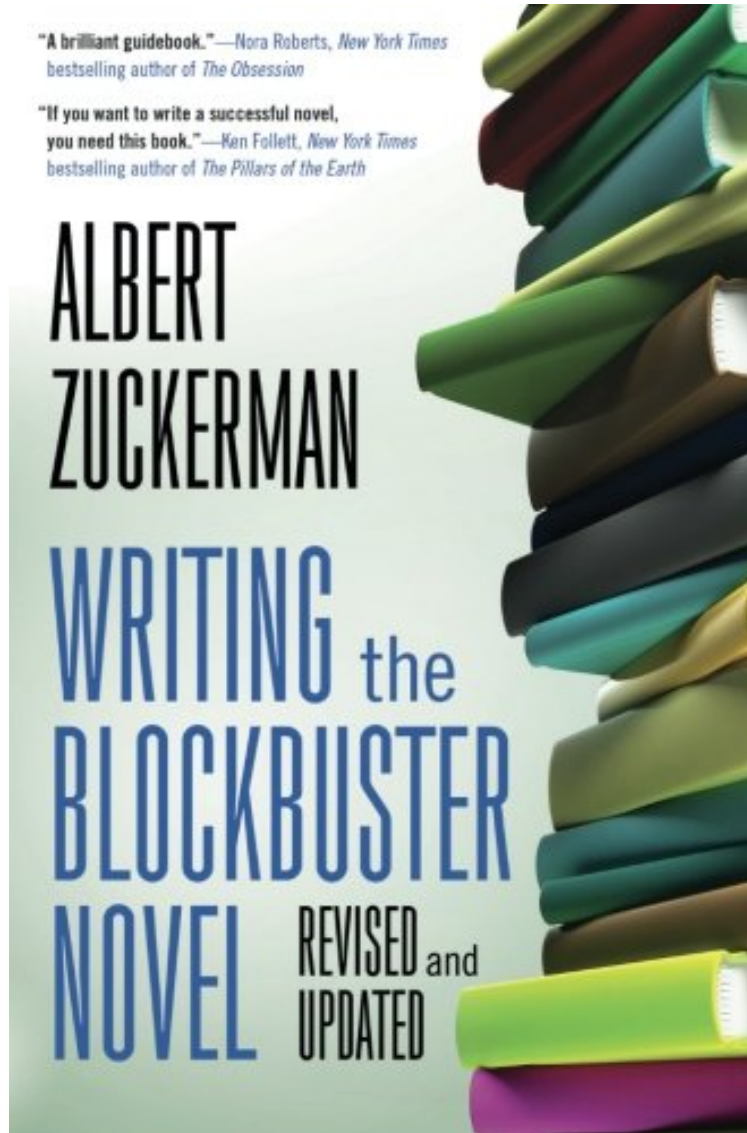


Writing the Blockbuster Novel

Albert Zuckerman

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Albert Zuckerman : Writing the Blockbuster Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writing the Blockbuster Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Terrific advice, fun to read By W. N. Terrific advice, fun to read. I've found that trying to think like a writer is one of the most enjoyable ways to watch movies, TV and read books. Zuckerman is always fascinating, even when he's discussing a novel you may not care for. More than just pointing out his tips, what's underneath is a way of thinking. I think everyone who reads this book could improve the outline of the

Ken Follett book that is its centerpiece. That is the work of a great teacher. I'm about to read through this book again. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Invaluable insights. By Eric Bishop True to his word Mr. Zuckerman dissects the intricacies, headaches, challenges and common threads as only a legendary agent can. Ken Follett's generous allowance of his outlines for his own blockbuster novel, *The Man From St. Petersburg*, is to the aspiring novelist what pyramid blueprints would be to the Egyptologist. To use Mr Zuckerman's own metaphor, The blockbuster novel is presented as an elaborate mansion. Readers are invited to come in, to enjoy the splendor but hidden from their eyes are much of the nuts, bolts, trusses, beams and structural reinforcement. All writers, from wide-eyed beginners to successful veterans will better understand the tools to play their craft from reading, re-reading 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good read; great analysis of how to put a novel together By Customer I enjoyed it at two levels, both as a professional writer and as a person who loves good reads; from an instructive point of view I found it to be full of practical tips drawn from a wide variety of well-known novels; 1st draft comparisons with later actually published versions was fascinating as well as an extra insight to the drafting process; from a reader's stance I found the tone conversational and very interesting, in other words the book is both instructive and a good read; all-in-all a highly entertaining and helpful experience. The author knows of what he writes!

Albert Zuckerman, legendary literary agent, has worked with many bestselling authors, including Ken Follett, Olivia Goldsmith, Antoinette Van Heugten, Michael Lewis, and F. Paul Wilson. Zuckerman is a master at teaching writers the skills necessary to crack the bestseller list. For this revised edition of *Writing the Blockbuster Novel*, Zuckerman has added an analysis of Nora Roberts's *The Witness*, which he uses along with classic books like *Gone With the Wind* and *The Godfather*, to illustrate his points. Zuckerman's commentary on Ken Follett's working outlines for *The Man From St. Petersburg* provide a blueprint for building links between plot and character. A new introduction discusses social media and self-publishing. *Writing the Blockbuster Novel* is an essential tool for any aspiring author. As Dan Brown said in an interview: "Not long ago, I had an amusing experience meeting the author of a book I received as a gift nearly two decades ago a book that in many ways changed my life. I was halfway through writing my first novel when I was given a copy of *Writing the Blockbuster Novel*. [Zuckerman's] book helped me complete my manuscript and get it published. [When] I met Mr. Zuckerman for the first time. I gratefully told him that he had helped me. He jokingly replied that he planned to tell everyone that he had helped me write *The Da Vinci Code*."

From *Library Journal* Zuckerman, a veteran literary agent representing such best-selling authors as Ken Follett and Eileen Goudge, here explains how authors can get their novels onto the best-sellers list. This book is not intended for beginning writers but will help those who have mastered the craft of novel writing and now wish to write a book with blockbuster potential. Of course, there are no guarantees here: the reading public is fickle, and, ultimately, readers are the ones who make best sellers. That said, Zuckerman knows what works most of the time. He spends the two largest sections of the book on outlining and revision. Authors need to know where they are going, and a detailed outline will help them map a plan to bring together all the characters and plot lines. Best-selling novels by Follett, Goudge, and others are used as examples. This will be useful in libraries that serve writers. Recommended. - Lisa J. Cochenet, Plainfield P.L. Dist., Ill. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Even if a writer can write a good, readable novel, what makes it a blockbuster? Is it just the marketing hype and the fact that someone knew someone? Not according to Zuckerman, who explains piece by piece what makes a good novel hit the top. Having worked with Follett and others for the past 20 years as a literary agent, Zuckerman has seen his share of bad books, and even written a few. Here he takes a look at the characterizations, plot lines, points of view, and other essential features of five major novels, including *The Godfather* and *Gone with the Wind*. His approach is pragmatic and fun to read besides. Denise Perry Donavin Sexy, smart, skillful. At last, the opportunity for any writer to learn from the master. --Nora Roberts, bestselling author. Perceptive, informed, targeted. Authors striving for bestsellerdom would do well to hear Zuckerman's opinions. --LaVyrle Spencer *Writing the Blockbuster Novel* is must reading for any writer who wishes to enlarge his or her readership. --F. Paul Wilson