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**KEY=STORY - RAYMOND CAMILLE**

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## Elements of the Short Story

*Books* **Elements of the Short Story** is a Modernist's approach to the short story rather than an avant garde or post-modernist's view. One of the primary aspects of Modernism was the belief in cause and effect. The modernist believes that behavior is caused and that we can discover and present the motivations behind behavior, in rich, sensory detail. A modernist short story is built on two cause-and-effect sequences: from the opening conflict or problem to the climax, and from the climax to the close and clincher. The Modernist, like his/her predecessors for 2,500 years, believes that these cause-and-effect sequences can be meaningful and that a story can present a theme that has philosophical and/or psychological meaning. The book sets out to delineate the building blocks, the elements of the short story. The components of experience are always character, scene, and incident, whether you're in fantasy-land, distant stars, or right here at home. The book details many fundamental aspects of character and character-ization; plot and plotting, including scenario; basic style; pacing; the writer's authority; point-of-view; credibility. It analyzes and illustrates typical strategies in building the rising action, building the climax; building the close and its clincher. A short story is not a stunted novel, nor is a novel an overgrown short story. **Elements of the Short Story** takes the position that the short story is an art form in its own right, with the potential for considerable aesthetic achievement.

## The Gift of the Magi

*The Floating Press* **The Gift of the Magi** is a treasured short story written by O. Henry. A young and very much in love couple can barely afford their one-room apartment, let alone the extra expense of getting Christmas presents for one another. But each is determined to show their love for the other in this traditional time of giving; each sells a thing they hold most dear in order to afford a present, with poignant and touching results that capture their love for one another.

## The Short and Happy Life of Francis Macomber

## Analyzing Short Stories

*Kendall Hunt Publishing Company* **Instruction in analyzing short stories, and excerpts from various short stories in English.**

## Surviving Death

**A prophecy. A rebellion. A young woman thrust to the forefront. Welcome to the afterlife.** Tilly's death isn't going very well. She's been assigned the last job anyone wants: escorting souls to Hell. Worse, the afterlife is run on an automated system of justice based on arbitrary rules and three-strike punishments, and despite her best intentions, her strikes are running out. One more screw up and she'll be damned for all eternity. Just like her mother. Furious at the ridiculous rules in the afterlife, Tilly risks her own damnation in a search for justice. She sets out on a quest through Heaven and Hell-one that makes her the accidental face of a rebellion and leads her to an ultimate showdown with Lucifer and Death himself. Her mother's soul-and the souls of mankind-depend on her.

## The Seven Basic Plots

## Why We Tell Stories

*Bloomsbury Publishing* **This remarkable and monumental book at last provides a comprehensive answer to the age-old riddle of whether there are only a small number of 'basic stories' in the world. Using a wealth of examples, from ancient myths and folk tales via the plays and novels of great literature to the popular movies and TV soap operas of today, it shows that there are seven archetypal themes which recur throughout every kind of storytelling. But this is only the prelude to an investigation into how and why we are 'programmed' to imagine stories in these ways, and how they relate to the inmost patterns of human psychology. Drawing on a vast array of examples, from Proust to detective stories, from the Marquis de Sade to E.T., Christopher Booker then leads us through the extraordinary changes in the**

nature of storytelling over the past 200 years, and why so many stories have 'lost the plot' by losing touch with their underlying archetypal purpose. Booker analyses why evolution has given us the need to tell stories and illustrates how storytelling has provided a uniquely revealing mirror to mankind's psychological development over the past 5000 years. This seminal book opens up in an entirely new way our understanding of the real purpose storytelling plays in our lives, and will be a talking point for years to come.

