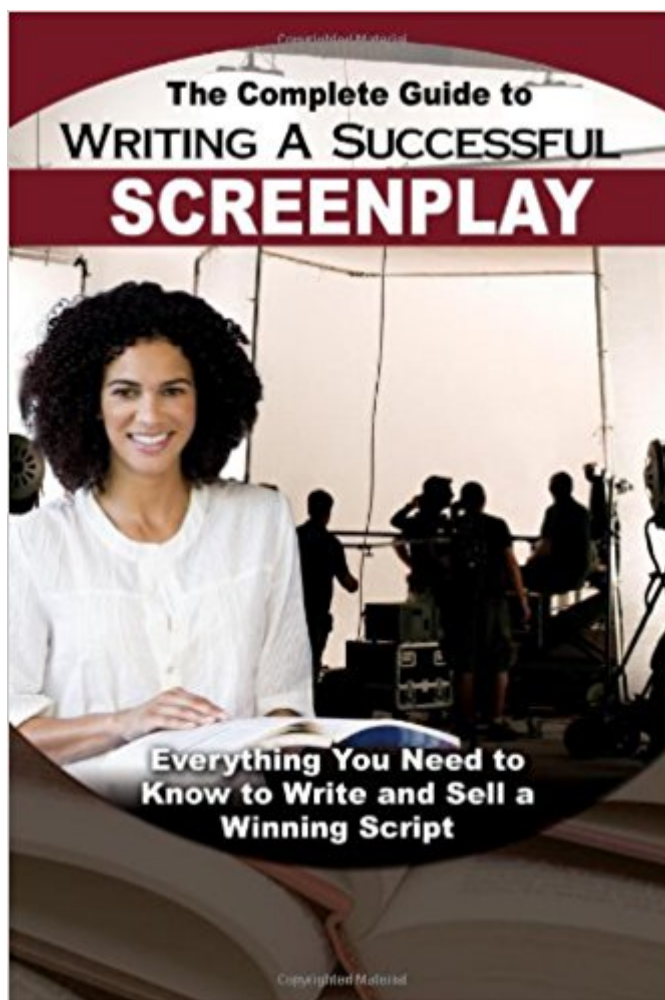


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The Complete Guide To Writing A Successful Screenplay: Everything You Need To Know To Write And Sell A Winning Script



Synopsis

From black and white silent films to full-length, 3-D features, the movie industry is constantly changing, but one thing will always stay the same: The script makes the movie. And if you're an aspiring screenwriter hoping to write the next blockbuster, there has never been a better time to enter this industry. On average, a producer will pay 5 percent of a movie's total budget for a screenplay, even one coming from a first-time screenwriter, according to the Writers Guild of America. With the average wide-released movie costing \$65 million, according to the Motion Picture Association of America, you have the potential to bring in \$3.25 million just from one script. The Complete Guide to Writing A Successful Screenplay presents you with a detailed look into the Hollywood movie industry, so you know the business you are jumping into. This book outlines timesaving tools to hone your writing, so you can attract Hollywood agents and producers. But even as you are putting pen to paper, you will learn how to test your idea for its commercial potential so you will not be left scrambling to find an audience at the end. You will discover how to create (and stick to) a timeline and deadline, whether writing your screenplay is a full- or part-time job. Writing and pitching a screenplay is nothing like writing a novel, and this book presents screenplay-specific information vital for any aspiring film writer. This book discusses how to write great openings and endings, the vital elements of a successful screenplay (and eventually movie) and how to create characters that grow and evolve as the plot thickens. One of the hardest parts of writing a screenplay is developing a solid dialogue, and this book takes you through, step-by-step, how to fine-tune your characters' dialogue so it is not only believable but also well-written. You will understand how to develop a strong sense of time and place for your screenplay, develop themes and plots to carry throughout your text, and work in subplots. With this book in hand, you will be able to flush out the full context of your screenplay. Once your script is polished and perfect, you will need to pitch it to the public, and this book shows you how. You will grasp how to write a compelling query letter that is specifically geared to what agents are looking for, so your chances of getting represented are increased. You will then learn what responsibilities the agent will take care of and the next steps in the production process. Veteran screenwriters, television and film producers, agents, and directors have been interviewed for this book, and their experiences are showcased here, giving you their insider secrets on how to best write and sell your script. This book also contains an extensive resource section of production companies that are eager to receive and package your script, including the genre they are looking for, so you know exactly who to contact. If you are eager to jump into Hollywood as the next big thing in screenwriting, The Complete Guide to Writing A Successful Screenplay will help you get there.

