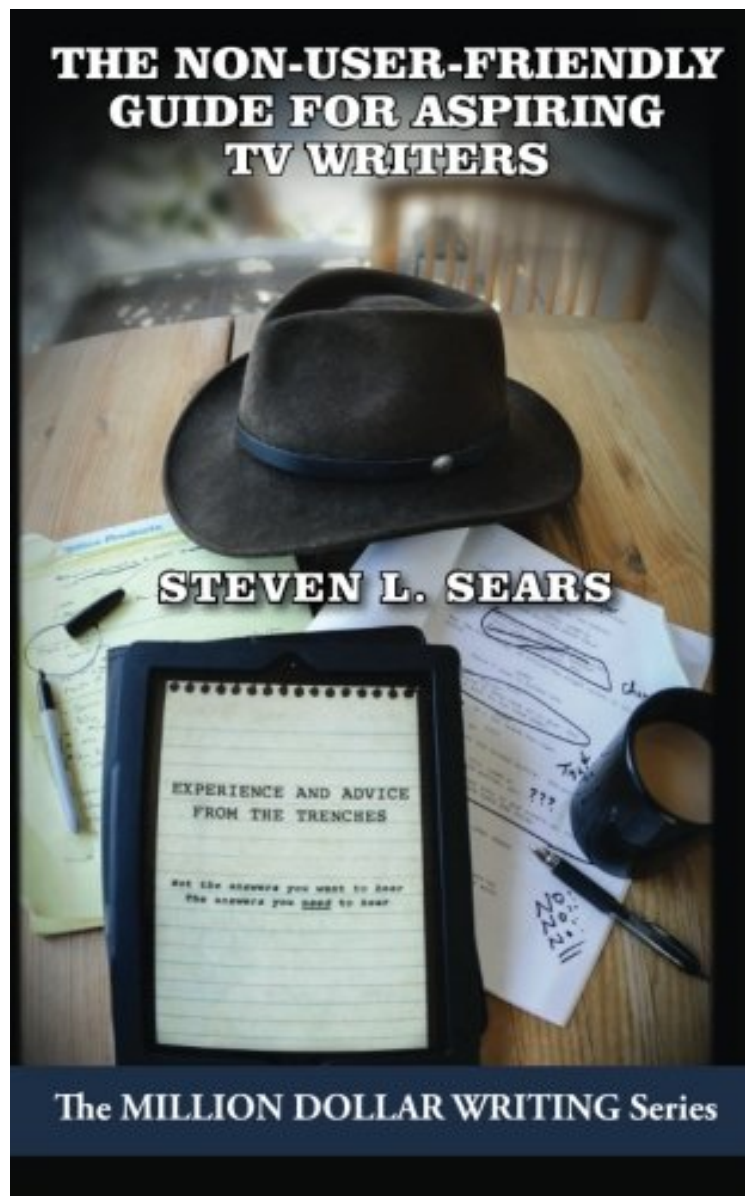


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The Non-User-Friendly Guide For Aspiring TV Writers: Experience and Advice From the Trenches (Million Dollar Writing Series)

Steven L. Sears

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Non-User-Friendly Guide For Aspiring TV Writers: Experience and Advice From the Trenches* (Million Dollar Writing Series):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The truth about writingBy Chip C.It's rare when you read a book on a single topic and get engaged in the writing, itself. I was captured upon reading the first 10 pages. The author doesn't pull punches, but neither does he tell you that it's his way or.....This was obviously written from a vast amount of writing and producing experience with great questions like "CSI Miami is interested in my writing and want a sample. Do I write using their characters? How much do they want to see? Is there a format that is accepted as the industry standard?" Perfect for fledgling writers, students of writing and writers who have written a lot, but haven't quite hit the mark.It's a brutally honest book about the business and, at the same time, wry and witty. That's precisely why it was an engaging read for me. Mr. Sears is talking with me without preaching and giving me room to develop a style of my own.I highly recommend this for anyone who wants an honest assessment of the craft. Great read!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. You need to read this book!By SMSSEven though the title is geared to TV writers, its advice applies to anyone who wants to be successful as a writer in any field. Are you writing for TV, film, comics, video games, or books? I've written for all of them, and this book applies to them all.In fact, much of this book applies to anyone who wants to be successful in any business. I recommend it for non-writers as well as writers.This is really a book for writers of all levels, not just "aspiring" writers. It focuses on the business side of writing even more than the act of writing. There's no other book like it out there, and none more valuable to your success.I actually found the "Non-User Friendly Guide" pretty user-friendly. It's a very fun and easy read. You'll be entertained while you learn, and you'll gain valuable insights from someone who has been in the trenches. Check out the author's IMDB page, and you'll be floored. He's not just a good teacher; he's a prolific working writer. That's a pretty rare combination. Yes, but is he good? Find some of his scripts on the Internet. In my opinion, he's one of the best screenwriters out there. The scripts are even more fun to read than they are to watch.So, there you have it. A great and helpful book by someone with awesome credentials and experience. I was thoroughly impressed.Looking forward to the sequel!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommendBy NicoleNewly graduated from college writer here: I can honestly say that I have learned more about the business in this book than the majority of my college experience.It's every single aspect of the small screen writing business packed into a book. Steven wrote his years of experience into this book, and it really shows. It will definitely save me from "learning the hard way", and I feel as if I have an advantage at such a young age. It covers the business, mistakes that someone can make, general writing do's and don't's, formatting, what to do once you get a gig, freelance... Basically, EVERYTHING.Anyway, my point is, I highly, highly recommend it.