## How to Write a Short Story

### Everything You Need to Successfully Write and Publish Your Short Stories

You always wanted to write short stories but you have no idea where to begin. Do you want to become better at writing fiction? Perhaps you find it hard to come up with ideas for a story or to devise a plot. Maybe you have difficulty developing your own style or is your dialogue rusty. N.A. Turner is here to help you navigate the land of short story writing from outlining your story to attracting readers. Every aspiring writer dreams of people reading his or her work. Short story writing is a way of both developing your writing style and to introduce your talent to potential readers. At the start of their career, the likes of Stephen King and Charles Bukowski made a name for themselves by writing and publishing short stories. Learn more about N.A. Turner's writing tips based on his experience and research. This guide teaches you: - How to write well-structured short stories- How to determine your theme- How to plot your story- How to create engaging, interesting characters- How to build a fictional world- How to write scenes and clear dialogue- How to get to that first draft and edit your story- How to publish your short stories in the current market- And much more. This guidebook will show you a step-by-step process to successfully write and publish short stories. From developing an idea to attracting readers online. This comprehensive, step-by-step guide is all you need to get started.

## The Elements of Story

### Field Notes on Nonfiction Writing

*Harper* A writer's reference by a New York Times editor shares fifty strategies for writing successful nonfiction narratives, in a lighthearted guide that draws on real-world examples and incorporates tales from his work in the newsroom. 30,000 first printing.

## The God of Small Things

*Penguin UK* Still, to say that it all began when Sophie Mol came to Ayemenem is only one way of looking at it . . . It could be argued that it actually began thousands of years ago. Long before the Marxists came. Before the British took Malabar, before the Dutch Ascendancy, before Vasco da Gama arrived, before the Zamorin's conquest of Calicut. Before Christianity arrived in a boat and seeped into Kerala like tea from a teabag. That it really began in the days when the Love Laws were made. The laws that lay down who should be loved, and how. And how much.

## Religion in the Contemporary World

### A Sociological Introduction

*John Wiley & Sons* In the new edition of this widely praised text, Alan Aldridge examines the complex realities of religious belief, practice and institutions. Religion is a powerful and controversial force in the contemporary world, even in supposedly secular societies. Almost all societies seek to cultivate religions and faith communities as sources of social stability and engines of social progress. They also try to combat real and imagined abuses and excess, regulating cults that brainwash vulnerable people, containing fundamentalism that threatens democracy and the progress of science, and identifying terrorists who threaten atrocities in the name of religion. The third edition has been carefully revised to make sure it is fully up to date with recent developments and debates. Major themes in the revised edition include the recently erupted 'culture war' between progressive secularists and conservative believers, the diverse manifestations of 'fundamentalism' and their impact on the wider society, new individual forms of religious expression in opposition to traditional structures of authority, and the backlash against 'multiculturalism' with its controversial implications for the social integration of ethnic and religious minority communities. Impressive in its scholarly analysis of a vibrant and challenging aspect of human societies, the third edition will appeal strongly to students taking courses in the sociology of religion and religious studies, as well as to everyone interested in the place of religion in the contemporary world.

## Elements of the Short Story, Grade 6-10

### The Best American Short Stories of the Century

*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* With a new 1999 story added to the paperback volume, this collection of the best stories of the century includes some of the greatest names in literature as well as a few spectacular one-hit wonders. Reprint.

### The Call of the Wild

*ReadHowYouWant.com* Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* (1903) concerns a dog named Buck, a 140lb Saint Bernard and Scotch Shepherd mix. Living an easy life as the pet dog of Judge Miller in the Santa Clara Valley of Northern California, Buck is abducted by Manuel, an assistant of the Miller's gardener, and is sold to a trainer of sled dogs. Introduced to a brutal new way of life in which he must struggle to survive, Buck becomes wild and furious.

