

How to Surface The Most Useful Reading Highlights in Obsidian

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[May 22nd 2022](#)



Photo by [Mitchell Luo](#) on [Unsplash](#)

I've been a subscriber to a service called [Readwise](#) for quite a while now and I feel it is truly game changing.

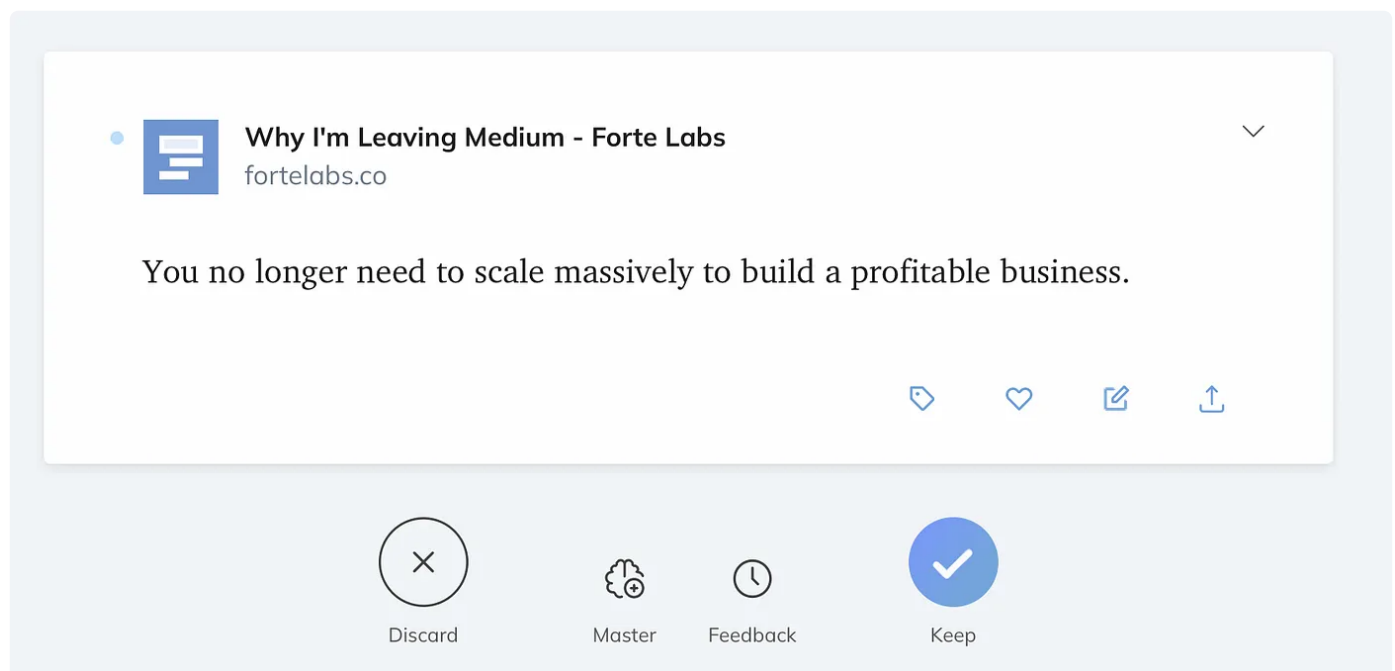
What Readwise lets you do is capture your highlights and notes from many different sources (e.g. Kindle, Instapaper, Pocket, Shortform, ...). *The overall idea is that highlighting or capturing notes from what you*

read is pretty useless unless you revisit them, and most people probably don't.

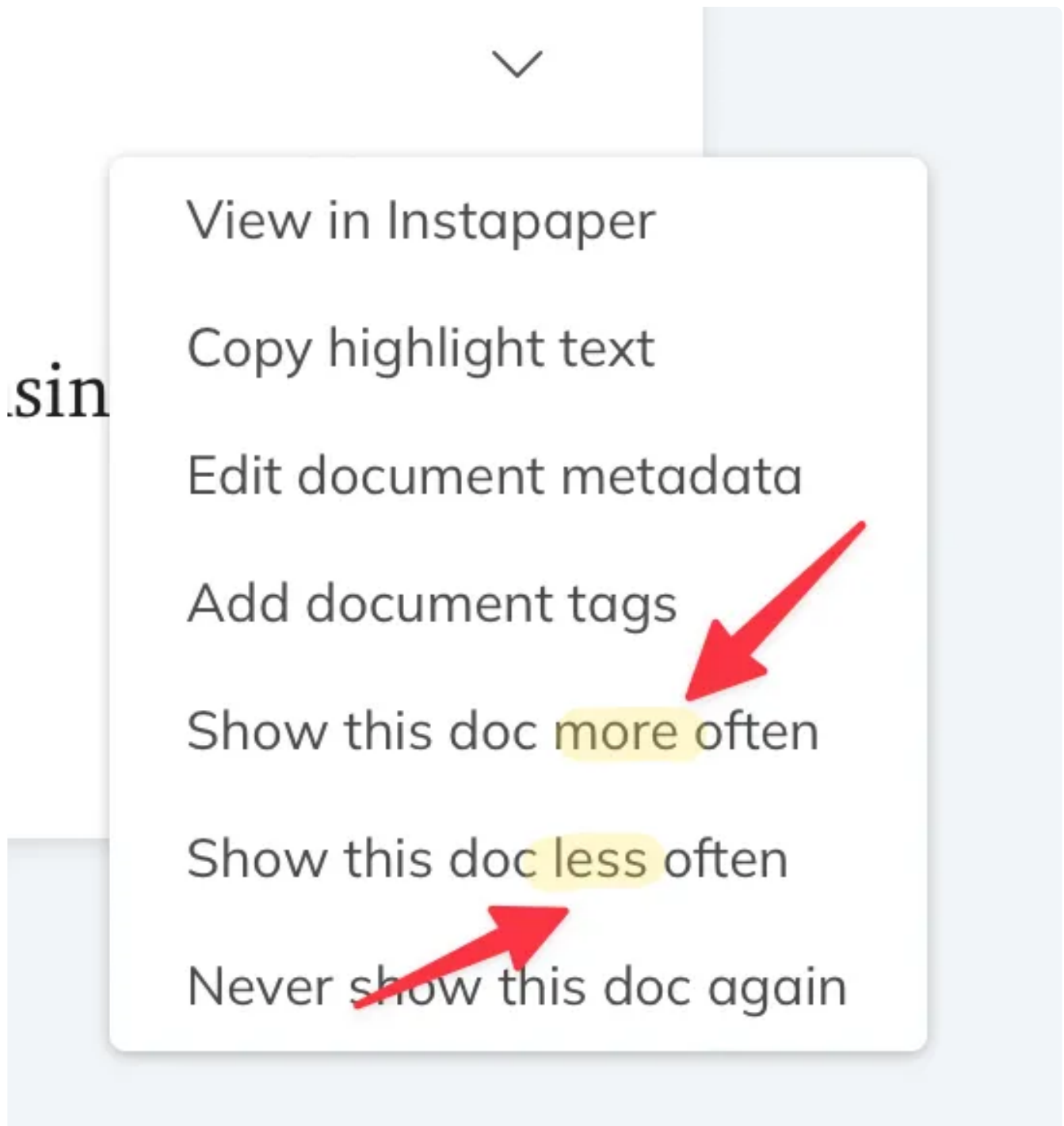
Readwise offers a way to review your highlights via [Spaced Repetition](#) to remember useful highlights and incorporate them into your work. Using their service to periodically review the highlights using this method can prove invaluable.

