



# **Just Write: Creating Unforgettable Fiction and a Rewarding Writing Life**

*James Scott Bell*

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Writers are given a wealth of opportunities to cultivate a successful writing life, break out, and find an audience for their work. Yet so many writers, from beginners to veterans, find their careers stuck in neutral.

The solution is simple: *Just write*. Write yourself past fears, doubts, and setbacks, and use your desire for writing excellence to deeply immerse yourself in the craft.

In *Just Write*, best-selling author and veteran writing coach James Scott Bell shows you how to develop unforgettable stories while leading a rewarding writing life. You'll learn how to master the nuances of fiction, discover what readers really want, and persevere through the challenges of getting started, conquering writer's block, and dealing with rejection. Look inside to discover how to:

**BRAINSTORM NEW CONCEPTS** for your fiction and develop a believable premise.

**CREATE MEMORABLE CHARACTERS** that keep your readers coming back for more.

**STUDY CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY NOVELS** to improve your writing.

**EFFECTIVELY MARKET YOURSELF** as a writer.

**MANAGE YOUR TIME** to maintain peak efficiency.

Fulfilling writing careers are developed through hard work, an investment in practice, and complete dedication to the process. Don't succumb to excuses or procrastination. Dive into your career with gusto and enthusiasm. Fall in love with writing every day. *Just write*.

## **Just Write: Creating Unforgettable Fiction and a Rewarding Writing Life Details**

Date : Published April 28th 2016 by Writers Digest Books

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# From Reader Review Just Write: Creating Unforgettable Fiction and a Rewarding Writing Life for online ebook

## Leah says

A great mixture of writing motivation and craft tips, with a good chunk of the advice geared toward indie / self-published writers. But there's great words of wisdom here for writers following the traditional publishing path, as well!

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## Audra says

This book has so much meat in it, I took notes all the way through and did the exercises. I am also going to implement the suggestions he made. James Scott Bell is very adept at giving useful strategies to fully embrace the writing life and to make the most of your talent. This is the second of his books on writing that I have read. I have several more on my night stand that I am also going to read now that I have completed this one.

If you are serious about the craft of writing and write every day and treat it like a job this book is for you.

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## Valerie Basham says

I bought this book back in 2016, started it, then got distracted by a hundred other books, and put it back on the shelf. I was blogging regularly then, satisfied with my status-quo life, when in 2017, staggering tragedy hit me. I couldn't write. I could barely get out of bed. When I could get out of bed, caring for my family was my number one priority, or to put it another way, *survival* was my priority. I had no more words, not valuable or interesting ones, anyway. Nothing that others would care to read.

Then, as I was glancing over my bookshelf last week, I noticed this book. I'd only made it to page 14. So, I just started over.

What I found in these pages was more than I expected from a book on the craft of writing. I found hope. I found encouragement. I found a workable plan for managing my writing time. I found out that the words were still there. Yes, they are buried beneath the rubble of heartbreak, but they are there. It may take me a while to uncover them all, to put them into the right phrases, sentences, and paragraphs, but I have hope, I have a plan, and I even feel something I haven't felt in a long time: excitement! Most of all, though, is the hope. Perhaps my dream isn't dead after all.

If you need a plan for brainstorming, tracking your work, plotting, or self-publishing, this is your book. It's not only loaded with great information but it's also an enjoyable read. Most importantly, if you need to infuse some enthusiasm into your sagging writing career, look no further.

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### Sohail says

[illegible]

## W. Whalin says

## If You Can Only Buy One How-To Book, Get This One

I've known James Scott Bell for many years and long admired his work and his commitment to the craft of writing. I do not write fiction but have spent most of my writing life in the nonfiction world (yet I acquire fiction and read fiction). Whether you write fiction or nonfiction, you need **JUST WRITE** to learn from this skilled teacher and bestselling novelist.

Every chapter of this book is packed with insights. I encourage you to read with a yellow highlighter. The book is broken into two sections: Unforgettable Fiction and A Rewarding Writing Life. Each section has four chapters. Whether you have written numerous novels or never written a novel, you will profit from Bell's instruction.

Here's a couple of samples: "Craft mastery in any subject is a matter of study, observation and practice. As a writer, the better handle you have on the craft, the better prepared you'll be to break a rule when the time comes. You'll know why you're doing it and whether it's worth the risk to break it." (Page 31) Or the chapter on Study the Craft begins, "When in doubt, just write. Write your way out of a corner, out of your fears, out of your setbacks. It's a good default setting. But right up alongside it put another track: study the craft. Make constant and never-ending improvement a goal just as important as your daily pages. Just write and keep learning—these are the two steel rails that will carry you to a productive career." (Page 146)

Every writer or would-be writer will profit from the study of these pages. I highly recommend JUST WRITE.

## Kay Hudson says

Good refresher course for Bell fans: lots of repetition (probably taken from blog posts) and references to his short ebooks. About half on craft of writing, half on writing life. I bought the paperback edition (which doesn't seem to be on Goodreads) to have the paper reference. Always a few nuggets worth the price of admission. Good intro to Bell if you haven't read his earlier books.

## **Shellsea says**

This is the first writing book I have ever read. I really liked it. I was expecting terms I wouldn't understand or exercises that would be complicated, but within the first 10 pages I was quickly put at ease. The information and solutions he offers are awesome and very practical. There were multiple times where I felt like he was talking directly to me when he was discussing problems and obstacles that some writers face. I would highly recommend to anyone who is thinking about becoming a writer.