### A White Heron

### And Other Stories

*Trond Knutsen*

### Five Tuesdays in Winter

*Pan Macmillan* 'Vivid, moving, immersive' Marian Keyes 'Moved me, inspired me, thrilled me. It filled up every chamber of my heart' - Ann Patchett 'Masterful, surprising, and satisfying' - Madeline Miller Writers & Lovers established Lily King as one of our most beloved authors of contemporary fiction. Now, for the first time ever, King collects ten of her finest short stories, opening fresh realms of discovery for avid and new readers alike. Told in the intimate voices of unique and endearing characters of all ages, these tales explore desire and heartache, loss and discovery, moments of jolting violence and the inexorable tug toward love at all costs. A bookseller's unspoken love for his employee rises to the surface, a neglected teenage boy finds much-needed nurturing from an unlikely pair of college students hired to housesit, a girl's loss of innocence at the hands of her employer's son becomes a catalyst for strength and confidence, and a proud nonagenarian rages helplessly in his granddaughter's hospital room. Romantic, hopeful, brutally raw, and unsparingly honest, some even slipping into the surreal, these stories are, above all, about King's enduring subject of love. Lily King's literary mastery, her spare and stunning prose, and her gift for creating lasting and treasured characters is on full display in this curated selection of short fiction. *Five Tuesdays in Winter* showcases an exhilarating new form for this extraordinarily gifted author writing at the height of her career. 'Lily King is one of our great literary treasures' - Madeline Miller, author of *Circe*

### The Story Grid

### What Good Editors Know

*Black Irish Entertainment LLC* **WHAT IS THE STORY GRID?** The Story Grid is a tool developed by editor Shawn Coyne to analyze stories and provide helpful editorial comments. It's like a CT Scan that takes a photo of the global story and tells the editor or writer what is working, what is not, and what must be done to make what works better and fix what's not. The Story Grid breaks down the component parts of stories to identify the problems. And finding the problems in a story is almost as difficult as the writing of the story itself (maybe even more difficult). The Story Grid is a tool with many applications: 1. It will tell a writer if a Story ?works? or ?doesn't work. 2. It pinpoints story problems but does not emotionally abuse the writer, revealing exactly where a Story (not the person creating the Story'the Story) has failed. 3. It will tell the writer the specific work necessary to fix that Story's problems. 4. It is a tool to re- envision and resuscitate a seemingly irredeemable pile of paper stuck in an attic drawer. 5. It is a tool that can inspire an original creation.

### The Magic of Fiction

### Crafting Words Into Story: The Writer's Guide to Writing & Editing

Writing a novel can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. No matter where you are with your writing project--beginning the first draft, rewriting the fifth draft, or editing the final draft--help is available. *The Magic of Fiction* is a comprehensive guide for crafting fiction. It's the perfect resource for writers planning to self-publish, authors looking for an edge for manuscript submissions, and editors looking for a handbook on craft. Students and educators will also

benefit, with details about the crafts of writing and editing available in a single book. Whether you intend to self-publish or submit your manuscript to agents or publishers, use *The Magic of Fiction* to master the ins and outs of writing and revision, create stronger early drafts, and edit your own stories. This guide addresses all aspects of editing and writing, from the mechanics to story issues to style concerns. In it you'll find--~ A comprehensive editing checklist~ Fixes for common writing mistakes~ Specifics for punctuation in dialogue~ Tips for putting setting to work for your fiction~ Suggestions for editing for the reader~ Help for writing to genre conventions~ Tips for word choices~ A guide for editing approaches and much more. Every fiction writer should be equipped to not only write well, but to rewrite and edit. There are books designed to help you write a novel, books to help you revise, and books to help you with the nitty-gritty of punctuation and grammar. *The Magic of Fiction* brings all those elements together in a single easy-to-digest resource for the writer looking for an edge in today's literary marketplace. The format of *The Magic of Fiction* helps you focus on what you need when you need it. Chapters provide detailed discussions of topics and end with "quick lists" to help you get straight to work on your own stories. Written by freelance fiction editor Beth Hill, *The Magic of Fiction* will help you produce high-quality fiction that will earn attention for all the right reasons.

## The Periodic Table

*Viking* An extraordinary work in which each of the 21 chapters takes its title and starting point from one of the elements in the periodic table. Mingling fact and fiction, history and anecdote, Levi uses his training as a chemist and his experiences as a prisoner in Auschwitz to illuminate the human condition.

## Fiction: Elements of the Short Story, Softcover Student Edition

*Glencoe/McGraw-Hill* This collection of classic and contemporary short stories is organized around the basic elements of fiction (plot, setting, character, point of view and tone, theme, and style). Biographical author sketches, explanatory footnotes, discussion questions, writing topics, and a glossary of terms guide students' understanding.

