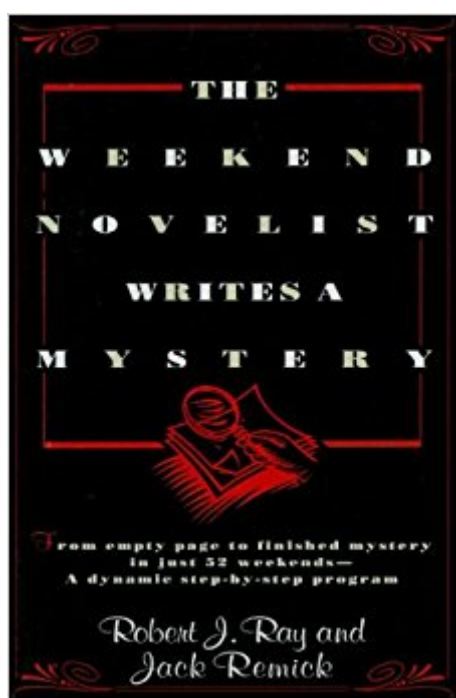


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The Weekend Novelist Writes A Mystery: From Empty Page To Finished Mystery In Just 52 Weekends--A Dynamic Step-by-Step Program



Synopsis

Like Agatha Christie and Raymond Chandler, Sara Paretsky and Thomas Harris, you, too, can learn the trade secrets of quality detective fiction. It's true. Just one year from now, you can deliver a completed mystery novel to a publisher--by writing only on weekends. Authors Robert J. Ray and Jack Remick guide you through the entire mystery-writing process, from creating a killer to polishing off the final draft. Each weekend you'll focus on a specific task--learning the basics of novel-writing, the special demands of mystery-writing, and the secrets professionals use to create stories one scene at a time, building to a shivery, satisfying climax. Using Agatha Christie's *The Body in the Library* as a model for the classical mystery tale and Martin Cruz Smith's *Gorky Park* for the hard-boiled mystery, this unique step-by-step program gives you all the information you need to reach your ultimate goal: a finished book in just 52 weeks! Let two successful masters of the genre show you how... Discover: Why you must create your killer first The tricks to writing dialogue that does it all--moves your plot, involves your reader, and makes your style sizzle How to "bury" information (and corpses) for your reader to find Why you should NOT build your book around chapters Special techniques for clearing writer's block Plus: examples from Sue Grafton, Dashiell Hammett, Patricia Cornwell, Thomas Harris, Raymond Chandler, and more. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 3638 KB

Print Length: 271 pages

Publisher: Dell (August 10, 2011)

Publication Date: August 10, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003EJDGTG

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #518,305 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #61

inÂ Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Writing #1141 inÂ Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Authorship #1190 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing Skills

Customer Reviews

Like most people who write, I own a number of books about how to do it. This is by far the best. The others say they will tell you how to write a novel, Robert Ray delivers. The insights he has with regard to why doing certain non-intuitive things are important in order to complete a novel are remarkable. You avoid writer's block and get to the end which of course is only the beginning but once the first draft is complete it really is up to you (though he provides good tips on how to edit).I still make use of The Heroine's Journey, The Hero with a Thousand Faces, The Writer's Journey, The Marshall Plan for Novel Writing and Dara Marks's Inside Story but they supplement Robert Ray's materials; none of them do what he does.If I was going to write a mystery novel and could only have one book to help me, this would be it.

I read the Weekend Novelist years ago, and found it to be a fabulous resource. When I decided to try my hand at a bit of suspense, The Weekend Novelist Writes a Mystery sounded like the perfect starting place.The writing style is conversational. The examples are clear and the pace is fantastic. Highly recommend.

This was the single most helpful book I found to help complete the process of writing an entire mystery. Its most valuable section is on plotting, devoting the appropriate amount of time and space to each of the critical parts of a novel. Much of the advice here is to be found else where--the back story, the characters, the scene writing--but is better organized and more comprehensible in this volume. So, if you plan to only buy or use one book on writing, this is the one I believe would be the best place to concentrate your time and money.

I have recently gone back to school for my MFA. We are using this wonderful book in class. I have found it to be quite helpful and beneficial. Would recommend it.

I love the way this book is organized. I am using this as a guide to finishing a novel in 52 days instead of weekends, and this book is arranged to help me do just that. It is user-friendly, easy reading, and informative. It has provided me with several exercises that have resulted greater

output. I am very glad that I ordered this book.

This seems to be a very well conceived and helpful book. It has a detailed plan for taking one from a blank page to a finished novel in a year's time. I haven't read through the whole book yet. NOR have I worked through many exercises yet, but found the first several exercises very helpful. Already my characters are coming to life. I expect great things in the weeks ahead.

I checked this book out from the library several times before I actually bought it. It is a good way to write a mystery. I really enjoy th examples and step by step directions.

Great book! It's like taking a college course, with each weekend like a class, with excersizes. A must read if you're having trouble with the structure of your novel, or if you've gotten stuck.Only downside: lots of reference to books you are meant to read; if you haven't read them it gets confusing. This book largely uses examples taken from other mysteries.So if you have some time and need some serious help with your mystery novel, this is The Book!

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