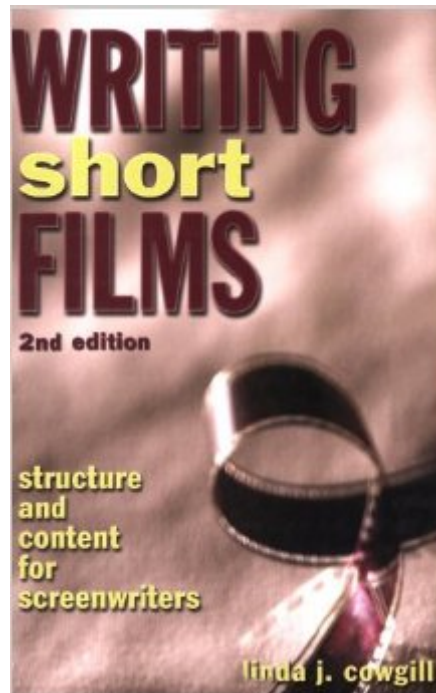


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# Writing Short Films: Structure And Content For Screenwriters



## Synopsis

This new edition has been completely updated and revised along with the addition of several new chapters. Currently, this title remains the best selling university text book on writing short film screenplays.

## Book Information

File Size: 490 KB

Print Length: 276 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1580650635

Publisher: Lone Eagle; Second Edition edition (October 20, 2010)

Publication Date: October 20, 2010

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003FCVG9E

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #102,722 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #32

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Humor & Entertainment > Movies & Video > Screenwriting #94

inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Screenwriting #121 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Horticulture

## Customer Reviews

A short film runs less than 45 minutes. Short films may be transformed into Hollywood success. This book tells how to have a completed script to initiate the venture into short film. The reader is given an idea of the labor involved to produce this art form. The book uses "Life Lessons" written by Richard Price and directed by Martin Scorsese, part of THE NEW YORK TRILOGY, to illustrate points she wants to make about writing a script. She also makes reference to other short films readily available to a reader. The steps involved are that a hero, with desires, acts, encounters conflicts, and moves to the climax and resolution in the course of the film. Film is visual. Film has fluidity of movement. Show don't tell is a maxim of film-making. Significant films have universality. Most short films are character pieces. The audience must willingly suspend disbelief. It may be

necessary to do research. Basically there are five types of genre, comedy, farce, drama, tragedy, and melodrama. In the best films plot is character. A character biography is a description. This includes physical appearance, sociology, and psychology. The backstory is not the same thing. A story tells a sequential action. Plot emphasizes causal relationships. Story and plot usually comprise part of a total narrative. Drama is structured action. A good plot evolves naturally. The writer should not be afraid to change the plan as he moves ahead with the project. It is useful to think of the film's story in broad blocks. The opening should be visual, convey important information, and be interesting. Voice over narration is more common in short film than in features. It is a means of exposition. Other means are dialogue and written presentation through signs or cards.

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