## Elements Of Mystery

*Terri Talley Venters* A collection of short stories, each titled after an element in the periodic table. *Elements Of Mystery* has a story for each of the 118 elements. Story genres range from horror and suspense to rainbows and unicorns. Mythical creatures and ancient Gods to conspiracy theories and natural disasters. Each story is unique. You have to read each one to see how the story ties to the element. But they all have one common—a surprise plot twist at the end which will make you say, "Wow!"

## The World Book Encyclopedia

An encyclopedia designed especially to meet the needs of elementary, junior high, and senior high school students.

## The Roman Clan

## The Gens from Ancient Ideology to Modern Anthropology

*Cambridge University Press* **Publisher description**

## The Last Wish

Geralt de Riv, a witcher, uses his vast sorcerous powers to hunt down the monsters that threaten the world, but he soon discovers that not every monstrous-looking creature is evil, and not everything beautiful is good.

## The Shipping News

## A Novel

*Simon and Schuster* Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Annie Proulx's *The Shipping News* is a vigorous, darkly comic, and at times magical portrait of the contemporary North American family. Quoye, a third-rate newspaper hack, with a "head shaped like a crenshaw, no neck, reddish hair...features as bunched as kissed fingertips," is wrenched violently out of his workaday life when his two-timing wife meets her just desserts. An aunt convinces Quoye and his two emotionally disturbed daughters to return with her to the starkly beautiful coastal landscape of their ancestral home in Newfoundland. Here, on desolate Quoye's Point, in a house empty except for a few mementos of the family's unsavory past, the battered members of three generations try to cobble up new lives. Newfoundland is a country of coast and cove where the mercury rarely rises above seventy degrees, the local culinary delicacy is cod cheeks, and it's easier to travel by boat and snowmobile than on anything with wheels. In this harsh place of cruel storms, a collapsing fishery,

and chronic unemployment, the aunt sets up as a yacht upholsterer in nearby Killick-Claw, and Quoye finds a job reporting the shipping news for the local weekly, the Gammy Bird (a paper that specializes in sexual-abuse stories and grisly photos of car accidents). As the long winter closes its jaws of ice, each of the Quoyes confronts private demons, reels from catastrophe to minor triumph—in the company of the obsequious Mavis Bangs; Diddy Shovel the strongman; drowned Herald Prowse; cane-twirling Beety; Nutbeem, who steals foreign news from the radio; a demented cousin the aunt refuses to recognize; the much-zippered Alvin Yark; silent Wavey; and old Billy Pretty, with his bag of secrets. By the time of the spring storms Quoye has learned how to gut cod, to escape from a pickle jar, and to tie a true lover's knot.

## For Whom the Bell Tolls

*Turtleback Books* An American learns the true value of life while fighting with a guerilla band during the Spanish Civil War.

## Half Asleep In Frog Pyjamas

*Random House* When the stock market crashes on the Thursday before Easter, you - an ambitious, though ineffectual and not entirely ethical young broker - are convinced you are facing the Weekend From Hell. You don't know the half of it! Obviously, before the market reopens on Monday, you're going to have to scramble and scheme to cover your butt, but there's no way you can anticipate the baffling disappearance of a 300-pound psychic, the fall from grace of a born-again monkey, or the intrusion in your life of a tattooed stranger intent on blowing your mind and most of your fuses. Over these fateful three days, you are jerked from one trial and one revelation to another; forced to confront things ranging from mysterious African rituals to legendary amphibians, from tarot card bombshells to street violence, from your own sexuality to outer space. The weekend isn't from Hell, it's from Sirius the Dog Star. And by the time it's over, the glide path of your destiny has been knocked widely askew. You may or may not be a better person, you may or may not have found love, the world may or may not be a different place, yet cosmic connections have been established that cannot be broken. And as an indication of just how strange it has all become, you - prosaic, materialistic, irritable you - are left with a complete understanding of the surprisingly serious phrase 'half asleep in frog pajamas'.

