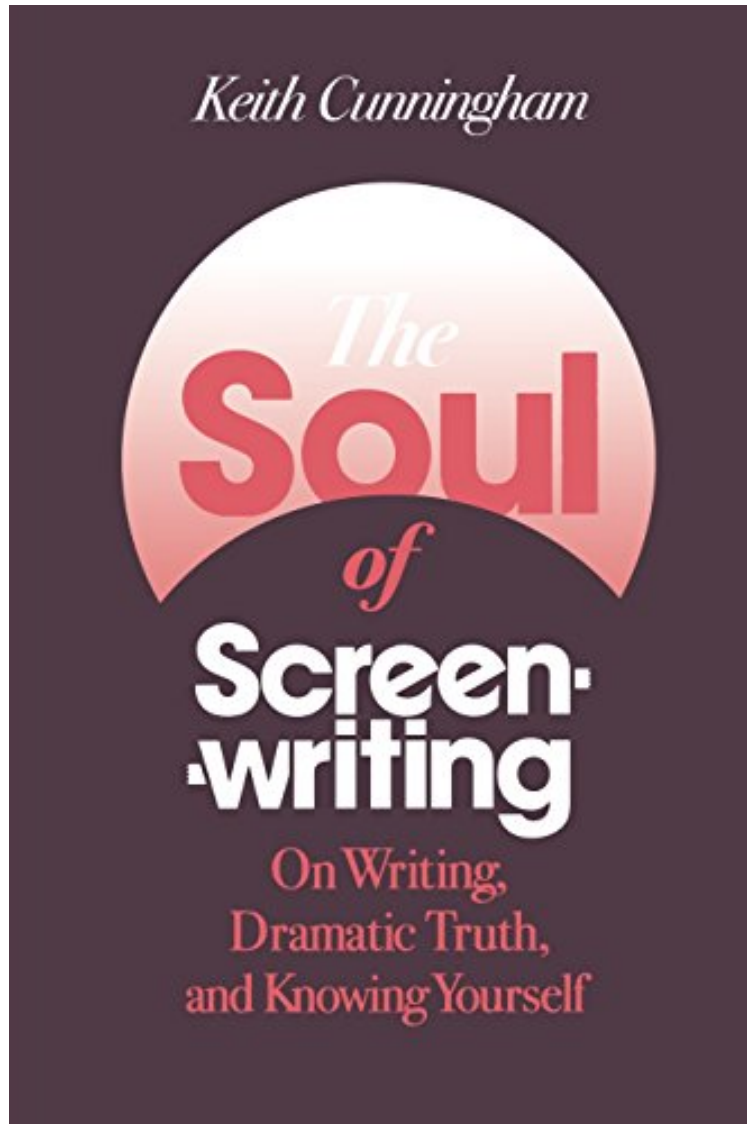


[Free] The Soul of Screenwriting: On Writing, Dramatic Truth, and Knowing Yourself

# The Soul of Screenwriting: On Writing, Dramatic Truth, and Knowing Yourself

*Keith Cunningham*

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#1815860 in Books Continuum 2008-06-01 2008-09-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 233.93 x .98 x 6.14l, 1.54 #File Name: 082642869X496 pages | File size: 79.Mb

**Keith Cunningham : The Soul of Screenwriting: On Writing, Dramatic Truth, and Knowing Yourself** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Soul of Screenwriting: On Writing, Dramatic Truth, and Knowing Yourself:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. By Maverick For MavericksBy Fijate Eso'Where have you been?' I was shouting to myself on page 3. This is a new ballgame. This is a different animal. This is rare. This is the real deal.

I read a TON of books on screenwriting, characters, drama, AND about the writer's life and not one came close to this book. This book is a product of a writer who was in tune when he wrote it and wanted to impart his wisdom and true love with no ego and fancy formulas. It takes for a reader to be ripe enough and open to afford this different way of approach to creative process. Where I am in life and after everything I have consumed till now, it rung true word after word, page after page. For those who are looking to complete a screenplay within 21 days, over a coffee break or any other quick fixes, this is not for you. Move along. For the deep thinkers, those with patience and courage, for the future mavericks, you will not regret. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Bible of Screenwriting By Maibaap I used to swear by McKee's Story till I discovered the low-profile Keith Cunningham's Soul of Screenwriting. 'Story' is a book, or almost another bible that looks into various elements of screenwriting and comes up with great insight into what life is and what a story on screen is. 'SoS' takes it even forward by coming-in with a critical angle - the screenwriter himself - how his own life is manifested within a screenplay. I enjoy reading thick books that have a lot of meat and SoS maybe by far the thickest book, with more words than any other and...it's full of terrific insight. Cunningham and his partner actually hooked-up with the legend, Joseph Campbell, the 'mythology man' and expand his work for screen. Their Mode-Need Model is the core for creating effective stories that even McKee mentions in Story. (A protag wants something, goes for it...but eventually the story is about him getting or not-getting the inner need that lies within unconscious.) Like an in-depth text book it looks at various aspects - character webs, emotional network, point-of-views and critically the journey of a character a la Campbell's theory. Plus it analyzes certain films throughout and in detail, which shows the principles in action. I strongly recommend this book for all screenwriters and folks interested in story-telling. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. THE best book ever on structuring a 3 Act screenplay. By david stringer As a newbie screenplay writer, (adapting my novel, "Islands of the Heart", also available on ), I began by reading every book I could on the process of writing a great 3 Act screenplay and I can say that Keith Cunningham's book is the best by far. It is also so multi-layered with insight that it took several reads to absorb it all, so you could say you get three books for your money.

Uniquely inspired by the work of mythologist Joseph Campbell and psychologist Jean Houston, The Soul of Screenwriting demonstrates how the "screenwriting by numbers" approach that offers templates into which the writer may mechanically drop his or her story idea is fundamentally incomplete. Keith Cunningham maintains that in doing so, one ignores the process of writing. Screenwriting is a long journey and even the most gifted screenwriters get lost along the way. Getting lost, Cunningham reminds us, is part of the process too. What the writer experiences in the act of writing has never been taken into account, yet this is where the screenplay comes from: the writer's here-and-now experience while working on the story. Information-left-brain concepts and techniques about plot structure, character development and orchestration, the dynamics of scenes and sequences-is all necessary. But it is what one does with the information that makes a truly great screenplay. In The Soul of Screenwriting, Cunningham demonstrates that good screenwriting is more than hitting the big "plot points" with exciting action. Good screenwriting also has integrity and authenticity. It has a "voice," and because it has a voice it speaks to the audience. To gain a voice, the writer needs the heat of creative imagination: passion, commitment, enthusiasm, a drive to know the truth of the characters, and an urge to get to the core of the dramatic conflict without resorting to escapism. These are qualities of the heart, and as Cunningham argues, screenwriting can indeed be, in Carlos Castaeda's phrase, a path with heart.

Mention Book News, November 2008 "[This book] demonstrates that good screenwriting is more than hitting the big plot points with exciting action"