



Stein On Writing: A Master Editor of Some of the Most Successful Writers of Our Century Shares His Craft Techniques and Strategies

By Sol Stein

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Stein on Writing provides immediately useful advice for all writers of fiction and nonfiction, whether they are newcomers or old hands, students or instructors, amateurs or professionals. As the always clear and direct Stein explains here, "This is not a book of theory. It is a book of usable solutions--how to fix writing that is flawed, how to improve writing that is good, how to create interesting writing in the first place." With examples from bestsellers as well as from students' drafts, Stein offers detailed sections on characterization, dialogue, pacing, flashbacks, trimming away flabby wording, the so-called "triage" method of revision, using the techniques of fiction to enliven nonfiction, and more.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"The best reading experiences," says Sol Stein, "defy interruption." With Stein's assistance, you can grab your reader on page 1 and not let go until "The End." Stein--author of nine novels (including the bestselling *The Magician*) and editor to James Baldwin, W.H. Auden, and Lionel Trilling--offers "usable solutions" for any writing problem you may encounter. He is authoritative and commanding--neither cheerleader nor naysayer. Instead, he rails against mediocrity and demands that you expunge it from your work. Perhaps the concept of scrutinizing every modifier, every metaphor, every character trait sounds like drudgery. But with Stein's lively guidance, it is a pleasure. Stein recommends that you brew conflict in your prose by giving your characters different "scripts." He challenges you, in an exercise concerning voice, to write the sentence you want the world to remember you by. He uses an excerpt from E.L. Doctorow to demonstrate poorly written monologue and a series of Taster's Choice commercials as an example of dialogue that works. Stein's bottom line is that good writing must be suspenseful. Your job, says Stein, "is to give readers stress, strain, and pressure. The fact is that readers who hate those things in life love them in fiction." --*Jane Steinberg*

From Publishers Weekly

In this stimulating guide, a veteran novelist (*The Magician*), editor (Stein & Day) and teacher offers a banquet of savvy advice. Unlike Anne Lamott et al., Stein aims not to help his readers wrestle with writerly anguish; rather, he gets on the page, citing examples from writers famous and fledgling, closely analyzing first sentences, creation of character, plotting and dialogue (use "speech markers" to differentiate among characters). Stein concentrates more on fiction?point of view and the creation of love scenes?but his advice on such issues as self-editing and choosing a title applies also to nonfiction. A section on nonfiction contains worthy remarks about adapting fictional techniques (suspense, visual particularity, etc.) but is too brief to be a full guide to journalistic writing or producing an account of a historic event.

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From Library Journal

"A book of usable solutions" is how the author describes this work. And who better to know than Stein, a writer of fiction (*Best Revenge*, LJ 7/91) and nonfiction (*A Feast for Lawyers*, LJ 12/89), a playwright, a writing instructor, and the former editor and publisher of Stein and Day. His expert practical advice frequently applies to the process of writing both compelling fiction and nonfiction in terms of characterization, pacing, revision, evoking emotion, and "liposuctioning flab." Stein's own writing demonstrates the "resonance" and "particularities" he discusses, and his original checklists, writing exercises, and numerous examples encourage the reader/writer to see and do the same. A chapter of help sources and a glossary of terms provide the finishing touch. This book can jump-start anyone's creativity and propel the stodgy writer into the 20th century. Highly recommended for all writing collections.?Cathy Sabol, Northern Virginia Community Coll., Manassas

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Clute:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite book and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Stein On Writing: A Master Editor of Some of the Most Successful Writers of Our Century Shares His Craft Techniques and Strategies. Try to make book Stein On Writing: A Master Editor of Some of the Most Successful Writers of Our Century Shares His Craft Techniques and Strategies as your close friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you really feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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book include such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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