## Spotlight on ... Literary Elements

*Scholastic Reference* Teaching must-know literary elements is easy with this unique boxed set. It includes 48 books (6 copies of 8 48-page anthologies) for students plus a 96-page teaching guide. Literary elements covered: Character, Figurative Language, Foreshadowing & Flashback, Plot, Point of View, Setting, Theme, Tone & Mood. Each student anthology includes 4-6 engaging stories, poems, or plays that are perfect for teaching specific literary elements. The teaching guide includes mini-lessons, graphic organizers, student reproducibles, and great activity ideas. A storage box keeps everything organized. An easy way to meet the language arts standards! For use with Grades 4-8.

## The Elements of the Short Story

## The Satanic Verses

*Random House* Just before dawn one winter's morning, a hijacked jetliner explodes above the English Channel. Through the falling debris, two figures, Gibreel Farishta, the biggest star in India, and Saladin Chamcha, an expatriate returning from his first visit to Bombay in fifteen years, plummet from the sky, washing up on the snow-covered sands of an English beach, and proceed through a series of metamorphoses, dreams, and revelations. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

## The Starless Sea

## the spellbinding Sunday Times bestseller

*Random House* 'A journey of wonder and imagination' Stylist You are invited to join Zachary on the starless sea: the home of storytellers, story-lovers and those who will protect our stories at all costs. Discover the enchanting, magical new bestseller from the author of *The Night Circus*. When Zachary Rawlins stumbles across a strange book hidden in his university library it leads him on a quest unlike any other. Its pages entrance him with their tales of lovelorn prisoners, lost cities and nameless acolytes, but they also contain something impossible: a recollection from his own childhood. Determined to solve the puzzle of the book, Zachary follows the clues he finds on the cover - a bee, a key and a sword. They guide him to a masquerade ball, to a dangerous secret club, and finally through a magical doorway created by the fierce and mysterious Mirabel. This door leads to a subterranean labyrinth filled with stories, hidden far beneath the surface of the earth. When the labyrinth is threatened, Zachary must race with Mirabel, and Dorian, a handsome barefoot man with shifting alliances, through its twisting tunnels and crowded ballrooms, searching for the end of his story. 'Enchanting read... an ode to stories and storytelling itself, and the joy of reading' *Guardian* 'Spellbinding' *Daily Mirror* 'A magical mix of quests and fables...beautifully written' *Heat*

## The Night Circus

*Random House* The circus arrives without warning. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Against the grey sky the towering tents are striped black and white. A sign hanging upon iron gates reads: Opens at Nightfall Closes at Dawn As dusk shifts to twilight, tiny lights begin to flicker all over the tents, as though the whole circus is covered in fireflies. When the tents are aglow, sparkling against the night sky, the sign lights up: Le Cirque des Rêves The Circus of Dreams The gates shudder and unlock, seemingly by their own volition. They swing outward, inviting the crowd inside. Now the circus is open. Now you may enter. Discover this amazing fantasy read with a different kind of magic. The Starless Sea, the second novel from the author of the The Night Circus, is out now. 'The only response to this novel is simply: wow. It is a breathtaking feat of imagination, a flight of fancy that pulls you in and wraps you up in its spell' The Times

## The Associated Press Stylebook 2015

*Basic Books* A fully revised and updated edition of the bible of the newspaper industry

## Skullsworn

*Pan Macmillan* 'Brilliant' - V. E. Schwab, Sunday Times bestselling author of A Darker Shade of Magic For one apprentice assassin, the clock is ticking . . . Pyrre Lakatur doesn't like the description skullsworn. It doesn't capture the beauty of her devotion to Ananshael, God of Death. And she's not an assassin, but a priestess. Or she will be, if she can pass her final trial. The problem isn't killing, as Pyrre has spent her life training for this. The problem is love. To pass the trial, she will have fourteen days to kill seven people detailed in an ancient song, including one true love, 'who will not come again'. However, Pyrre has never been in love, time is short, and if she fails she'll be given to her god. Pyrre's not afraid to die, but she hates to fail. So a month before the trial begins, she returns to the violent city of her birth, where she once offered an abusive father to the god. Here Pyrre hopes to find love - and end it with the edge of her knife. 'Pleasantly grim and emotionally complex' - Kirkus Reviews 'Lush, evocative descriptions . . . remarkably intimate' - Publishers Weekly Skullsworn is a thrilling standalone set in the world of the Chronicles of the Unhewn Throne by Brian Staveley.

