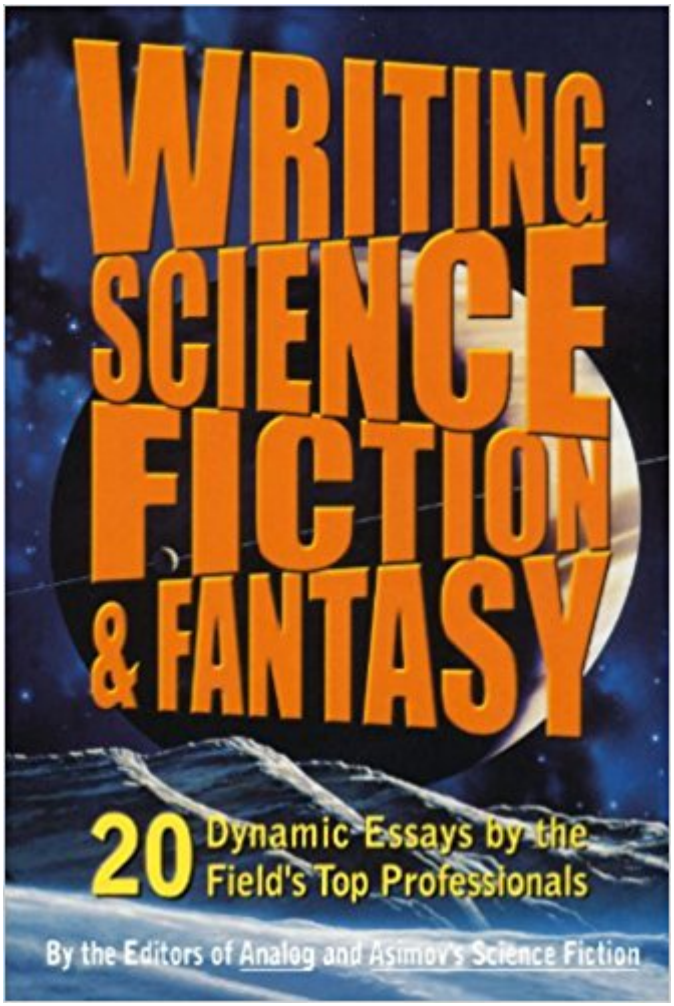
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Writing Science Fiction & Fantasy: 20 Dynamic Essays By The Field's Top Professionals



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Synopsis

Do you dream of -Crossing the galaxies? Living in the far future?Entertaining millions with your imagination?This book can help make those dreams come true!Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy brings you expert advice on how to craft and market tales of the fantastic. Award-winning writers such as John Barnes, James Patrick Kelly, Norman Spinrad, Connie Willis, and Jane Yolen reveal some of their secrets of crafting believable stories, while Grand Masters Isaac Asimov and Robert A. Heinlein provide timeless advice for beginners and veterans alike. The editors also provide valuable insights into the process by which stories get published and they offer helpful hints on getting your story out of the slush pile and into print.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This how-to book is divided into four parts: "Storytelling," "Ideas and Foundations," and two sections on mechanics, markets, and dealing with editors. Issac Asimov wades in rather superficially on "Plotting," "Dialog," and "Revisions," but Poul Anderson’s almost technical essay on preparing a scientifically valid world couldn’t be better, and Hal Clement’s piece on peopling such a world is just as good. Norman Spinrad uses the techniques of futurists to model how space colonization could occur and provides graphs for the beginner. The tilt here is toward "hard" science fiction, but Jane Yolen’s meditation on fantasy, "Turtles All the Way Down," is lyrical and even moving in its reverence for the past. Connie Willis writes about comedy and Stanley Schmidt, amusingly, about cliches. The market listings are exhaustive, including little magazines you won’t find elsewhere.

Valuable both for the beginner and the pro.- John Mort, Kansas City P.L., Mo.Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Some of the more cogent writing on the subject in some time. Highly recommended.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢BooklistÃ¢â ¬Å“I think nearly everyone who is serious about writing should get a copy and keep it on hand.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Scavenger's Newsletter

I bought this book mainly because I had an interest in developing a hard sci-fi story. I was looking for the type of practical advice that I wouldn't necessarily find in a generic craft book (for example: how can I design my own planet??). This book was exactly the type of resource I needed. I have about thirty pages dog-eared at the top and another twenty dog-eared at the bottom (my system: if there's something interesting near the top of the page, I dog-ear the top; if there's something interesting near the bottom of the page, I dog-ear the bottom). "The Creation of Imaginary Beings" and "The Creation of Imaginary Worlds" were especially helpful, not to mention the essay on building a future.For those of you who are more interested in some basics written THROUGH the sci-fi genre, there are a couple chapters worth your time (especially the ones written by Isaac Asimov). Though I consider most of those chapters a little below my skill-set, I was still humbled by Stanley Schmidt's "Seeing Your Way to Better Stories," which I dog-eared a couple times.All in all, I came in looking for specific, concrete advice on world-building in the sci-fi genre. I wasn't disappointed.

Here are the essays -- the old essays -- everyone in the science fiction field references. I decided it was time to stop letting everyone else tell me (for example) what Heinlein's Rules For Writing were, and read them myself, un-paraphrased, un-modified, and in their original context.

It teaches what you - basically - need to know about writing this genre.

There is lots of good practical advice by the many authors inside this book.

A different aproach to -How to write... - book, not by explaining how to actually write something but a series of essays where the authors explain how they write and what rules they follow and what's important for the story. I find it very interesting, specially because these are renowned authors, with decades of experience.

Not quite as good as the book written by the editors of Asimov that gave examples, but I still found this useful and have carried it to my writer's meetups.

This is a book of essays. Some are much more interesting than others. Overall... a good book.

Bought this for my husband. He really finds it helpful!

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