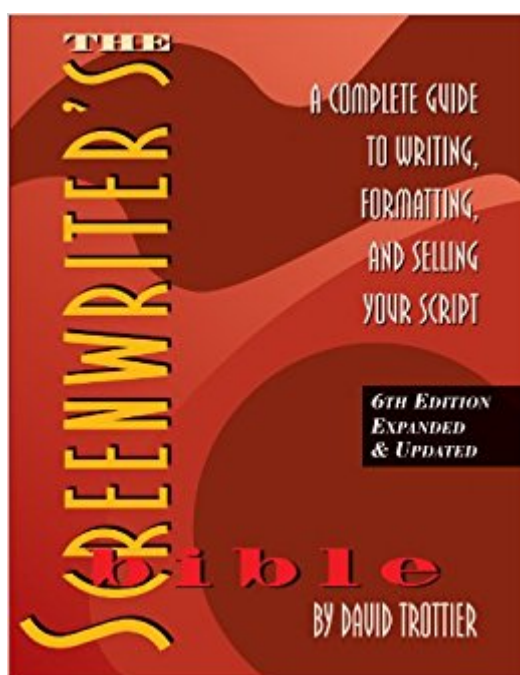


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# The Screenwriter's Bible, 6th Edition: A Complete Guide To Writing, Formatting, And Selling Your Script (Expanded & Updated)



## Synopsis

The 20th anniversary edition of one of the most popular, authoritative, and useful books on screenwriting. A standard by which other screenwriting books are measured, it has sold over 200,000 copies in its twenty-year life. Always up-to-date and reliable, it contains everything that both the budding and working screenwriter need under one cover: five books in one! A Screenwriting Primer that provides a concise course in screenwriting basics; A Screenwriting Workbook that walks you through the complete writing process, from nascent ideas through final revisions; A Formatting Guide that thoroughly covers today's correct formats for screenplays and TV scripts; A Spec Writing Guide that demonstrates today's spec style through sample scenes and analysis, with an emphasis on grabbing the reader's interest in the first ten pages; A Sales and Marketing Guide that presents proven strategies to help you create a laser-sharp marketing plan. Among this book's wealth of practical information are sample query letters, useful worksheets and checklists, hundreds of examples, sample scenes, and straightforward explanations of screenwriting fundamentals. The sixth edition is chock-full of new examples, the latest practices, and new material on non-traditional screenplay outlets.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Trottier is a script consultant, writer, producer, and screenwriting teacher. The Screenwriter's Bible was developed (and has been regularly updated) over the many years that he has helped screenwriters achieve their goals.

This is the third edition of this book that I've purchased since I first became interested in screenwriting. The instructional portion continues to impress me and it has been updated to reflect new "rules" since the last edition. The book is actually divided into five books - how to write a screenplay, a workbook of 7 steps to a stunning script, proper formatting technique, writing & revising, and a marketing plan for selling your script. I recommend this book for all levels of writers, particularly beginners. It's an easy, enjoyable read. The large print is easy on the eyes. This is a very inexpensive book in light of all the information contained in it. If I could give it more than five stars, I would.

I love the everyday language, the non-preachy delivery and the way that this book is broken up into several books. You can read what interests you, skip what you already know or just take it one book at a time. It's been very helpful in explaining format to a novice screenwriter like myself who didn't know when or why to use the ellipses ... or the dashes --. I've also never had a screenwriting class so this is an enjoyable read. Don't listen to someone who tells you to simply download some tv or movie scripts to learn, if that works for you good other than that...get this book!

This guy can write. I was worried I'd be sifting through a lot of fluff, but no. This book dives right into the meat of what you need to know. It's concise without skimping on any info. The fact that it completely covers both technical formatting and creative strategy makes it the only non-human resource you'll ever need to write a script. It's easy to make the mistake of gathering tidbits of info from different websites, and then deciding that you're properly armed to submit a spec script. Don't make that mistake. This book is worth every penny.

Excellent descriptive approach on how to write a screenplay, covering every aspect of the mechanics and style required to write a professionally finished and ready spec script to submit to the deal makers. This book covers every specific or general question you may have on how to write a spec screenplay and should be next to any would be or successful screenplay writers laptop. Truly the most complete book on the subject I've read, and I've read most of them.

I read this cover-to-cover in less than a week. It's got all kinds of information on story structure, characterization, formatting, even marketing. It's got lots of current, no-bull information on how to make something that sells and who to sell it to in a very competitive field. I'm really happy with my purchase and might pick up the next edition someday. The sections on structure and story alone are

worth the price of the book.

I've used Trottier's "Bible" since starting out as an aspiring screenwriter in Illinois over ten years ago when the cover was blue - I haven't the slightest clue what edition that was but it was my first - and of all the books I've read to hone my craft the "Bible" has consistently been a must have merely as a reference if nothing else. Having lived and worked as a writer professionally for over half a decade now and living in Los Angeles over a decade I could tell you without a doubt a single book isn't going to turn anyone into a writer overnight. I happen to fall in the Hemingway camp believing writer's are born not made, however with screenwriting it would have to be the one medium of writing with "rules" and the bible explains the rules but doesn't preach them like your typical McKee or Syd Fields Book - not that I'm knocking either one of the two gentlemen in fact I will always be grateful to Syd Fields paradigm system (may he rest in peace). Anyway back on point, Trottier's "Bible" is great for all levels and talents from novice to Michael Mann (not saying he himself endorses this book in anyway, I'm simply referencing him as the top tier of writing talents however if he has the bible I wouldn't be surprised) because if nothing else this book contains everything us pro's have forgotten about screenwriting as the saying goes. Personally for me I use the Bible simply as a reference for those tricky, not every day tools such as "Inserts" etc. Not only does the bible help provide a more simple way to put idea to page but it shows the industry standard not one person's trick. Not having read the bible cover to cover in over a decade I can't speak to his journey in teaching the fundamentals of structure and plot but from what I recall from earlier editions he references films most everyone has seen to show examples. This newest edition references newer movies which I'd actually consider the one fault of the book as in my personal and humble opinion I don't feel the future screenwriters of the world should be taking notes from the trash on the silver screen today but rather we should preserve and reference the classics from the 40's-90's when film-making was still about telling great stories and not just selling popcorn and putting butts in seats. You can't write in 3D after all. All in all Trottier puts together a good product here which is cut up into separate books to cover everything from fundamentals to selling your final product. However from professional experience it's important to keep in mind screenwriting isn't a get rich quick scheme. You're not going to read this book, send out a query letter, and be rich and famous the following day, It takes elbow grease. Rewrites. Patience. Rejection. Rejection. And More Rejection... and a lot of luck. All and all this is a fine reference book which a writer can hold onto throughout his entire career and realistically use here and there but it's not the only book out there on screenwriting and I don't suggest sticking only to this one. Feed yourself with as much you can and hone your

craft by writing every day and if you ever get stuck or don't quite know how to efficiently and best show your audience what's in your head flip through this "bible" and I'm sure you'll find something. Good luck.

First off I must say, if you don't already have the natural talent this book won't give you the "gift" but with that said everyone has something to learn and this book is truly from heaven. I can't say enough good things about it, its the most amazing book. I'm so grateful for it.

I haven't finished reading this yet, but a friend of mine had recommended it when I began developing my first screenplay. It provides a lot of examples and insight for writing a screenplay. It is a good place to start, but I would recommend it as a starting point and reference guide. If you are serious about screenwriting I would recommend getting some of the professional screenwriting software that is available.

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