The Author Role

Writing and reading are not the same. Reading is faster. Reading that is writing (all reading) complicates the matter without resolving it. As we read our writing, we multiply.

And still we imagine the writer knows everything we do not—thinks every thought on page, in sequence, with full access to the range.

And here is where the book lies as the song lies. The singer speaks in lyric, a falsework. The song’s revision is not a mastery of the past, or a setting right, but a story about its own telling. You are here, it sings, lying to our faces. I am here, it sings, one foot out the door.


The reader overhearing. The reader singing the song.

55 except as a whole—the reading that precedes, accompanies and follows writing
56 The song listening.