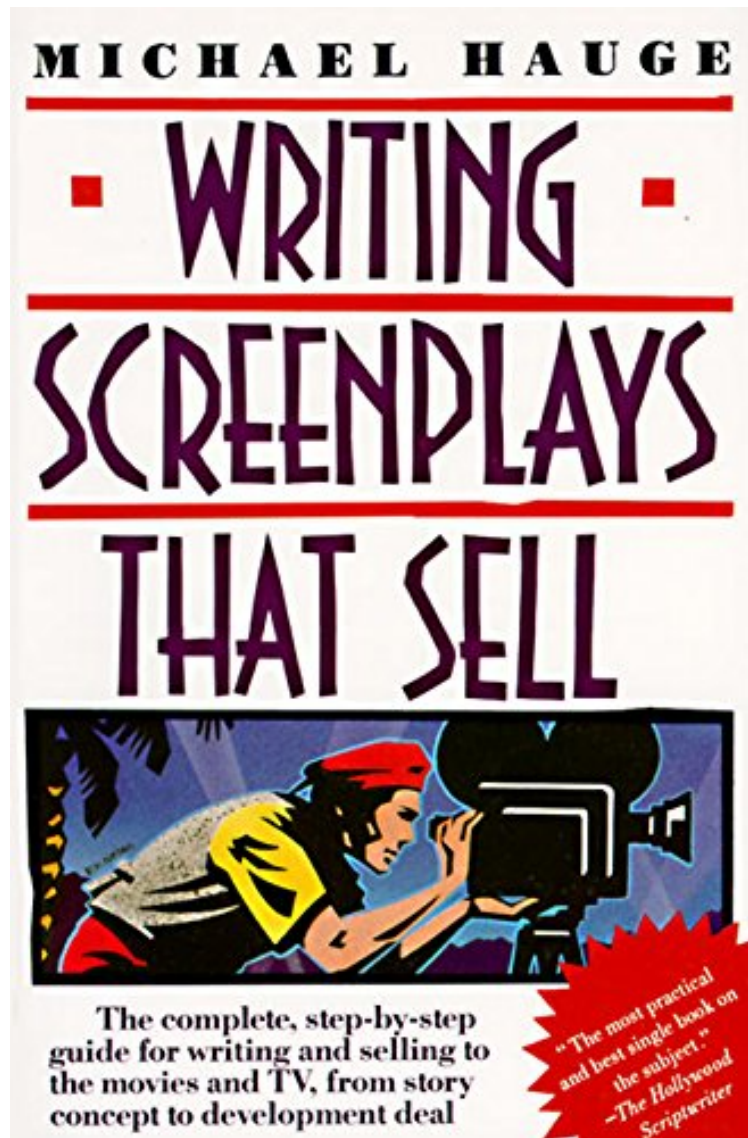


Writing Screenplays That Sell

Michael Hauge

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Michael Hauge : Writing Screenplays That Sell before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writing Screenplays That Sell:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. One of the Three Best Writing Books EverBy Jeff WignallI have written for a living for nearly 40 years and, in my mind, there have been three great books written on the subject of writing (and hundreds of horrid books--including almost all Writer's Digest Books): William Zinsser's On Writing Well, 30th Anniversary Edition: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction, Strunk White's The Elements of Style: 50th

