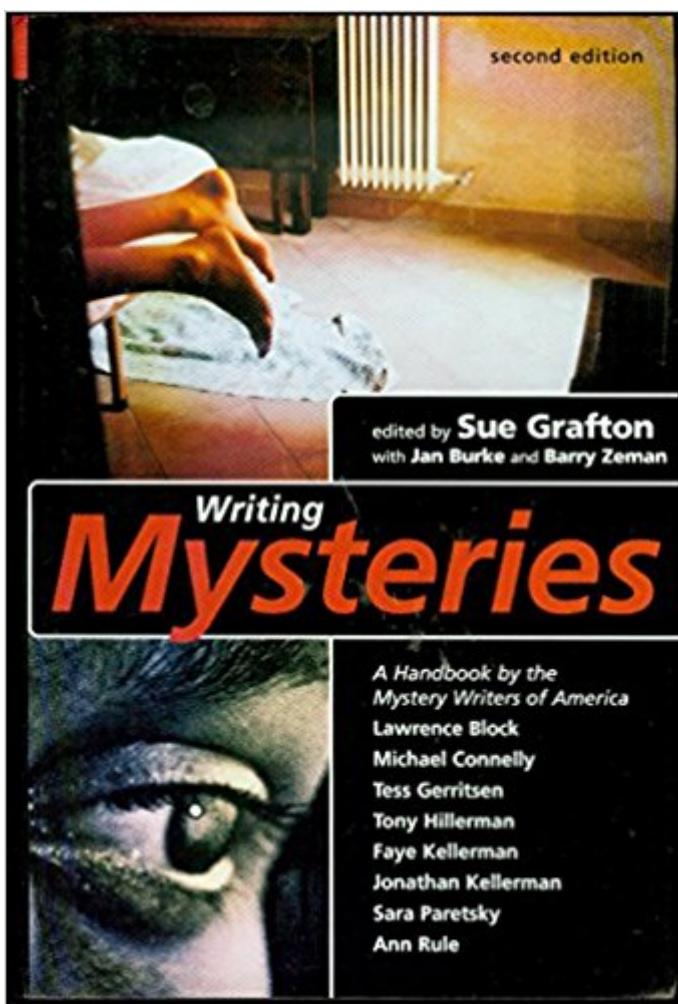


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Writing Mysteries: A Handbook By The Mystery Writers Of America



Synopsis

Here's your ticket to the greatest mystery-writing workshop ever! In this extraordinary compilation, more than three dozen members of the Mystery Writers of America share insights and advice that can help make your writing dreams a reality. You'll learn how to: Develop unique ideas; Construct an airtight plot packed with intrigue and suspense; Create compelling characters and atmospheric settings; Develop a writing style all your own; Write convincing dialogue; Choose the appropriate point of view; Work with an agent; Conduct accurate research; and much, much more! You'll also find special guidelines for creating clues, dropping red herrings, and writing medical, legal, historical, true crime, and young adult mysteries. It's all the information you need to solve the mystery-writing riddle! --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The mystery, like other stories, relies on believable characters, a strong narrative, and crisp prose. But it is also "a way of examining the dark side of human nature," says Writing Mysteries editor Sue Grafton. The book's 37 contributors ponder everything from brainstorming ideas to dealing with editors. Jeremiah Healy jump-starts the book with a piece that considers the unwritten "rules" of mystery writing. Stuart Kaminsky discusses research--experts, it turns out, are just waiting for you to contact them--and Sandra Scoppettone discusses vivid villains. Sara Paretsky contemplates the pitfalls of using a recurring hero, and Michael Connelly contributes a fine piece on characterization. "The best crime novels," Connelly says, "are not about how a detective works on a case; they are about how a case works on a detective." Other chapters focus on amateur sleuths, convincing

dialogue, depiction of violence, and specialty genres. The book's short chapters form a sort of mystery writer's antipasti plate. Some won't resonate, while others will leave you wishing you had a larger serving. An ideal primer for mystery writers. --Jane Steinberg --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sue Grafton is the best-selling author of the Kinsey Millhone series. She lives in Southern California. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I just read Sue Grafton's book, "Writing Mysteries." Grafton edited the book and chapters are by many great, current mystery writers. As a writer, the book was a pure pleasure of learning about writing craft. Definitely not just for mystery writers. Think of all those classes you paid for and attended on specific writing subjects you were very interested in, and then someone else in the class asks a question at the begining "like how do I get an agent," and the teacher spends the class time discussing getting an agent. You leave frustrated and annoyed because that's not why you attended and you just wasted your time and money. Or the times you've attended an advanced class, only to have the teacher have to explain beginner things, because some people are in the wrong class. This is a pet peeve for me. Reading "Writing Mysteries" is like taking those classes without the veering off topic you find in classes. It's table of contents follows a nice progression from beginning to end of the book writing process. Yes, it does respond to "How do I get an agent," but only at the end in it's own chapter where it belongs. I highly recommend this book for fellow writers.

The product an the delivery were great.Thanks,Jerry

I wanted a book I could pick up and read periodically that would keep me learning and thinking about my writing when i was relaxing. This is just that kind of book. It is a compilation of accomplished authors' articles on writing. When you are at home in the bathroom or waiting for someone, it teaches you something and passes the time quickly.

This book seems to cover all the topics you need to know when writing a mystery. Each chapter is a different topic and each is written by an accomplished mystery writer. The book not only gives you tips on what to do but also on what not to do.

Looks interesting.

Don't think this book is out of date, though published a few years ago. Good mysteries have been around for centuries and these accomplished writers tell you their "secrets." You may well have heard some of these tips before, but probably not from such a reknowned panel.

An insightful collection of essays by successful mystery authors. Be sure to get the second edition, which added several new essays, including one by Michael Connelly.

I found this book by Sue Grafton very useful. It provided me with information on how to go about researching, as well as creating characters.

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