Steven L. Sears has had a successful career in film and television encompassing over thirty years of involvement at all levels. From his beginnings as a staff writer on the hit NBC show *THE A-TEAM*, to Co-Executive Producer on the hit series *XENA-WARRIOR PRINCESS* for MCA/Universal, creator and Executive Producer of *SHEENA* for Sony/TriStar Television, and many pilot and development deals with the major studios and production companies, he has amassed a huge amount of experience and knowledge about the inner workings of the entertainment industry. In *THE NON-USER-FRIENDLY GUIDE FOR ASPIRING TELEVISION WRITERS*, he shares that experience and gives advice for those considering a career in television writing. Instead of the traditional academic and sterile approach, Steven answers questions from a personal, first person perspective. The questions have been culled from the real world, people seeking out his advice and looking for the experience that most books don't have. Some of what he writes about are hard and difficult facts to accept about the business. Other times it's his opinion based on his vast experience. But all of it is unsweetened and direct. Even if you don't like his answers, he will certainly make you think hard about your approach and choices when pursuing a career in an extremely difficult industry. As a result, you will be better prepared to achieve the success that he has had. His style is accessible, personable and relaxed. "It's like having lunch with Steven and asking him questions about the business. Without having to watch him eat."

About the AuthorWhat do *THE A-TEAM* and *XENA-WARRIOR PRINCESS* have in common?

Writer/Producer/Author Steven L. Sears. Steven L. Sears has worked as a Writer, Story Editor, Producer and Creator in Television, Film, digital media and animation. His lengthy career has encompassed over fifteen separate Television series, and development deals with a number of the major studios in the industry, including Columbia Studios, Sony/Tristar Television, Rhysher Entertainment, Artists Inc., Cookie Jar Entertainment, Digital Pictures and many others. Stevens initial foray into professional Television writing came with his hiring as a staff writer on the Stephen J. Cannell Productions hit TV series *RIPTIDE*, for the NBC Television Network. He followed that up by adding his talents to the writing staff of one of the more popular genre series of its time, *THE A-TEAM*, also for NBC. From there, he continued his career by writing and working on such popular series as *HARDCASTLE McCORMICK*, *JJ STARBUCK*, *STINGRAY*, *WALKER-TEXAS RANGER*, *HIGHWAYMAN*, *ROBINS HOODS*, *HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVE*, *FATHER DOWLING MYSTERIES*, *HARDBALL*, *GRAND SLAM*, *JESSE HAWKES*, *SUPERBOY*,

S.H.E. SPIES and many other Television favorites. His animation experience includes ITSY BITSY SPIDER, TRANSFORMERS: RESCUE BOTS and working with the legendary animation Director Don Bluth as writer on the short feature THE GIFT OF THE HOOPOE. More than just a writer, Steven also moved up through production as a Story Editor and Producer. After Producing SWAMP THING for USA network and RAVEN for CBS, he soon moved to a series that has made its mark in Television and pop culture history, as Co-Executive Producer of the wildly popular series XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS. He followed that up by co-creating the latest incarnation of the legendary comic book heroine SHEENA for Sony/TriStar Television, which ran for two seasons. Still involved in Television and Film development, he recently branched out into the literary world, partnering with Peter J. Wacks (SECOND PARADIGM; BLOODLETTING) to write the epic book series VILLEANNE for WordFire Press, as well as co-creating and writing the graphic novel STALAG-X with the popular sci-fi author Kevin J. Anderson (DUNE: HOUSE ATREIDES; CLOCKWORK ANGELS; DAN SHAMBLE, ZOMBIE P.I.). STALAG-X is already being pursued by several Production Companies for a possible television series and film franchise.