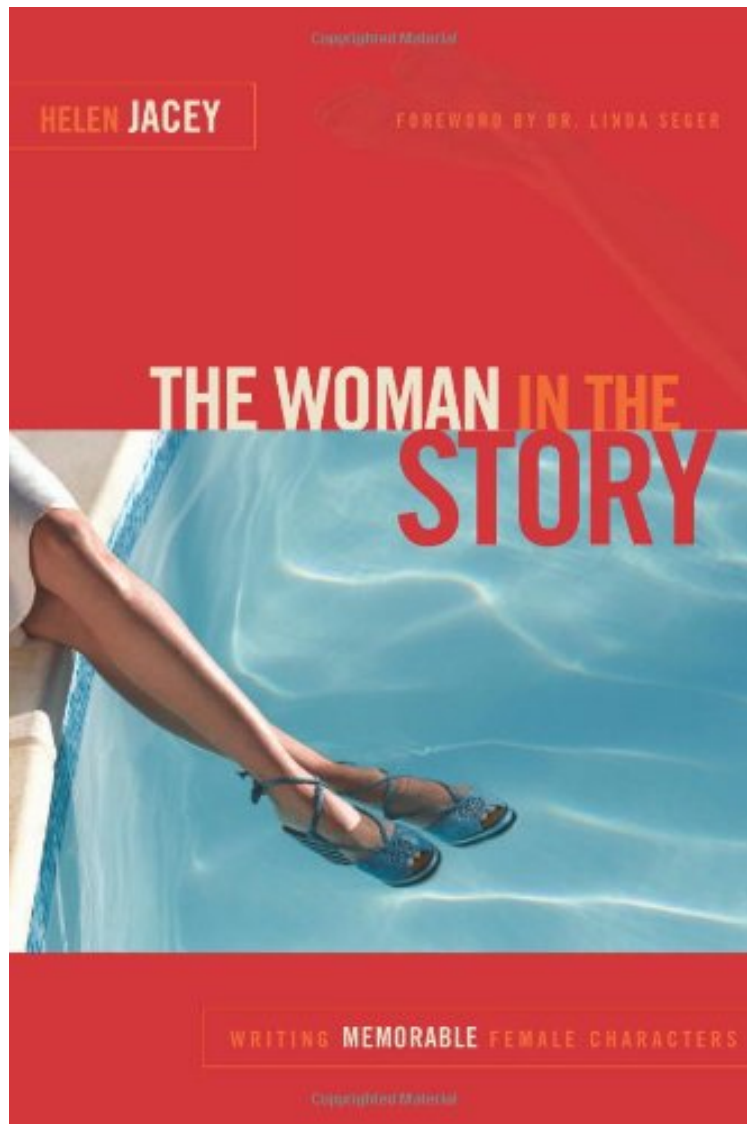


The Woman in the Story: Writing Memorable Female Characters

Helen Jacey

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Helen Jacey : The Woman in the Story: Writing Memorable Female Characters before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Woman in the Story: Writing Memorable Female Characters*:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Great Insights into Women By Kim Hudson Helen Jacey has looked at the way women are represented in film and offers so many insights. When you choose to make the lead character in your story a woman there is a reason, even if it is instinctive. *The Women in the Story* encourages the

writer to explore that choice and looks at the power a female lead brings to the story and how to maximize the impact on the screen. I can't think of another book that has recognized that there is an interesting and unique perspective that is introduced when the lead is a Heroine. I think a lot of writing is taking your instinct for a story from your unconscious to your conscious where you can manipulate it. Jacey presents ideas that inspire understanding of the female heroine which allow the writer to take some risks and explore the Heroine's essential nature. I really like the movie examples Jacey has chosen. Some I was not aware of but the explanations are so vivid I can understand her point and they sound so good I have them noted for my next trip to the video store! She also talks about movies that didn't work. I found it really helpful to notice why a character felt flat. Not knowing the things Jacey reveals in her book has far too often left female characters unlikeable or unmemorable next to male counterparts that sparkle on the screen. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Breaking the Molds for Unforgettable Heroines By Ann Baldwin In *The Woman in the Story*, Helen Jacey gives you a rare look into what makes a compelling, unique, and unforgettable heroine in films, the secret formula for building her foundation, and all the questions you need to ask to bring her to life on the page. Helen reveals the various roles that women choose in life (and sometimes that have been chosen for them, as history has demonstrated with the many cultures of the world). Often is the case, women will choose more than one role through-out their life. These role choices give women more depth, character, and distinction, compared to the typical stereotypes and archetypes, which are culturally created and have been the basis from which so many female characters in films have been conceived and portrayed. She examines the primal, masculine-oriented, conflict/stakes driven stories along with the harmony, balance, and connection-oriented, union driven stories. Helen incorporates over 190 films and T.V. shows as examples to include characters like Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind*, Clarice Starling in *Silence of the Lambs*, Dian Fossey in *Gorillas in the Mist*, Andrea and Miranda in *The Devil Wears Prada*, Carrie Bradshaw in *Sex in the City* and more. Real-life heroines, through-out history, have been breaking the molds for women around the world; it's our responsibility to not only tell their stories, but those of the present and future heroines as well. One of the most challenging things a writer must do is to not only observe others and the relationships in their own lives, but they must take a deep look within themselves (all the good, bad, and ugly parts). Every human being has faults, weaknesses, insecurities, an evil twin, made mistakes, buried wounds, and scars, along with good qualities and experiences too. Understanding human nature is the key to being able to write about it accurately and it must start from within. I highly recommend *The Woman in the Story* for all writers who want to create more realistic, diverse, and memorable heroines in their stories; and, it's not just about making your female characters unforgettable, but you as a writer as well. *The Woman in the Story: Writing Memorable Female Characters* 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Have By K. Zook I've now read this book three times, underlined, highlighted, taken notes... So it's time to give it the rating it deserves! A fantastic insight into writing female characters with depth and uniqueness. I can't think of a better book on this subject. It's a stand out and is front and center on my writing desk. I can't imagine writing about female characters without the help of this book.

Inspired by female psychology and gender issues, this howto book casts a refreshingly honest and empowering women-centric light on every stage of the screenwriting process.