For example, if I come across a resurfaced highlight that resonated with me in my “Readwise review”, the nice thing is that I’ve set up Readwise to export my highlights to Obsidian where the article is already represented as a note. *I find that this is really useful to help better isolate useful ideas and connect them with my other notes and what’s on my mind.*

To give you an idea as to how this spaced repetition system works in Readwise, here is an example of a surfaced highlight during a review session:



You can choose to keep or discard the highlight. And you can also choose to see fewer or more of that highlight in the future (there are keyboard shortcuts for this as well):



You only see a few highlights at a time in any given review so it doesn't take very long. Below is an example of how you can use resurfaced high-

lights from Readwise to create a more long-lasting note written in your own words:

The screenshot displays the Readwise interface. On the left, a Medium article titled "Why I'm Leaving Medium - Forte Labs" is open. It contains a list of bullet points. Two red arrows point from specific bullet points in this article to a video note on the right. The video note is titled "Advertising may not be the future of how writing gets mo" and is dated "2022-05-21". The video player shows a timestamp of 0:00 / 7:50. A calendar on the right side of the interface shows the date May 21, 2022, highlighted.

Why I'm Leaving Medium - Forte Labs

- For the first time in the internet age, it now makes economic sense to focus on a specific niche, write only high-quality content that appeals to that niche, and monetize the audience yourself using subscriptions and information products, rather than relying on advertising. ([View Highlight](#))
- a subscriber is paying for the regular delivery of well-defined value. ([View Highlight](#))
- Because digital reading is seen in terms of utility, not entertainment, people don't want more volume, diversity, or access. They don't want "unlimited reading." Reading is hard work. People don't like hard work, so they won't pay you to assign more of it to them. They want to read as little as they can get away with! ([View Highlight](#))
- What they care most about is an easy writing experience, and readership. It is exhilarating as a casual blogger to see hundreds or thousands of people reading what you've written. I think a lot of this writing is migrating to Facebook, where it's even easier and more discoverable. ([View Highlight](#))
- You no longer need to scale massively to build a profitable business. ([View Highlight](#))
- The option of focusing intently on a core audience is enabling the rise of "online small businesses" that never need to wade into the storm of mass media. ([View Highlight](#))
- To be clear, I believe Medium is still the absolute best place to start writing for the vast majority of people. ([View Highlight](#))
- Most people spend so much of their initial motivation "designing the furniture"—picking themes, customizing templates, fiddling with settings, worrying about layout—that they never actually make a habit of writing. ([View Highlight](#))
- Medium will continue to capture the high end of this group, but not behind its paywall. If all you care about is people reading what you've written, why restrict access? ([View Highlight](#))

Advertising may not be the future of how writing gets mo

Evergreen

[Why I'm Leaving Medium - Forte Labs](#)

It is interesting that writing may be heading in a different direction than audio or video. Reading what's written may be seen as less as a form of entertainment and more as a way to procure knowledge. [Tiago Forte](#) argues that people don't want more to read and may prefer to selectively subscribe to experts who go in-depth and provide value that audio or video or 'lighter-weight' text does not. This may imply that people are willing to pay for written content that is targeted as niche audiences and that this kind of business can be quite profitable.

2022-05-21

Good [Ryan Holiday](#) video on reading

01:17 1. Develop a reading practice
2:10 2. Make time to read
03:49 3. Find a master
04:48 4. Become functionally literate
05:19 5. Re-read the Stoics
05:58 6. Don't read too much
06:57 7. All leaders must be readers

0:00 / 7:50

May 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Hope you enjoyed this tip and if you're interested in how I use Obsidian to journal, here's a post I made about that:

[**This Simple Journaling Method Could Change Your Life**](#)

[**I am using a journaling technique that I can honestly say has changed my life and I've also been sticking with it like...**](#)

[**medium.com**](#)

