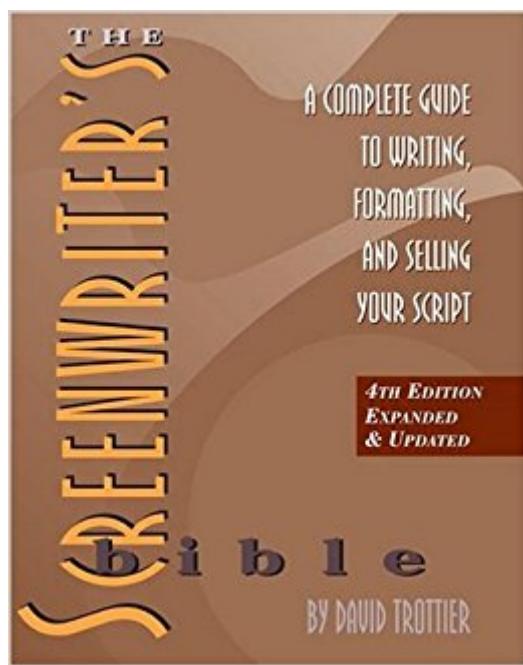


The book was found

# The Screenwriter's Bible: A Complete Guide To Writing, Formatting, And Selling Your Script, 4th Ed.



## **Synopsis**

This is six books in one. Book 1 - A screenwriting primer that provides a concise presentation of screenwriting basics. Book 2 - A workbook that walks the writer through the writing process, from nascent ideas through revisions. Book 3 - A formatting guide that presents correct formats for both screenplays and TV scripts. Book 4 - A spec writing guide that demonstrates today's spec style through sample scenes and analysis. Book 5 - A sales and marketing guide that presents proven strategies to help you create a laser-sharp marketing plan. Book 6 - A resource guide that provides addresses and contacts for industry organisations, schools, publications, support groups, services, contests, etc. Among its wealth of practical information are sample query letters, useful worksheets and checklists, hundreds of examples, sample scenes, and straightforward explanations of screenwriting fundamentals.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When I mentioned to a friend, a man with many years' experience in the movie industry, that I was working on a script, he (figuratively) twisted my arm behind my back and told me in no uncertain terms that I /had/ to have at least one book on scriptwriting, if only to know how to correctly format the script. He recommended several, including this one. Given the near-reverence in which this book is held, I bought a copy of the current edition. It's a near-perfect example of how a "how-to" book should be written. It's divided into sub-books, each of which covers a particular aspect of writing and selling a script completely and in depth. The organization is outstanding, and contrary to another reviewer (writing five years ago), you won't find yourself flipping from one page or section to

another. What little overlap there is, is necessary, and not the fault of poor organization. It's also extremely well-written. Trottier explains everything in a simple (but not simple-minded) fashion, without fuss, without constantly repeating himself, almost as if he were talking directly to you. (No surprise; he teaches courses in scriptwriting.) If you don't understand this book, the problem is with you. However... you should be warned about David Trottier's biases, and what is /missing/ from the book. Though the book is a "guide to writing, formatting, and selling your script", Trottier's view is that there is no point in writing a script that won't sell. To put it a rudely... Trottier cares about the artistic quality or originality of your script only to the extent that they make the script marketable. If you're looking for advice on how to write the next "Amadeus", \* you won't find it here. Nor does Trottier spend much time discussing /why/ particular scripts are poor. This is perhaps significant, because the samples he provides from his own scripts, though well-illustrating the points he's making, are dreadful commercial hackwork. If there were ever an example of "those who can, do; those who can't, teach", Trottier is it. He is, however, an excellent teacher. Read this book and learn.\* A high-quality film can be both a popular and critical success. "Amadeus" took in almost three times its production costs in the US alone.

THE SCREENWRITER'S BIBLE, in one volume, comprises six substantial guidebooks: Book I: How to Write a Screenplay--A Primer; Book II: 7 Steps to a Stunning Script--A Workbook; Book III: Proper Formatting Technique--A Style Guide; Book IV: Writing & Revising Your Breakthrough--A Script Consultant's View; Book V: How to Sell Your Script--A Marketing Plan; Book VI: Resources and General Index. The book's large format 386 pages, eleven by eight-and-a-half inches, would equal at least 600 pages in the more common format of nine-by-six inches. Book I: How to Write a Screenplay. Aptly subtitled a primer, it presents a compact introduction to screenwriting. In particular, Trottier focuses on the three-act structure with six key turning or plot points: the catalyst; the big event; the pinch (or midpoint); the crisis (low point); the showdown; the realization. Throughout, the author includes examples from well-known films. Book II: 7 Steps to a Stunning Script. This workbook includes 25 checkpoint lists and a character/action grid. Book III: Proper Formatting Technique--A Style Guide. "The spec script is the selling script, sometimes called the writer's draft. You write it with the idea of selling it later or circulating it as a sample. Once it is sold and goes into pre-production, it will be transformed into a shooting script, also known as the production draft. The spec-script style avoids camera angles, editing directions, and technical intrusions" (page 114). To illustrate formatting a spec script, Trottier includes his humorous three-page script "The Perspicacious Professor." This book convinced me to use the author's

software "Dr Format" instead of "Final Draft." Book IV: Writing & Revising Your Breakthrough--A Script Consultant's View. Trottier provides tips on "how to direct the camera without using camera directions" and exercises, based on his clients' scripts, to guide reader in revising to current spec-writing style. Book V: How to Sell Your Script--A Marketing Plan. In addition to numerous suggestions on marketing, Trottier cautions screenwriters to protect their works. "Registering one's copyright and displaying the copyright notice on the script's title page is no longer seen as something done by paranoid writers." Writers Guild of America will register one-page synopsis, longer treatments, as well as draft(s) of a screenplay. Book VI: Resources and General Index. This book includes several lists containing "carefully selected entries." I promptly looked up the first entry: "Updates to The Screenwriter's Bible" on the author's website... and found a useful tip on formatting as well as revisions on one of the exercises in Book IV. Presumably these changes will be included in the next edition. Five shining stars to this book.-- C J Singh

This is a production oriented guide to screenwriting that will teach you how to avoid the common pitfalls most screenwriters suffer. It goes into the nuts and bolts of writing your screenplay, marketing it, and more. It also contains a list of valuable resources, like a list of credible script consultants with a proper track record. It's a difficult business to break into. This book may not guarantee that you do, but it most certainly does help you along the way.

I had originally bought the Kindle version but decided to buy the physical book too because, like others have said, the book does jump around a bit. It just makes it much easier flipping pages than fumbling around with the e-book version. Great book. It covers everything. I wouldn't try writing a script if you've only read production scripts...they're loaded with the stuff you should leave out of a spec script--camera direction and editing decisions. Thank God I read this.

Being a VERY INEXPERIENCED writer with just a high school diploma and what I like to think great ideas. This book was a godsend. If you have no idea where to start this is the book for you. The Author gives you a basic guideline where to start. With enough information to keep you going back for more. I highly suggest this book if you are thinking about spending free time with writing as a hobby or to currently progress to other levels. After reading the book. I was able to go to the Authors website and get progressive help and instruction. With forums and one on one counseling. Please buy some stickies to highlight major interest points within the book. Came with mock up forms for organizing and protecting your work! MUST BUY!!!!

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