

Screenwriting: Step by Step

Wendy J Henson

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Wendy J Henson : Screenwriting: Step by Step before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Screenwriting: Step by Step:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Authentic, clearly presented advice for the beginning screenwriter By Murray I. Suid I earned an MFA in screenwriting at UCLA. This led to having one script produced, and several optioned. Along the way Ive also had a few paid writing gigs. Im tooting my horn (softly, I hope) only to suggest that I bring some screenwriting background to the task of reviewing Wendy Hensons authentic and valuable guide. Henson author draws upon her own experience as a screenwriter and a screenwriting instructor. She also makes use of the insights of Hollywood insiders such as Froug, Mamet, and Seger. Although he never worked in Tinsel Town, even Aristotle makes an appearance in Hensons book. There are countless books on screenwriting, but often they are a chore to read. Thankfully, Henson is a fine writer. Her style is casual, clear, encouraging, and appropriate to the field--entertaining. The script examples that she includes to illuminate her advice are always spot on. SCREENWRITING:

STEP BY STEP covers all the usual suspects including script format, character, theme, action, structure, subtext, and dialogue. Henson covers both the big picture issues and the small yet crucial details for example, script length that can keep a beginner up at night. The book's information alone makes it worth reading. But Henson adds value by creating exercises that are doable and relevant. For example, to help a novice explore the difference between the expansive prose typically found in fiction and the spare description demanded by script readers, Henson suggests taking 10 pages from a favorite novel and adapting the material in script form. Ultimately, a writer can only learn by doing and then getting feedback. Armed with SCREENWRITING: STEP BY STEP, a novice could join or launch a writers group and use the book as a reference for discussing work generated by the participants. For several years, I took part in such a leaderless group. If we had had Henson's book, the progress we made likely would have been greater with the author looking over our shoulders. 11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Well Needed Blueprint By Lone Star Short. Simple and Sweet. The editorial review above is dead on. I've been writing screenplays for five years and have read most of the "definitive" books on story, structure, theme, premise etc. etc.. This book should be the first book any aspiring screenwriter should buy. In easy step by step instructions the author not only explains but illustrates the basic elements of what makes a screenplay, how to do it, how to find your protagonist/antagonist, how to create the needed conflict and how to string these together to create a coherent story and script. She doesn't waste a lot of time on specific genre or nuance like most screenwriting books do. If you follow her steps you will have a script when your done. It won't win an oscar but who's first script does? Highly recommend for beginners and the advanced alike. Finding a tool that clarifies the elements of story structure, design and character dynamics is always welcome in my life. Sometimes simple is best!

Screenwriting: Step by Step is user-friendly basic introduction to successful screenwriting for the student and novice screenwriter. The text covers twelve steps to good screenwriting. It teaches students how to choose a theme, establish a central conflict and write a story that works as drama. The book is divided into two sections: First Steps which teaches students the essentials of writing drama; and Next Steps which teaches the essentials of writing drama expressly for film. The author's wealth of real-world experience is evident in the text's practical advice to beginning screenwriters.

From the Back Cover Screenwriting: Step by Step is a user-friendly, basic introduction to successful screenwriting for the student and novice screenwriter. The text covers twelve steps to good screenwriting. It teaches students how to choose a theme, establish a central conflict, and write a story that works as drama. The book is divided into two sections: First Steps, which teaches students the essentials of writing drama, and Next Steps, which teaches the essentials of writing drama expressly for film. The author's wealth of real-world experience is evident in the text's practical advice to beginning screenwriters. Features Explains cinematic principles in clear, simple, conversational prose, helping to eliminate confusion for students and jumpstart their writing process. Includes a separate chapter on formatting so that students can write a script that is technically correct as well as artistically creative. Offers exercises at the end of each chapter that help students clarify and reinforce the fundamentals of writing for film.