## A Manual for Cleaning Women

## Selected Stories

*Pan Macmillan* The New York Times bestseller. 'This selection of 43 stories should by all rights see Lucia Berlin as lauded as Jean Rhys or Raymond Carver' - Independent Introduced by Lydia Davis, Lucia Berlin's stories in A Manual for Cleaning Women make for one of the most remarkable unsung collections in twentieth-century American fiction. With extraordinary honesty and magnetism, Lucia Berlin invites us into her rich, itinerant life: the drink and the mess and the pain and the beauty and the moments of surprise and of grace. Her voice is uniquely witty, anarchic and compassionate. 'With Lucia Berlin we are very far away from the parlours of Boston and New York and quite far away, too, from the fiction of manners, unless we are speaking of very bad manners . . . The writer Lucia Berlin most puts me in mind of is the late Richard Yates.' - LRB, 1999

## He Who Fights with Monsters

## Book 2: A LitRPG Adventure

*Independently Published* The path from retail middle management to interdimensional wizard adventurer wasn't easy, but Jason Asano is settling into his new life. Now, a contest draws young elites to the city of Greenstone, competing for a grand prize. Jason must gather a band of companions if he is to stand a chance against the best the world has to offer. While the young adventurers are caught up in competition, the city leaders deal with revelations of betrayal as a vast and terrible enemy is revealed. Although Jason seems uninvolved, he has unknowingly crossed the enemy's path before. Friends and foes made along the way will lead him to cross it again as inevitable conflict looms. After cementing itself as one of the best-rated serial novels on Royal Road with an astonishing 13 million views, the He Who Fights with Monsters Series is now available on Kindle. It's perfect for fans of Pirate Aba, Dakota Krout, and Luke Chmilenko.

## Senlin Ascends

## Book One of the Books of Babel

*Hachette UK* 'Gracefully written, deliriously imaginative, action-packed, warm, witty and thought-provoking' Madeline Miller, author of Circe 'One of my favourite books of all time' - Mark Lawrence, author of Prince of Thorns 'I'm wildly in love with this book' - Pierce Brown, author of Red Rising DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY DEBUT THAT HAS GOT

**EVERYONE TALKING** Mild-mannered headmaster, Thomas Senlin prefers his adventures to be safely contained within the pages of a book. So when he loses his new bride shortly after embarking on the honeymoon of their dreams, he is ill-prepared for the trouble that follows. To find her, Senlin must enter the Tower of Babel - a world of geniuses and tyrants, of menace and wonder, of unusual animals and mysterious machines. And if he hopes to ever see his wife again, he will have to do more than just survive . . . this quiet man of letters must become a man of action. 'Brilliant' - Publishers Weekly 'I loved it' - Django Wexler 'An engrossing intoxicating delight' - Forbidden Planet 'An extraordinary debut that is well worthy of the hype. A beautifully written, highly engaging page-turning masterpiece' - Fantasy Book Review 'Thomas Senlin is the most unlikely yet likeable hero since a certain hobbit rushed out of Bag End leaving his second breakfast half-finished and entirely unwashed-up' - Fantasy Faction

## Let's Write a Short Story!

### How To Tell A Great Story

## A Book for the Novice Storyteller Looking to Learn the Basics of Storytelling in a Weekend.

*Independently Published* **How To Tell A Great Story** will equip you with powerful storytelling techniques that master storytellers have used throughout time to amaze and engage their audiences. This simple, but powerful beginner's guidebook, makes learning storytelling techniques easy and explains things in simple language. When you read this book, you will learn how to start telling your own story quickly and effortlessly; construct a fascinating, well-structured story from scratch; use powerful master storytelling techniques to amaze your family and friends; find interesting ideas and inspiration for your stories; and, vividly and expertly describe the characters and settings in your stories.

