



Writing Fiction For Dummies

By Randy Ingermanson, Peter Economy

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A complete guide to writing and selling your novel

So you want to write a novel? Great! That's a worthy goal, no matter what your reason. But don't settle for just writing a novel. Aim high. Write a novel that you intend to sell to a publisher. *Writing Fiction for Dummies* is a complete guide designed to coach you every step along the path from beginning writer to royalty-earning author. Here are some things you'll learn in *Writing Fiction for Dummies*:

- **Strategic Planning:** Pinpoint where you are on the roadmap to publication; discover what every reader desperately wants from a story; home in on a marketable category; choose from among the four most common creative styles; and learn the self-management methods of professional writers.
- **Writing Powerful Fiction:** Construct a story world that rings true; create believable, unpredictable characters; build a strong plot with all six layers of complexity of a modern novel; and infuse it all with a strong theme.
- **Self-Editing Your Novel:** Psychoanalyze your characters to bring them fully to life; edit your story structure from the top down; fix broken scenes; and polish your action and dialogue.
- **Finding An Agent and Getting Published:** Write a query letter, a synopsis, and a proposal; pitch your work to agents and editors without fear.

Writing Fiction For Dummies takes you from being a *writer* to being an *author*. It can happen—if you have the talent and persistence to do what you need to do.

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Editorial Review

Review

'...an easy-to-follow guide providing step-by-step instructions...' (Writers Forum, December 2009).

From the Back Cover

Writing a novel can be a daunting process — it will challenge you, stretch you, and change you. Whether you've never written fiction before or are looking to brush up your skills and learn new techniques for crafting your words, *Writing Fiction For Dummies* gives you savvy advice on navigating the entire writing process and turning your ideas into a well-written, marketable book.

- Establishing an ideal writing environment — discover how to set aside enough time and an ideal location for your writing
- Getting ready to write fiction — pinpoint your location on the road to publication, and set your strategic and tactical goals to get your novel published
- Discovering the principles of writing powerful fiction — build a realistic story world, envision unique and exciting characters, craft the layers of your plot, and grow a theme organically
- Editing and polishing your story and characters — put on your editing hat and analyze your characters, scrutinize your story structure, and edit your scenes to get your novel in tip-top shape
- Getting published — learn how to write query letters and book proposals that will ignite an agent's or editor's enthusiasm and help sell your novel to the right publisher

Open the book and find:

- Your strategic roadmap to getting published
- Help in choosing your category
- Tips for building a believable plot
- Guidelines for creating three-dimensional characters
- Examples of storylines that spotlight a novel's high concept
- Pros and cons of various publishing methods
- Advice on finding the right agent and publisher

About the Author

Randy Ingermanson is the award-winning author of six novels. He is known around the world as "the Snowflake Guy," thanks to his Web site article on the Snowflake method, which has been viewed more than a million times. Before venturing into fiction, Randy earned a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of California at Berkeley. Randy has taught fiction at numerous writing conferences and sits on the advisory board of American Christian Fiction Writers. He also publishes the world's largest e-zine on how to write fiction, *The Advanced Fiction Writing E-zine*. Randy's first two novels won Christy awards, and his second novel *Oxygen*, coauthored with John B. Olson, earned a spot on the New York Public Library's *Books for the Teen Age* list. Visit Randy's personal Web site at www.ingermanson.com and his Web site for fiction writers at www.AdvancedFictionWriting.com.

Peter Economy of La Jolla, California, is a bestselling author with 11 *For Dummies* titles under his belt, including two second editions and one third edition. Peter is coauthor of *Writing Children's Books For*

Dummies, Home-Based Business For Dummies, Consulting For Dummies, Why Aren't You Your Own Boss?, The Management Bible, and many more books. Peter also serves as Associate Editor of *Leader to Leader*, the Apex Award-winning journal of the Leader to Leader Institute. Check out Peter's Web site at www.petereconomy.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Matt Cresswell:

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