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Customer Reviews

Melissa Samaroo is a freelance writer and editor living in Florida. Visit her online at www.writtenbymelissa.com

Excellent blueprint for screenplay writing.

An incredibly useful book for all storytellers, *The Complete Guide To Writing A Successful Screenplay* is a book that is both an instruction manual and toolbox for the writing, format, development, story, sales, and every consideration one needs to make when writing a screenplay. The piece is a reference manual for creating compelling, high interest texts that (just so happen to fit the screenplay genre in this book but...) can be applied to a great deal of other writing as well. Readers can expect to find everything they need to format their script, create compelling settings, action, dialogue, and characters, understand their legal rights and responsibilities, and find someone to represent them and produce a great film. A few important notes about the book are that it may be read cover to cover as a screenwriting course, or can be referenced throughout at specific portions as mini lessons or reminders of how to complete certain tasks. Furthermore, the authors of the text included a great deal of very helpful online resources and links as further examples of the concepts presented such as where to download script formats, popular Hollywood scripts, and where to do research for your work, among other things. An exceptional book on the art, craft, and business of screenwriting, this book has everything you need to be successful in the cutthroat world

of screenwriting, while using the correct methods and tools to help your realization of the perfect film come to life.

When I first skimmed the beginning pages of the book and wanted to read more when I saw the numbers. \$3.25 million for writing a screenplay? I was hooked and motivated to learn how to turn my writing from merely a hobby into a successful career. The Complete Guide to Writing a Successful Screenplay by Melissa Samaroo is a must-have handbook for all beginning screenwriters. Samaroo lays out the screenwriting process in clear, easy-to-follow steps, giving practical advice and examples throughout. Readers of The Complete Guide to Writing a Successful Screenplay will learn everything from how to think like a screenwriter; to analyzing movies and scripts; to developing characters, plots, and themes; and of course how to market and sell your script. The book is easy to understand, with practical examples that and advice that can be put to use immediately to improve your writing. Ms. Samaroo breaks down the process into manageable stops. This book could replace the majority of college-level screenwriting textbooks. The wealth of information is astounding. I found myself pulling out an old screenplay I had written many years ago in college, and re-writing entire scenes as I read the book. I found Ms. Samaroo's advice on reading already-produced screenplays extremely helpful. That exercise alone gave me insider insight that I didn't have before. As I closed the book after reading the last word of the last chapter, I reflected upon the book's cover. The movie crew in the background, and the smiling scriptwriter holding a manuscript in the foreground, inspired and empowered me want to make that picture my own to visualize myself in the place of the content model on the book's cover.

The Complete Guide to Writing a Successful Screenplay by Melissa Samaroo delivers on the promise inherent in its name. Samaroo discusses everything from Hollywood/audience expectations, to developing plot and characters, to finding an agent and selling a script. The process of writing a screenplay is laid out in detail, with supporting examples that any reader could relate to. The cover of the guide sets the mood. The colors chosen are professional and clean, the model is smiling, and there is a crew in the background. All of these elements scream success—the very thing the reader is trying to achieve. And which Samaroo is trying to sell between the covers of this book. The editing and the format lend to an ease of comprehension and reading. Important points are set into sections by bullet points or subtitles. Key passages are highlighted or set apart from the body of the work with special indents or formatting. Thus, the guide

can be read cover-to-cover by a beginner just looking for information on what to expect, or used as a sort of textbook, in which the reader flips to the sections that pertain to their individual process. Samaroo writes a very thorough guide to screenwriting. She uses numerous examples, hoping to find something that strikes a chord with all types of readers. She gives information about less successful scripts/movies to shine a light on what to shy away from. It will even be interesting to apply knowledge about industry secrets when watching your next rental DVD.

If you're finding yourself interested in wanting to tell a story, and write a screenplay, then this is a great guide to help you get started. It's a basic instruction manual on everything you'll need to know. From writing format, development of the story, and even how to sell the story to the big screen. You'll especially learn how to create imaginative and creative ways your characters converse with one another, in an enthralling way. Of course, a lot of this information can be used for anyone wanting to write things other than screenplays. It's a great tool to refer back to over and over as a reminder of skills. I found it an interesting read and of course learned a lot about screenplays along the way. It's organized, and easy to read, and not at all a bore to get through like some guide books can be. I recommend to anyone wanting to write a screenplay, or similar works of writing, rating it as a 5/5.

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