Anniversary Edition and this book. Zinsser's book is a wonderful book on nonfiction writing and on discovering who you are as a writer (and having the courage to express that in all of your work) and Strunk White's book is a style guide that every writer should have at their elbow day and night. Michael Hague's book (and I've never met or spoken to the man) is the finest book ever written on the subject of story writing and storytelling. It is aimed at screen writers, but every single word of it is equally valuable to novelists. I've owned the book almost since it was first published (and have re-bought it several times because I keep giving it away) and the most recent copy that I bought (2006) is so full of highlighting and underlining that it looks like I was cramming for an exam. The first half of the book is devoted largely to what it takes to be a screenwriter (and to succeed as a screenwriter commercially) and what the elements of a great screenplay are. For me, the most important sections of this first half are the chapters on story concept, finding ideas and, very importantly, character development. I can honestly say I've read this book dozens of times and I am continually amazed at how timeless Hague's advice is and how helpful it is. If you are trying to find your voice as a screenwriter or a novelist (or an oral storyteller), don't deny yourself this book another day. I've read dozens of books on writing (particularly as I made the migration from nonfiction to fiction) and most end up being donated to book sales. I keep hoping I'll find another book that inspires me or informs me as much as this one, but I never have. I have no reason to sell books for Hague, again, I don't know him at all, but every time I open the book I am reminded of the key elementary requirements of a great story. In the section on "Establishing Character Identification," for example, Hague offers these pieces of advice: 1. Create Sympathy for the Character 2. Put the Character in Jeopardy 3. Make the Character Likable 4. Introduce the Character as Soon as Possible 5. Show the Character in Touch with His Own Power 6. Place the Character in a familiar setting 7. Give the Character Familiar Flaws and Foibles (There are a few more, but I'll let you discover them.) These basic story tenants are explained with extreme clarity and when you read these pages they will give you guideposts for creating your own enduring and likable characters. Just having those seven concepts clearly explained was worth the price of the book to me. And every single time I am struggling with a story idea, plot or a character motivation, I find a way to solve the problems by rereading Hague's advice. The second half of the book deals mainly with screenplay structure--and again, it's explained with great clarity. It's funny that Hague uses "The Karate Kid" frequently as an example of a great screenplay (it is) because it seems somewhat dated now--and I kind of wish he would update the book and reference some newer films--but, as he says, in terms of structure, "The Karate Kid" is almost a perfect screenplay. If you read what he has to say about that film and then adapt the ideas to other more modern films that you like ("What About Bob" and "No Country for Old Men" are probably my choices for a near-perfect screenplay--though Bob is a bit dated now), you'll see that his analysis of what makes a screenplay great holds very true. I don't mean to pontificate too much here, so sorry for the long review, but this is a great book and if you're serious about writing (especially for a living), you will never regret owning and reading this book. I've sold more than two million nonfiction books (including--and here comes the plug for my newest book: *The NEW Joy of Digital Photography* (A Lark Photography Book) and now that I am trying to expand my writing into fiction, I'm grateful every day that I own this fine book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great advice By James LaMar Michael Hauge does a good job of telling you the mechanics of selling your screenplay(s), in the second half of his book. But, I think he does a fantastic job of telling you how to write and organize your screenplay, in the first half of his book. He uses then-current films, to illustrate the points he makes. His writing style is easy to read, and he seems to be very honest. I am finishing Syd Field's book on how to correct your screenplay's problems. Together, I think these two books will give the aspiring screenwriter most of what he or she needs to get started on the right track. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Writing ScreenPlays That Sell By my review I went through a few other screenplay books and found alot more jargon and not enough specifics. I came across this book and I LOVE IT! Why?? It hits four major keys points to complete your screenplay in "detail", also there are sample screenplays layed out very easy to understand. I'm not experienced at all however I came across a great childs story-line and was told by family and friends to pursue in a screenplay for my idea so I wrote and wrote but I didn't have the fundamental in properly formatting my story into a screenplay. This book covers from A-Z! This book is great for beginners and your advanced screenplay writers too! THIS IS A MUST HAVE BOOK!!!!!!

No one is better than Michael Hauge at finding what is most authentic in every moment of a story. Will Smith Michael Hauge is a story master, and this book is an absolute must have for anyone serious about telling great stories for the screen. DeVon Franklin, Vice-President of Production, Columbia Pictures From renowned Hollywood story consultant Michael Hauge, considered one of the most sought after lecturers and script consultants in the U.S. by *Scriptwriter* magazine, comes the ultimate concept-to-deal guide for writing and selling screenplays for movies and television now fully revised and updated for the modern screenwriter in this all new 20th anniversary edition.