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## **Abigayle Claire says**

This book was very well laid out and covered a lot more than just knowing the craft. With its focus on how self-publishing has changed the market, it was very helpful to see how the publishing world has evolved in the years since my birth. I'm not sure I could ever highlight this one enough! A favorite for sure, with many colorful examples and humorous comparisons.

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## **Amanda Alexandre says**

A collection of tips to write good commercial fiction and how to enjoy the freedom given by platforms like Amazon. I agree with the author that the best way to do marketing is to write something that is compelling to the reader. Peter Drucker said himself that marketing and sales are opposite forces. (People see marketing as advertising but when you are making anything regarding your product, even designing - or writing it - you are doing marketing).

I just wish the author wouldn't be so repetitive in defending the rules and tips of the craft and how unapologetically we should be about making money, creating commercial works and going mainstream. Maybe because I already decided that I'm going to write to the big public and I respect the wisdom of the craft.

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## **Emily says**

Love the idea of writing, but too crippled by self doubt and anxiety to actually write? This book is for you! It's full of all sorts of advice about writing, from plot structure to writing quotas and everything in between.

I'm definitely still a pantsier, but the way Bell organised his thoughts about structure were really revelatory for me. I'm not about to outline entire plots, but I feel like I have a better grasp now on where to put different things within the book and how to connect them together. That's really freed me up to actually write! With quotas! I had always thought quotas were the bane of someone with anxiety, but the way Bell explained his methods with them just clicked with me. That's just two examples of things I took away from this book.

I did find some of the material, particularly toward the end, rather vapid. Did this book really need a paragraph instructing the reader to drink six 8oz glasses of water a day? There was a lot of repetition of ideas as well. And I don't mean recurring ideas that he expands on and explains in a different way, I mean literal copy-and-paste paragraphs placed throughout the book. I really don't think that was necessary because this

book is already super approachable as it is. Plenty of that kind of stuff could have been cut out.

On the whole though, it's very good! I'd recommend it to anyone who identifies with the first line in this review. Definitely worth the price of admission (my paperback copy was \$12 USD, definitely worth the \$17.99 list price though!).

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### **Kristen Miller says**

Lots of good information! I'll certainly be rereading it for my second novel. I recommend reading only after you have a book written or at least started. It doesn't really work if you have no personal material to reference.

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### **Tricia Mingerink says**

This book is a different sort of writing book. It isn't so much a book on writing. It is a book on the writer. The focus is on becoming the wisest and best writing you can. The tips on writing are written short and succinct, but much of the focus of the book is on keeping the joy and passion of writing alive in the writer.

If you're looking for a book that encourages you as a writer, especially as a writer looking to make a career out of writing, I highly recommend this book.

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### **Terri Wilson says**

This book was a gift from my husband.

Sometimes it takes about 100 times of hearing the same thing before it really sinks into my head. Bell has no new formula, but has an incredibly down to earth way of presenting the information in this book. It encouraged me in a way that many other writing books have not. I highlighted and/or took notes on almost every page of this book. I recommend it highly for every writer at any level. You won't regret this purchased and I doubt it will just sit on your desk.

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### **Emma Sea says**

There's nothing new in here: certainly nothing like the solid grounding in structure or dialogue of Bell's other books, but it really resonated with me, striking the perfect balance between dour realism and peppy go-get-it-ness. It's a friendly shoulder to cry on about your lack of internal conflict and soggy middle act, but Bell makes you think if you just *keep writing* you can do it!

Also, damn you to heck, James Scott Bell, for crystalizing my deep but unacknowledged certainty that my current WIP sucks. \*sigh\* I'm going back to fix the structure. Again.

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## Angeli says

I haven't read a non-fiction book about writing that I enjoyed very much since God knows when. I am very passionate about writing and creating a world of my own but sometimes, when the juice runs out, you just gotta look for inspiration.

I wanted to write my own story. Since I was a kid, I've been in love with writing. You should see the wallpapers in our old house. You should see the diary I had when I was eight. You should just see all the notes I've scribbled on my high school and university notebooks. There is one known fact about myself that I think will always be consistent: I love to write. And I will continue doing so until my last breath.

I'm not very good at it. I'm okay, I guess. I'm your typical fangirl who writes fanfiction and also is super lost in her own world of fantasy that sometimes she gets stuck in it. I've been writing short stories/novellas/fanfiction since 2012. I've been writing poetry since I was 13. And I've been writing since I was young.

Stumbling upon a book that is about writing as good as this one is very rare. The last time I felt this good about a book about writing was in 2012 when I bought AA Patawaran's Write Here, Write Now. That book hasn't been returned to me since I lent it. And I remember the hardship I went through just to get that book.

Anyway, this book has practical tips for young writers and beginner writers alike. It's easily understandable from a newbie's point of view. I'm not really good at writing reviews but I just want to point out that this book isn't boring like the rest. It takes you places and gives you tips, very useful ones.

If you're a newbie writer or just in love with the idea of starting your own story. This book is a basic need for your to-reads. Applicable and concise. You'll enjoy the humor of the author as well.

5 Stars for a really entertaining and fun book!

P.S. Forgive my review, I wrote in haste. Hahaha!

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