

Now Write! Screenwriting: Screenwriting Exercises from Today's Best Writers and Teachers

Sherry Ellis, Laurie Lamson
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NOW WRITE! SCREENWRITING

Screenwriting Exercises
from Today's Best Writers and Teachers

Edited by
SHERRY ELLIS
editor of
NOW WRITE! & NOW WRITE! NOFICTION
and LAURIE LAMSON

With exercises from
the screenwriters of:

**Raging Bull, Lost,
Ali, Terminator 2, True
Blood, The Shield,
Fame, Groundhog Day,
Cape Fear, Before
Sunrise, Mystic Pizza,
Reversal of Fortune,**

and more

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#346917 in Books 2011-01-06 2011-01-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.22 x .93 x 5.451, .71 #File Name: 1585428515368 pages | File size: 75.Mb

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I liked this book so much I bought a copy for ...By CustomerI liked this book so much I bought a copy for my mom as well. I'm not a screenwriter, but many of the exercises in the book

are excellent for any type of writing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By C. Adeyeye
great tips for beginners
8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Great Way to Learn Screenwriting
By C. Conrad
I wasn't going to write a review on this book because I'm a contributor to it and I figured everyone would assume that I'm just doing shameless self-promotion. But here's why I'm reviewing it. When the editors contacted me and asked if I'd contribute an exercise, they said they were contacting the best, most prolific screenwriters and t.v. writers in the industry (yes, the flattery was nice!) and asking them to contribute one exercise-- the one and only exercise that has helped them more than any other when it comes to writing. That was tough. I had to think long and hard about what technique or trick I've used the most to help me and I ultimately decided that a technique I've used countless times to barrel through writer's block was the one to send in. So I did. It's in the book. If you read it, you'll see it.
Fast forward to publication and me as I receive a couple free copies. Having been a t.v. writer for as long as I have been, I didn't think I'd learn anything new from this book. I figured there'd be some good stuff, but I never in a million years thought it would help me. I was 100% wrong. As I flipped through the book, I found myself so engrossed with some of the ideas and exercises from other writers that I've now included them in my arsenal of writing tools. I've been writing for t.v. for more than 10 years and have had more than 40 movies produced, and this book STILL made me a better writer than I was before I opened it. I've bought a ton of copies and given them as gifts to people that I've mentored or friends that have dabbled in screenwriting. They've all raved about it. What you're buying is a collection of the very best tips from successful, working writers with an exercise that goes with each concept. If you did one exercise a day, you'd be 100 times better at writing than you are right now. And if you just flipped through the book and found a few exercises that made a difference for you-- that helped you fill your own personal writing deficiencies-- then, again, you've just made great progress. The concept is brilliant and it works because it's a collection of the best ideas from the best writers. BTW, I wasn't paid to contribute to the book and I don't make any money on it so there's no financial benefit in promoting it. I really just believe in the book and am proud to have been a part of it.

An essential handbook featuring never-before-published writing exercises from the acclaimed screenwriters of Raging Bull, Ali, Terminator 2, Fame, Groundhog Day, Cape Fear, "Lost", "True Blood", "The Shield", and many other hit films and television shows. Now Write! Screenwriting-the latest addition to the Now Write! writing guide series-brings together the acclaimed screenwriters of films like the Oscar-winning Raging Bull, Oscar-nominated Ali, era-defining blockbuster Terminator 2, musical classic Fame, hit series "Lost" "True Blood" and "The Shield," Groundhog Day, Cape Fear, Chicken Run, Reversal of Fortune, Before Sunrise, Mystic Pizza, Indecent Proposal, and many more, to teach the art of the story. *Learn about why it is sometimes best to write what you don't know from Christina Kim ('Lost') *Find out how Stephen Rivele (Ali, Nixon) reduces his screenplay ideas down to their most basic elements, and uses that as a writing guide *Learn why you should focus on your character, not your plot, when digging yourself out of a plot hole from Danny Rubin (Groundhog Day) *Take tips from Karey Kirkpatrick (Chicken Run, The Spiderwick Chronicles) on how to give an inanimate object intense emotional significance *Let Kim Krizan (Before Sunrise, Before Sunset) teach you how to stop your internal critic dead in his tracks This lively and easy-to-read guide will motivate both aspiring and experienced screenwriters. No other screenwriting book offers advice and exercises from this many writers of successful, iconic films.

From Booklist Editors Ellis and Lamson, whose Now Write! series has previously tackled fiction and nonfiction, delve into the world of screenwriting in a how-to packed with advice and exercises from working movie and television writers and other experts in the business. The concise, pointed essays, averaging three-to-four pages, offer tips on getting started, tackling structure, building characters, and what to do with the script when it's done, followed by exercises intended to jump-start the writing process. Lost scribe Christina Kim urges writers to go beyond what they know through firsthand research. German film writer Beth Serlin shows readers how to pump up the action through verb choice. Legendary screenwriting guru Syd Field offers advice on how to make characters well rounded. Script consultant Bill Lundy breaks down the all-important log line to show writers how to summarize their screenplays in one sentence. Packed with invaluable knowledge and tips, this volume is essential reading for any aspiring screenwriter. --Kristine Huntley
About the Author
Sherry Ellis is the editor of NOW WRITE! Fiction Writing Exercises from Today's Best Writers and Teachers and NOW WRITE! NONFICTION, as well as a personal writing coach. Her author interviews have appeared in the Kenyon Review, The Writers Chronicle, Glimmer Train, and AGNI, as well as other literary and arts magazines. She lives in Massachusetts.