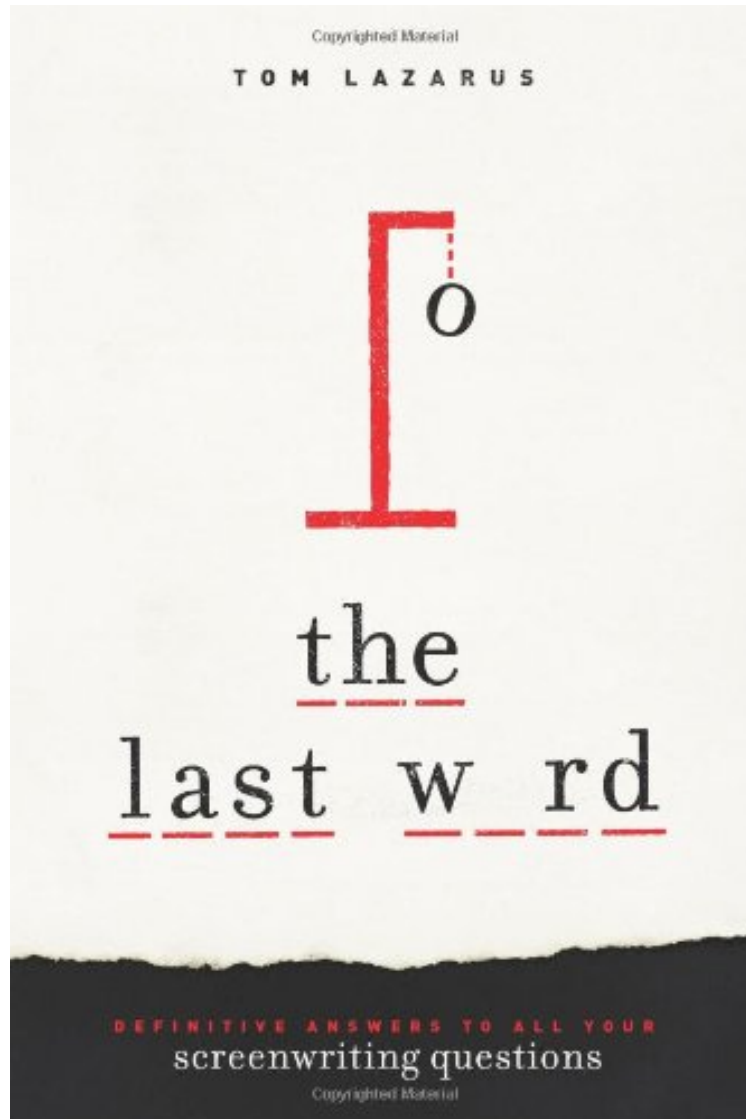


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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. For All StorytellersBy Debrah StraitYears ago, before computers were common in Hollywood, I typed many scripts for Tom Lazarus. I learned a lot watching them progress from beat

sheets through multiple revisions to viewing them on the screen. Tom does know what he's writing about here. Now, as a novelist, I am still learning from Tom. There is much in THE LAST WORD that applies to all kinds of story telling, including balance, tension-building, dialogue, rhythm, flashbacks, and much more. The format (question/ answer, by subject) makes this a handy desk reference, but it's also a fun read straight through. Tom has packed it with facts, humor, and Hollywood war stories. And in the medium of film, of "Shoot 'em up!" and "Blow 'em up!", he reminds us that the narrative hook drawing us into any story is always the humanity of our characters.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Lazarus Knows His Stuff By Jared I'm a screenwriter, and I sat in several of Tom Lazarus' classes at UCLA Extension way back when. I kept coming back for the same reason I like this book--he doesn't spend a lot of time with airy BS theories of what page an act should start on (show me 10 great movies and I'll show you a bunch of *completely* different structures), and instead focuses on practical advice that will work FOR YOU. He's honest, he's tough-- okay, he's curmudgeonly-- but he really knows his stuff. And he really wants you to succeed. I judge a book purchase by how many good ideas I get out of the book. For this price I would have been fine with one. Instead it's filled with great advice, reminders and kicks in the butt you can thumb through at any point in your writing process. It's sitting on my desk right now, making me feel guilty about procrastinating while I write this review...Great book. Buy it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An outdated, paint-by-numbers, ego stroke fest By Monkey Mind One of the many screenwriting books that mistake form for function. The focus of this book is heavily placed on formatting and other completely subjective aspects of craft -- never under any circumstance use "we", metaphors, etc. However, reading a single For Your Consideration draft of this or last year's Best Screenplay Academy Award nominees will completely contradict the majority of Lazarus's advice. It seems practical at first, but it's tired and outdated.

A comprehensive, practical resource with over a hundred informative chapters that give the reader screenwriting techniques to raise the level of their writing and the marketability of their scripts.

About the Author Tom Lazarus feature credits include the original story for the George Burns/Brooke Shields motion picture Just You and Me, Kid, and the #1 film in America upon its release, Stigmata. He has had nine feature films made from his original screenplays, and has directed five feature films. Additionally, he has written over 100 hours of television programming (Jake and the Fat Man, Star Man, and Mike Hammer). Lazarus preaches the Last Word: Definitive Answers to All Your Screenwriting Questions at UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, and various speaking engagements throughout the country.