You've got an idea!

Perfect!

As the saying goes,

"Every journey of 1000 miles starts with a single step."

That idea is *your* first 'single step'!

Let's start your journey there.

[Rule Number 1: Write SOMETHING down!]

You can't edit an empty page.

Writing is a **creative** art – and as such is subject to all the insecurities and foibles with which anything creative is rife.

Ignore those voices that say you aren't good enough.

Because you are!

Merely having the creative urge is proof of that!

And Remember:

The words you write are precious, so…

[Rule Number 2: NEVER THROW ANYTHING AWAY]

If what you put down doesn't take you where you're wanting to go

Save it. Put it away for another day.

You might stumble across it days (or even years) later

And turn it into something wonderful!

My book,

AFTER THE BEFORE TIMES

was **20 years** in the making

for that very reason.

I put it away and forgot about it!

Also: a lot of first time authors
are so focused on their large picture: **creating a novel**
that they forget what constitutes a novel…

Stories.

Stories strung together to tell a bigger story.
So what you have to do is…

[Rule Number 3: Start writing Stories!]

The nice part of having a computer
as opposed to a typewriter or (gulp) pen and paper
is the ease of editing and re-arranging.
So write the stories. Order doesn't matter.
That's what editing is for!

Many writers swear by making an outline.
For your first book…probably a grand idea.
I've done it both ways.
And have to admit I prefer to just write.
I'm obviously no help there.
So, if you like to be organized, outline away.
If not, fly – like me - by the seat of your britches!

[Rule Number 4: There is no Right or Wrong. Only Write!]

So now I'm going to give you the best advice I can…

Just WRITE!!!