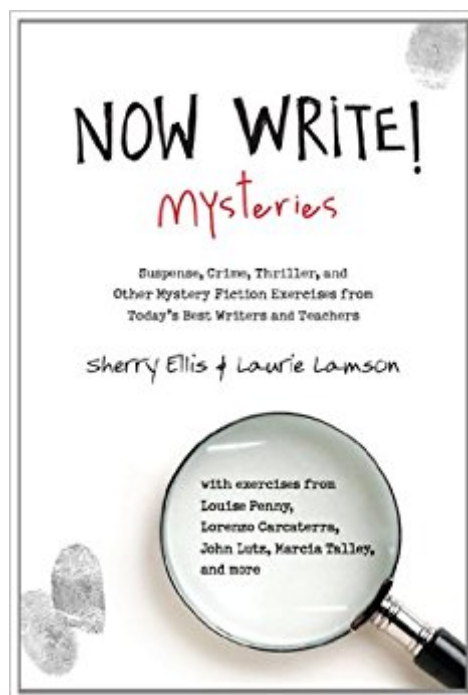




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Now Write! Mysteries: Suspense, Crime, Thriller, And Other Mystery Fiction Exercises From Today's Best Writers And Teachers



Synopsis

The essential handbook for writers of whodunits, techno- thrillers, cozies, and everything in between-featuring never-before- published personal writing exercises from some of today's bestselling and award-winning mystery writers. Now Write! Mysteries, the fourth volume in the acclaimed Now Write! writing guide series, brings together numerous bestselling authors-including winners of and nominees for the Edgar, Hugo, and Shamus awards,-for the definitive guide to writing mysteries, thrillers, and suspense stories. Now Write! Mysteries teaches you everything you've ever wanted to know about crafting a page-turning mystery-from creating a believable detective hero (or terrifying villain), to using real-life cutting-edge investigative techniques to bring your story to life-with practical exercises taken directly from the pros:~ ~ Discover the best techniques for seamlessly integrating action into your story with John Lutz, New York Times-bestselling author of Urge to Kill, Night Kills, and Serial.~ ~ Learn how to fine-tune your sense of place and setting with Louise Penny, New York Times-bestselling author of the Armand Gamache mysteries.~ ~ Take advice from Lorenzo Carcaterra, author of Sleepers and writer/producer for Law & Order, on how to compose a scene that lives up to your character's backstory.~ ~ Let Marcia Talley, Agatha- and Anthony-winning author of the Hannah Ives mysteries, show you how to build a memorable, engaging detective. (Hint: It's not about making him flawless.)Others included are: Simon Brett, Hallie Ephron, Meg Gardiner, Peter James, Christopher G. Moore, Michael Sears, and many others. No other mystery-writing guide offers the road tested wisdom of so many award-winners and bestselling authors in one place.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The fourth installment in the Now Write! series (after books about writing fiction, nonfiction, and screenplays) focuses on the mystery genre. With chapters written by genre authors—including Simon Brett, Deborah Coonts, and Louise Penny—the book is a sort of from-the-horse's-mouth affair: writers telling other writers how to build characters, put together a solid plot, use forensics properly, create an engaging setting, manipulate suspense, and find something new to say in a genre that has seen pretty much every variation and nuance you could possibly imagine. You can read the book from beginning to end or select specific articles to help you zero in on a particular area. The articles follow a fairly strict format: a brief description of the subject under discussion, some helpful tips, and a creative exercise to give the reader some hands-on practice. Short of one-on-one training with each of the writers featured in the book, this is probably the best and most useful way to benefit from their expertise. A smartly constructed and very helpful writer's guide. --David Pitt

Sherry Ellis is the editor of NOW WRITE! Fiction Writing Exercises from Today's Best Writers and Teachers and NOW WRITE! NONFICTION, as well as a personal writing coach. Her author interviews have appeared in the Kenyon Review, The Writer's Chronicle, Glimmer Train, and AGNI, as well as other literary and arts magazines. She lives in Massachusetts.

I am a fan of the Now Write series in general. The concept is so solid and the contributors have been ace and you could use each book (particularly the nonfiction one) as a miniature writing course, just working through the exercises. The bone I'd pick with this is that research is fun, but not sure it should be frontloaded as the first item in the headings. I found exploring character and relations and casting and then setting the crime to be more interesting, and to be honest, it was doing those things that made me realize WHAT I needed to research. Then again, this isn't a 'read from a-to-z book. You're free to jump around. Some of the exercises lack a direct line to the topic: the 'sex scene' one gave good advice--It HAS to move the plot forward!--but the exercise could apply to any kind of scene at all. Which is a good exercise, but it seemed a bit out of focus to me. All in all some gem exercises for all stages of mystery planning.

A collection of short exercises from a variety of writers. Not a nuts and bolts guide, but rather thoughts and concepts that are thrown out at you, and exercises for trying your hand at it.

I bought this book based on good reviews. I wanted something to give me tips on writing a mystery or crime novel, and this book delivers. It is set up as mini-essays or short chapters about different aspects of writing and it gives you exercises to do to apply what you've learned. I appreciated this format as the bite-sized information makes it easy to digest. Happy with this purchase.

I love this book! Short essays and writing exercises by more than fifty mystery writers add up to a powerful writing course! The suggestions are succinct, useful, to-the-point and very intriguing. This is a good book for all aspiring writers whether or not mystery is their genre. Yes. Like!! Kim Burdick Stanton, Delaware

Great content if you're writing mysteries or just writing in general. Borrowed it from the library when I read it and then bought it as a present for one of my little brothers. I almost kept it for myself.

Excellent read, informative

I purchased the book to help my thriller writing and it provides exactly what I require. Each author provides the right amount of information and the exercises are extremely useful.

I had read the SF & Fantasy version before and found it quite useful. I feel this volume will give me clues to writing crime stories and mysteries, as well.

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