

I do now. There are multiple examples of writers who have gone on and on and on into their old age (especially with the easy garrulity of autobiography: most writers' lives can and should be summed up, not least by themselves, in a single volume). After my wife died in 2008, I found it natural and necessary to talk to myself as I moved about the house; but every so often I would sternly correct myself: 'Shut up, you're boring me.' And if you're boring yourself, you sure as hell would be boring others, probably for quite a while. Not that I do bore myself when I write - it is one of the times I feel most alive and original - but therein lies the trap

Naturally, it would be a mistake to announce that this will be my last book if it turns out not to be. Foolish, as well. In 1991, I published my sixth novel,

have a sequel?' To which I answered magisterially, 'No book should have a sequel' (I was thinking of the follow-up to Catch-22). I promptly forgot my own declaration, and my correspondents pointed out.

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*Julian Barnes et ses processus de création:
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Responsables scientifiques: Christine Lorre et Armelle Parey

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