## How to Write a Novel Using the Snowflake Method

*CreateSpace* **A Magical Key to Unlock Your Creative Wizard** Are you writing a novel, but having trouble getting your first draft written? You've heard of "outlining," but that sounds too rigid for you. You've heard of "organic writing," but that seems a bit squishy to you. Take a look at the wildly popular Snowflake Method—ten battle-tested steps that jump-start your creativity and help you quickly map out your story. All around the world, novelists are using the Snowflake Method right now to ignite their imaginations and get their first drafts down. In this book, you'll follow the story of a fictitious novelist as she learns to tap into the amazing power of the Snowflake Method. Almost magically, she finds her story growing from a simple idea into a deep and powerful novel. And she finds her novel changing her—into a stronger, more courageous person. Zany, Over the Top, and Just Plain Fun **How to Write a Novel Using the Snowflake Method** is a "business parable"—a how-to guide written in story form. It's zany. It's over the top. It's just plain fun. It shows you how it's done, rather than tells you. You'll learn by example how to grow your story idea into a sizzling first draft. You'll discover: How to define your "target audience" the right way, so you know exactly how your ideal readers think and feel. Forget what the experts tell you about "demographics." How to create a dynamite selling tool that will instantly tell people whether they'll love your story or hate it. And you want them to love it or hate it. How to get inside the skin of each of your characters—even your villain. Especially your villain. How to find a deep, emotively powerful theme for your story. Do you know the best point in your novel to unveil your theme? How to know when to backtrack, and why backtracking is essential to writing great fiction. How to fire-test each scene to ensure it's high-impact—before you write it. Excerpt Goldilocks had always wanted to write a novel. She learned to read before she went to kindergarten. In grade school, she always had her nose in a book. In junior high, the other kids thought she was weird, because she actually liked reading those dusty old novels in literature class. All through high school, Goldilocks dreamed of writing a book of her own someday. But when she went to college, her parents persuaded her to study something practical. Goldilocks hated practical, and secretly she kept reading novels. But she was a very obedient girl, so she did what her parents told her. She got a very practical degree in marketing. After college, she got a job that bored her to tears—but at least it was practical. Then she got married, and within a few years, she had two children, a girl and then a boy. She quit her job to devote full time to them. As the children grew, Goldilocks took great joy in introducing them to the stories she had loved as a child. When her son went off to kindergarten, Goldilocks thought about looking for a job. But her resume now had a seven-year hole in it, and her practical skills were long out of date. The only jobs Goldilocks could qualify for were minimum wage. She suddenly realized that being practical had made her horribly unhappy. On a whim, Goldilocks decided to do the one thing she had always wanted more than anything else—she was finally going to write a novel. She didn't care if it was impractical. She didn't care if nobody would ever read her novel. She was going to do it just because she wanted to. For the first time in years, she was going to do something just for herself. And nobody was going to stop her.

## Story Trumps Structure

# How to Write Unforgettable Fiction by Breaking the Rules

*Penguin* **Don't limit your fiction - LIBERATE IT** All too often, following the "rules" of writing can constrict rather than inspire you. With *Story Trumps Structure*, you can shed those rules - about three-act structure, rising action, outlining, and more - to craft your most powerful, emotional, and gripping stories. Award-winning novelist Steven James explains how to trust the narrative process to make your story believable, compelling, and engaging, and debunks the common myths that hold writers back from creating their best work. • Ditch your outline and learn to write organically. • Set up promises for readers - and deliver on them. • Discover how to craft a satisfying climax. • Master the subtleties of characterization. • Add mind-blowing twists to your fiction. When you focus on what lies at the heart of story - tension, desire, crisis, escalation, struggle, discovery - rather than plot templates and formulas, you'll begin to break out of the box and write fiction that resonates with your readers. *Story Trumps Structure* will transform the way you think about stories and the way you write them, forever.