

Resource Books for Writers

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Award-winning author Susan Lyons writes sexy romance that's passionate, heartwarming and fun. She is published by Kensington, Berkley, Harlequin, The Wild Rose Press, and Freya's Bower. Visit her website at www.susanlyons.ca.

Title	Author	Notes
Almost anything published by Writer's Digest		They have a useful monthly magazine plus publish books on all aspects of writing.
Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life	Ann LaMott	Wise advice and hilarious stories about almost every aspect of the craft and the writing life.
GMC: Goal, Motivation and Conflict – The Building Blocks of Good Fiction	Debra Dixon	Romance writers refer often to GMC, and for good reason. Dixon provides an easy-to-understand conceptual framework for creating effective genre fiction.
Novelist's Boot Camp: 101 Ways to Take Your Book from Boring to Bestseller	Todd Stone	Based on a military boot camp model, the author provides focused training on the skills and techniques needed to apply discipline to your creativity and complete a polished novel.
On Writing	Stephen King	King shares his own experiences and provides advice on the craft. Motivational and practical.
Rejection, Romance, and Royalties	Laura Resnick	A collection of articles providing humorous and realistic insights into the world of the published author. Everyone who has sold a book can relate.
Save the Cat! The Last Book on Screenwriting You'll Ever Need (see also Save the Cat! Goes to The Movies)	Blake Snyder	A humorous and insightful insider's guide into the rules for writing an effective and saleable screenplay – most of which also apply to writing novels.

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Self-Editing for Fiction Writers: How to Edit Yourself Into Print	Renni Browne and Dave King	The title speaks for itself. Written by two editors.
Story: Substance, Structure, Style, and the Principles of Screenwriting	Robert McKee	Although this book is about screenwriting, it's also famous among novelists. It discusses the elements of story, the principles of story design, and the writer at work.
Techniques of the Selling Writer	Dwight Swain	The title says it all.
The Complete Writer's Guide to Heroes & Heroines: Sixteen Master Archetypes	Tami Cowden, Caro LaFever, Sue Vidars	This book discusses 8 heroine archetypes (e.g., boss, free spirit) and 8 hero archetypes (e.g., bad boy, chief). Working with these archetypes helps you create memorable characters who resonate with readers.
The Synonym Finder	J.I. Rodale	Everyone has heard of Roget's Thesaurus, but I think Rodale is as good or better. I have them both on my desk.
The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Storytellers & Screenwriters	Christopher Vogler	Based on the work of Joseph Campbell, this book provides an insider's look at how master storytellers have used mythic structure to create powerful stories which tap into the mythological core that exists in all of us.
Word Work: Surviving and Thriving as a Writer	Bruce Holland Rogers	The author provides advice for dealing with the many practical and psychological difficulties writers face.
Writer's Market: Where and How to Sell What You Write (see also WritersMarket.com)	Robert Brewer	Comes out annually. It's a guide to thousands of markets for different kinds of writing.
Writing Down the Bones and Wild Mind: Living the Writer's Life	Natalie Goldberg	These books aren't about structure and technique, but about creativity, expressiveness, and developing a writing practice or discipline. They're truly inspirational.

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Writing Romance	Vanessa Grant	From plotting and characterization to editing and selling your manuscript, this easy-to-read book is for anyone who has ever thought about or has already written a romance novel. Includes many examples from published written works, as well as a helpful resource guide useful for both new and experienced writers.
Writing the Great America Romance Novel	Catherine Lanigan	Includes techniques as well as insight into the writer's relationship with agents, editors, and publicists.