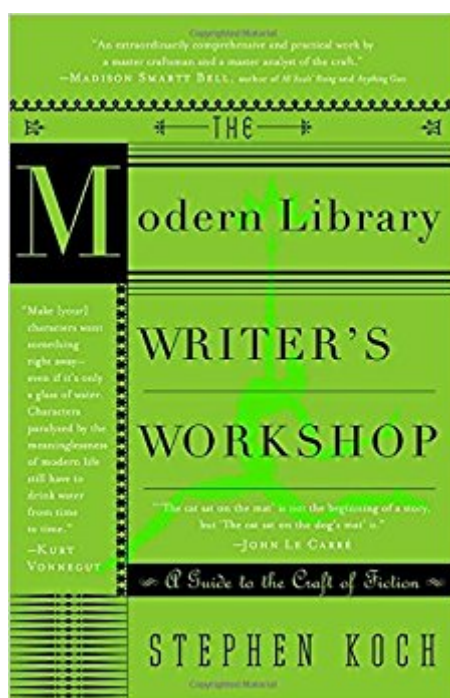


The book was found

# The Modern Library Writer's Workshop: A Guide To The Craft Of Fiction (Modern Library Paperbacks)



## Synopsis

“Make [your] characters want something right away—even if it’s only a glass of water. Characters paralyzed by the meaninglessness of modern life still have to drink water from time to time.” —Kurt Vonnegut

The cat sat on the mat is not the beginning of a story, but the cat sat on the dog’s mat is.

John Le Carré

Nothing is more inspiring for a beginning writer than listening to masters of the craft talk about the writing life. But if you can’t get Vladimir Nabokov, Virginia Woolf, and Gabriel García Márquez together at the Algonquin, The Modern Library Writer’s Workshop gives you the next best thing. Stephen Koch, former chair of Columbia University’s graduate creative writing program, presents a unique guide to the craft of fiction. Along with his own lucid observations and commonsense techniques, he weaves together wisdom, advice, and inspiring commentary from some of our greatest writers. Taking you from the moment of inspiration (keep a notebook with you at all times), to writing a first draft (do it quickly! you can always revise later), to figuring out a plot (plot always serves the story, not vice versa), Koch is a benevolent mentor, glad to dispense sound advice when you need it most. The Modern Library Writer’s Workshop belongs on every writer’s shelf, to be picked up and pored over for those moments when the muse needs a little help finding her way.

## Book Information

Series: Modern Library Paperbacks

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Modern Library; Modern Library Pbk. Ed edition (April 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375755586

ISBN-13: 978-0375755583

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 55 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #91,700 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Library & Information Science > General #261 in Books > Textbooks > Reference > Writing Skills #585 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Writing Skills

## Customer Reviews

There's no shortage of writing guides available, but Koch's is especially valuable as it collects the comments and thoughts of such writers as Anthony Trollope, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and Stephen King, in addition to his own sage advice. Koch, who taught at Columbia University's writing program, divides his book into the stages of the writing process. "Begin right now," he urges his readers. He goes over the basics, such as the importance of reading, the difficulty of finding time to write, and the importance of plot, with the added bonus of backing quotes from writers who have been around the block and found success. Learning that Toni Morrison, too, had to balance work and writing, or that Ray Bradbury writes six or seven drafts of each of his stories, is bound to buoy struggling writers. One thing he avoids is talking about the difficulties of a writer's life--a student sagely advised him to leave that to everyone else. Koch's tone is both encouraging and forthright, and his accessible, friendly guide will be essential for aspiring writers. Kristine Huntley

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"An extraordinarily comprehensive and practical work by a master craftsman and a master analyst of the craft."  
•Madison Smartt Bell, author of All Souls Rising and Anything Goes  
"Stephen Koch was my teacher long ago. Now he is everyone's teacher, indelibly. This is a book not just for the beginning writer but for every writer."  
•Martha McPhee, author of the National Book Award nominee Gorgeous Lies  
"The Modern Library Writer's Workshop is a treasure trove of wisdom, both immensely practical and philosophical, entertaining and thought-provoking. Koch takes us inside the writing process, and it is impossible not to emerge transformed."  
•Joanna Hershon, author of Swimming

Reading just the first chapter of this book caught my attention and encouraged me to read on. The first chapter's tips on writing about what you know, where to find your story, inventing your story, etc., peeked my interest. It's a well written book with sentences that flow easily from one topic to another on what to think about and how to prepare for your writings, no matter what you choose to write. I look forward to reading the next chapters!

