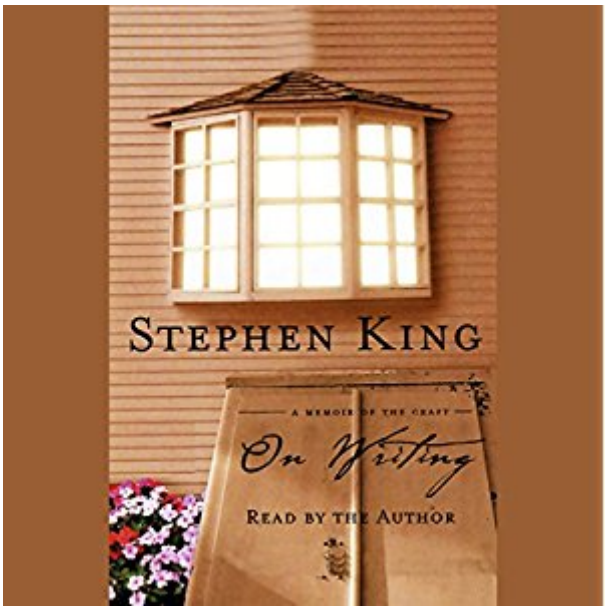
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On Writing: A Memoir Of The Craft



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Synopsis

Read by the Author "If you don’t have the time to read, you don’t have the time or the tools to write." On Writing begins with a mesmerizing account of King’s childhood and his early focus on writing to tell a story. A series of vivid memories from adolescence, college, and the struggling years that led up to his first novel, Carrie, offer a fresh and often funny perspective on the formation of a writer. King then turns to the tools of his trade, examining crucial aspects of the wriiter’s art and life, offering practical and inspiring advice on everything from plot and character development to work habits and rejection. King was in the middle of writing this book when he was nearly killed in a widely reported accident. On Writing culminates with a profoundly moving account of how his need to write spurred him toward recovery, and brought him back to his life. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book thoroughly, and took my time reading it. I could "hear" Mr. King’s "voice" in my head as I read this on my iPad Kindle app. I felt like I was reading something from a friend---as if he had written a personal letter to me--- to give me an understanding of what he went through to become the person he is today. I think that his directives about the "how-to’s" and "don’t do’s" were very practical. I breathed a sigh of relief when I got the feeling that writing classes and clubs are kind of a waste of time. Just write, is what I think he was telling me, I mean, his audience. I will

probably read it again. What I got from his personal, real-life-lessons is this: Read a lot. Read good stuff. Write all the time. Find a place and write. Don’t share your stuff unless you share it with someone you can trust. Go with your gut. Write all the time (I said that already because he said it or inferred it frequently). Don’t use the same adjective over and over. Stick to the point. Don’t over-do it on the descriptions. Let your audience see the movie you see in your head, because if you write it well, they will. I am glad this wasn’t a "point by point HOW TO WRITE a story or a book" book, because really, writing isn’t something you can do easily from a bulleted list. Writing is something you do from your heart, and you keep doing it until it’s right and good. And then when that person you trust reads your stuff and offers some criticism, you can take it for what it’s worth and use it or not.

