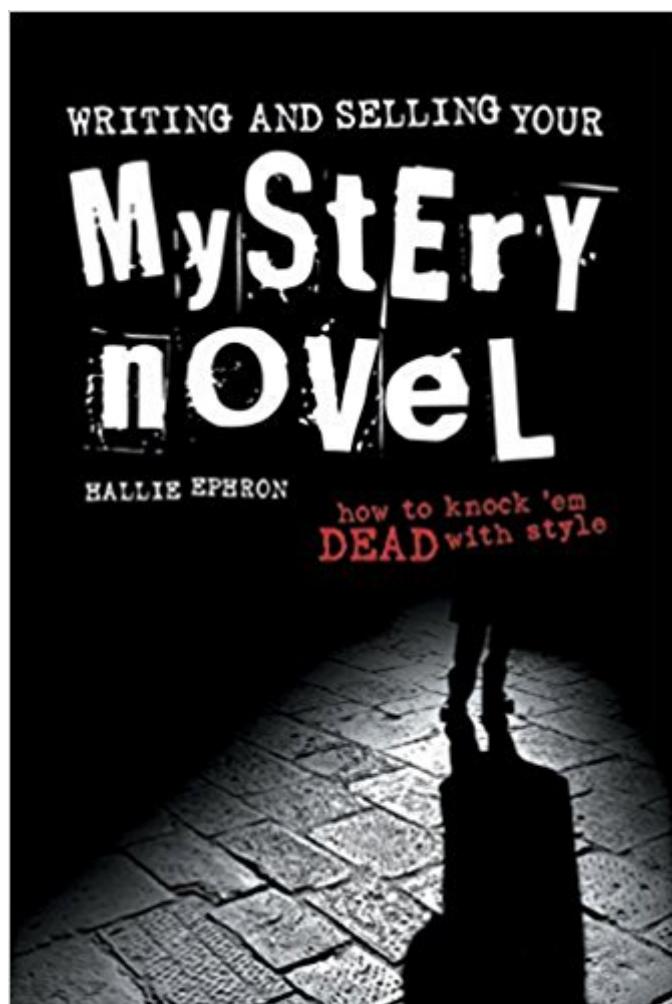


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Writing And Selling Your Mystery Novel



Synopsis

Solve the MYSTERY of how to write and sell a KILLER story! With the help of interactive exercises, mystery author and crime fiction critic Hallie Ephron gives you the momentum you need to turn a kernel of an idea into an intriguing mystery novel. You'll learn to capitalize on your writing strengths and shore up your weaknesses. This comprehensive guide covers every aspect of mystery writing, including: planning, twisting the plot, and constructing a credible surprise ending; creating a compelling sleuth and a worthy villain; deceiving and revealing with red herrings and clues; writing investigation, spine-tingling suspense, and dramatic action; revising - from sharpening characters, to optimizing pace, to smithing words; engaging the reader. By the time you finish reading part one of this book, you will have a blueprint for your entire story. Parts two and three take your blueprint from idea to well-polished novel. Part four is an insider's guide to getting it into an agent's or publisher's hands."

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Customer Reviews

This book offers a method for getting your plot outlined, characters solidified and scope of a mystery novel planned out by organizing all the elements through worksheets before beginning the first draft.

Additionally, there is sound advice about submitting manuscripts to literary agents and small publishers. A lot of it is elementary, but for a young writer it should be very helpful in terms of getting organized to write a well balanced mystery.

I was pleasantly surprised by "Writing and Selling Your Mystery Novel." Many how-to books try to cover too much information in one book. I feared this one would have the same problem. My fears were soon allayed. As the founder of Agile Writers (a writers group that helps the first time novelist create their first draft in 6 months) Part One was a great overview of Planning your novel. Part Two on Writing covered important writing topics such as point of view and dialog. I was pleasantly surprised by the advice given in Part Three on revising. I consider Part Four on getting published and self-publishing a welcome bonus. As I am a new independent press (Agile Writer Press) I found this advice very welcome indeed. I gave the book four stars because I got more from it than I had expected. However, to garner 5 stars it should have been 2 books: One on the writing of a mystery with more detail for Parts One and Two, and another with more detail on finding publisher and selling the book. Still, if you're going to write a mystery novel, you cannot go wrong with "Writing and Selling Your Mystery Novel." It is filled with examples from popular mystery authors and novels. I felt very instructed and ready to put pen to paper to craft my first mystery. Many thanks to Hallie Ephron and her co-authors.

I started this book thinking I might pick up a few things like I have in most other writing books I've bought. However this book is different, at least for me. I forced myself to do every exercise in the book using the story I had loosely created in my mind and a few days later I had pages of character details, victim secrets - the book basically walked me through a deep dive of my stories details, which helped me get the writing process going. True I am a beginner, those more experienced may not need something like this but if you are learning the craft this book could definitely help.

Ms. Ephron not only tells what plot details should be included in mystery fiction, but she shows how and when to include them. In this book she answers my questions about how to run an investigation, create suspense, and write dramatic action that flows from the story. Her book will be my go to resource while I'm writing my mystery.

I undertook this book among with a few other "craft" books after completing the second draft of a mystery novel, to help clear my head and clarify what I would need to accomplish in the third draft. I

found it among the most useful craft books I've ever encountered. Clear, concise, clever, and accurate. Ephron writes from experience and respects writers willing to give novel-writing a go; she does not talk down to her readers or fill her pages with useless advice such as "don't forget to do XYZ, but don't do it too much." The exercises and instructions she includes will not write a book for you, but they will help you understand what you will need to successfully accomplish to write a book of your own. I find most craft books barely more useful than doorstops - thinly veiled memoirs, for the most part - but this is a true gem among the huge number of "how to write a mystery" books you could choose from.

Outstanding. Being new to the mystery genre I have read a lot of books and found the same tired advice again and again. Hallie Ephron, however, nailed it. Much of her information is the same as the other books, but she gives step by step instructions. Her worksheets have been extremely helpful and I'd say that is what makes this book stand out from the rest.

I am writing a romantic suspense novel, and I've found this book to be a fantastic resource for developing a deep understanding of my own characters. Now I feel like I know exactly how each of my point of view characters would act, feel, and speak in each situation I throw them in (or they throw themselves into as they've now taken on a life of their own!!). I've also really appreciated the exercises on structuring the plot to keep the readers guessing--how to structure suspect analysis (motive, lies, secrets, etc) and the supporting cast. If you're serious about structuring a good mystery (even if it's a subplot like my own), this will be a great resource.

Incredible help for me. With an instruction book under my belt I was ready to try writing fiction in the form of a Mystery novel. This book gave me all the tools necessary to do just that. I highly recommend this to anyone that is interested in writing a Mystery novel.

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