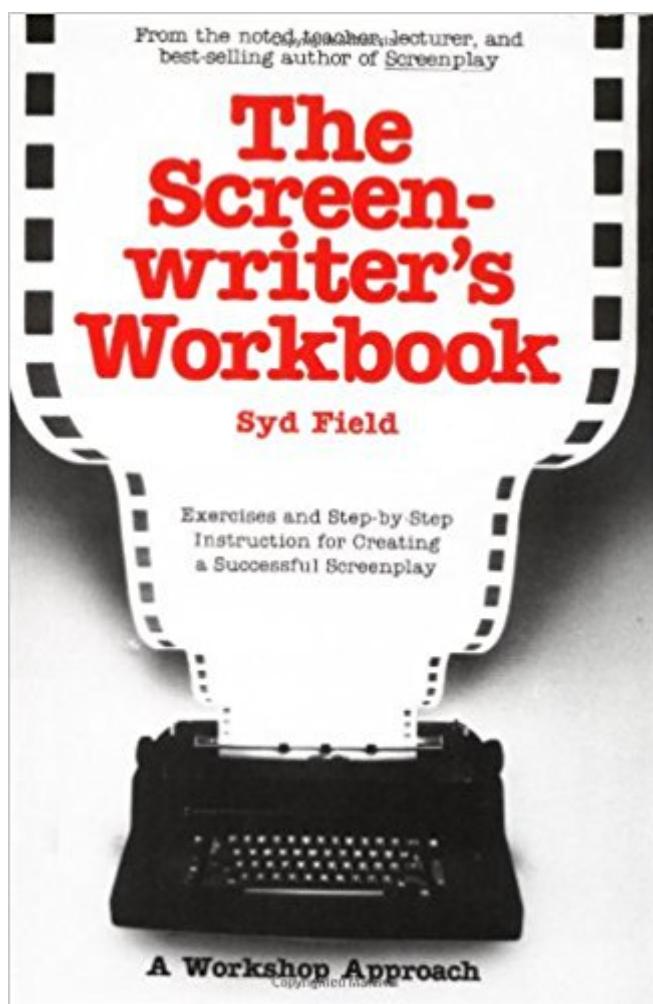


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# The Screenwriter's Workbook: Exercises And Step-by-Step Instruction For Creating A Successful Screenplay (A Dell Trade Paperback)



## **Synopsis**

Here is your very own hands-on workshop--the book that allows you to participate in the processes that have made Syd Fields workshops invaluable to beginners and working professionals alike.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Screenplays, according to Field, are not so much written as they are built, and in this book he provides a clear explanation of what raw materials are needed to assemble the modern Hollywood movie script. In this cogently constructed workbook--one of the standards in the industry--Field elucidates the strict three-act structure of screenplays, talks about the nature of character, describes what plot points are and where they must fall, and provides exercises to help the screenwriter take an idea from the first germ of a concept, to outline, to rewritten script.

Here is your very own hands-on workshop--the book that allows you to participate in the processes that have made Syd Fields workshops invaluable to beginners and working professionals alike.

Great product

If you look at my other reviews, you'll see that there are other screenwriting/script formatting books I like better.

This book is most useful because it makes you work with the structure that Syd Field expounded in his preceding book *Screenplay*. This book introduces an additional element from the first book - what he calls the "confrontation". It divides the second act into two halves. Syd Field recommends using 3x5 cards with a sentence describing what happens - one card for each 2 pages of screenplay. It is a method that some people find limiting, others may find it liberating. It allows you to "edit" your movie by shuffling cards before you ever put a word of dialog onto paper. The book is structured around writing each act in succession. The weakness is that he does not address in enough detail the editing process. This is probably because Syd Field writes from the perspective of a consumer of writing - that is, a reader of screenplays for a studio. Editing is something that some successful writers know almost nothing about. Examples are Stephen King and Ray Bradbury. They have the genius to write in one draft. Syd Field gets a lot of bad reviews on , because he focuses on the three act structure, turning on two plot points. Many would-be writers want to break the mold. Few movies that get made break with the structure (Pulp Fiction being everyone's favorite example of a movie not structured in three acts). Most movies are in three acts.

At first I was reluctant to tell how good this book is for a beginning screenwriter. Why would I want to share that with my competition? But then I thought of all the bad movies I've seen. The more books I read on screenwriting, the more I realize the value of this book. I always thought this was a good book; an easy read with great exercises to make you think the entire story thru. After reading a few others, I wonder where I'd be without this book. The others are good for enhancing my existing "Words on Paper" draft, but, I doubt I'd have a complete draft if I had started with those books. They all mention the same principles Syd mentions (Grab the reader in the 1st 10 pages, show instead of tell, etc.). But they only tell me what to do, Syd provides tools so you learn how to do it. Also, one book had a pretty narrow view of how a story should be written. I think that would have stifled the writing process had I read this when beginning my screenplay. While Syd suggests a basic structure to follow, the content is totally up to you. Also, he gives advice, not hard/fast rules.

Good info and helpful. A master in the field.

It is like he dreams of doing writing to make his life better. He tries so hard but gets no where.

My son has found this book teaches him not only the basics of screen writing and the steps toward creating a screen play, it has also taught him the self-discipline practices he needs to follow through

with a project. Excellent!

I bought and read this book at the time I thought I might be interested in writing screenplays. I still have not written one. So I cannot tell you if it is really useful in helping write a screenplay. The book tries to guide the reader step - by- step through the process of writing a screenplay. It seems a bit simplistic and childish, but if it works it works. Field says the technique has helped important screenwriters get started. Here are two examples of the exercises:" Take your idea and write it out in three sentences according to action and character. Isolating your main character should present no problems, but defining the line of action may be more difficult. It may help to free- associate about your story - line in terms of action. Do not be specific , avoid detail Be as general as possible"Another such exercise is as follows""Write character biographies for two or three of your main characters. Focus on first on their early years. Where and when was the character born? What did his father and mother do for a living? What is his relationship with his parents? Does he have any brothers or sisters? What's the relationship- friendly and supportive or angry and combative?"This does not sound very inspiring, but it may well be of help. Good luck.

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