Bloody Good! Takes the elements of fiction writing apart and puts them back together in coherent form. Forces one to consider all facets of creating fiction. Lot of insights from successful writers woven into his narrative...often in in accord with one another. My copy could not be resold as it totally defaced with highlighter. But I accept that it ain't gonna make me the next Henry Jame....

It's a difficult thing wading through the myriad of writing books and most are all saying the same thing. This is a collection of quotes and advice from other writers and I think the most helpful resource to a writer. I'm currently referring to it as the Bible of writing. It is thick with knowledge and almost every sentence offers encouragement and enlightenment. I do my devotions and read from it every morning before I begin my writing day. If you're looking for a good book to help you come up with a plot or develop characters (I'm not sure there is one), look elsewhere. If you ever wished you could have hundreds (it seems like hundreds) of writers telling you what has worked for them, providing you with guidance and options for getting into a groove, buy this book.

The art of how to write. How to write short stories. How to write a novel. It's all here. This is one of the best learning tools I have purchased. A must read for authors at all levels.

The best book I've studied on the subject so far. Brings in his own experience, and summarizes the best of the other books on the subject.

Recommended by WP; the beginning of the book spoke to me and was very encouraging. Then I hit the dry parts about structure which always kills my brain, personally. Which is My Brain, my personal brain thing. Still struggling to get through it.

I bought this as a textbook for an online short story class I am taking. It is a very good textbook for writers of both short stories and novels. I have learned a lot from this book. Definitely a recommended read!

This is the best craft book, EVER, for writers. Walks with you through all the elements (practical and psychological) that you need to get the job done.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Modern Library Writer's Workshop: A Guide to the Craft of Fiction (Modern Library Paperbacks)  
Science Fiction Writer's Workshop-I: An Introduction to Fiction Mechanics How to Write Realistic  
Zombies and Post-Apocalyptic Fiction: The Top Writer's Toolkit for Science Fiction Action and  
Horror (How to Write Realistic Fiction Book 4) Everyday Editing: Inviting Students to Develop Skill  
and Craft in Writer's Workshop Worlds of Childhood: The Art and Craft of Writing for Children (The  
Writer's Craft) Writing Vivid Plots: Professional Techniques for Fiction Writers (Writer's Craft Book

20) Writing Vivid Emotions: Professional Techniques for Fiction Authors (Writer's Craft Book 22)  
Euphonics for Writers: Professional Techniques for Fiction Authors (Writer's Craft) (Volume 15) How  
to Write Realistic Monsters, Aliens, and Fantasy Creatures: The Top Writer's Toolkit for Fantasy,  
Horror, and Science Fiction (How to Write Realistic Fiction Book 3) Spinning Wheels, Spinners and  
Spinning (Craft Paperbacks) Writer's & Illustrator's Guide to Children's Book Publishers and Agents,  
2nd Edition: Who They Are! What They Want! And How to Win Them Over! (Writer's Guide) The  
Erotic Writer's Market Guide: Advice, Tips, and Market Listing for the Aspiring Professional Erotic  
Writer The Tools of Screenwriting: A Writer's Guide to the Craft and Elements of a Screenplay Dr  
Rayne's Guide To Writerly Disorders: A Tongue-in-Cheek Diagnosis For What Ails Authors (Writer's  
Craft Book 26) Resume Magic, 4th Ed: Trade Secrets of a Professional Resume Writer (Resume  
Magic: Trade Secrets of a Professional Resume Writer) A Writer's Notebook: Unlocking the Writer  
Within You The Complete Writer: Level Two Workbook for Writing with Ease (The Complete Writer)  
The Complete Writer: Level 1 Workbook for Writing with Ease (The Complete Writer) Thinking Like  
A Romance Writer: The Sensual Writer's Sourcebook of Words and Phrases 1999 Children's  
Writer's & Illustrator's Market (Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market, 1999)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)