’On Writing’ is a revealing and practical look at the writer’s craft, comprising many of the necessary tools of the trade for any aspiring author. It is a gem of a resource and entirely worth its purchase price in my opinion. It is noteworthy to relate that this is NOT is a ’how-to’ book on crafting novels and short stories. Although Mr. King provides many nuggets of wisdom for aspiring writers throughout his book, he makes it clear that every author must forge their own pathway toward their goals, whatever they may be. In other words, there is no such thing as a blueprint for success in his vocation. Because good stories essentially write themselves, in most situations it is wise for an author to ’go with the flow’ rather that obsessively follow a rigid plot or storyline schematic in their mind. Every writer needs their own muse to kindle their own imagination. He compares the discovery of a good story idea with digging up a fossil; the quality of the find(story) is ultimately dependent on the skill of the author to delicately extract the fossil from the earth and polish it up for museum goers. I have improvised a little bit on his analogy, but I think it fits. On Writing is a compelling, forthright narrative on what obstacles aspiring authors might expect to encounter on their personal journeys toward self-fulfillment. It is also a tough love manual for writers peppered with anecdotal stories of Mr Kings interesting life along the way. I found it illuminating and have a far greater understanding of the craft after reading this book.....There are a plethora of takeaways from this fine reference, far too many to include in my review. I will attempt to prioritize the more important ones for myself and relay them to anyone kind enough to read my review on . If I have neglected to mention any of value, they have probably been mentioned or discussed before in countless other reviews of this work.Takeaway 1--Omit needless words, adverbs, the passive voice, and excessive description whenever possible.Takeaway 2--Imitation often precedes creation. SK related how as a child he often copied stories from authors he enjoyed verbatim; sometimes

omitting and sometimes adding story fragments of his own creation. There is no shame in imitation if it is part of the learning process!Takeaway 3--King lists his wife/marriage and his physical health as his two keys for success. The message for aspiring authors should be to exercise regularly and marry someone who is both positive and supporting of your endeavors.Takeaway 4--Read a lot and write a lot. The art of description is a learned skill that develops and improves with copious reading and voluminous writing. There is no substitute for time invested in this make-or-break skill set.Takeaway 5--Keep your story chronological whenever possible. Flashback sequences sometimes work well in the movies or on television, but often come across as corny or cliche in novels..Takeaway 7--Find a network of trustworthy individuals to read and give feedback on your first draft in its rawest form. .....Affably written and educational, this well organized book is a delight to read. There were several revelations in this book, the most important one revealed as Mr.King recounted his near-fatal accident in 1999(he was hit by a drunk driver in a van while out for his afternoon walk). He professes that life isn't a support system for art --the reverse is actually true. Art is a support system for life. Mr King recounts vividly how the inseparable link between his writing and his life helped motivate him during the many months of his painful recuperation. My favorite quote of his is near the end of the book: "Writing isn't about making money, getting famous, getting dates, getting laid, or making friends. In the end, it's about enriching the lives of those who read your work, and enriching your own life, as well." I cannot recommend this inspirational and entertaining book highly enough to readers. Pubished in 2001? Seems like it was written yesterday!

I enjoyed reading this book. To get inside the authors thoughts and feelings about something we both love was awesome. It felt so personal and it was like he was having a conversation with me and wasn't holding back. If you love to write, I would recommend you to read the book. But if you're looking for the writing King to be soft on you about the craft, then forget it. Mr. King gives you the real about writing; he gets real about writing. I have added this book to my writing toolbox. Hopefully if you read this book, you'll understand what I mean. Happy Reading!!

I'm an academic. Many of us academics walk around headless because our heads are so far up our own asses. Stephen King is the antidote. If you're not sold on the book by the time you read the first three forwards, I don't know what could sell you. But this is a refreshingly colloquial and real account of what makes a writer and what can help a writer get better. Fantastic read. I'd almost forgotten reading can be enjoyable until I read this book.

If you are looking at getting into writing this is the absolute best book. Stephen has a way of laying out the complicated process of creating a novel in such a clear, concise, common sense manner that you if have any part of you that is interested in writing, you will have no reason not to try.His take on writing in what I would refer to as "freestyle" is right up my alley. For the longest time I thought novelists designed an entire plot and framework to their books, having the details listed out, character profiles, etc. Not Stephen. He comes up with the basic story just by looking at the world around him and wondering "What If?" and then he lets it rip.My favorite part of the entire book is the underlying idea that a writer should be nothing more than an Amanuensis or transcriber of the story that already exists somewhere out there in the Universe. A writer is reading the existing story for the very first time and simply writing it down for others to enjoy.I absolutely love that philosophy towards writing. Don’t create the story. Understand that it already exists and you just have to uncover it.It’s the most rewarding and adventurous way to look at writing.

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