid, then it should be quickly understood that the remaining work that closings demand is not resented by readers. Not at all. Indeed, it is work they are eager to do. Or at least that they're unable not to do.

Work they're unable not to do. Like writing.