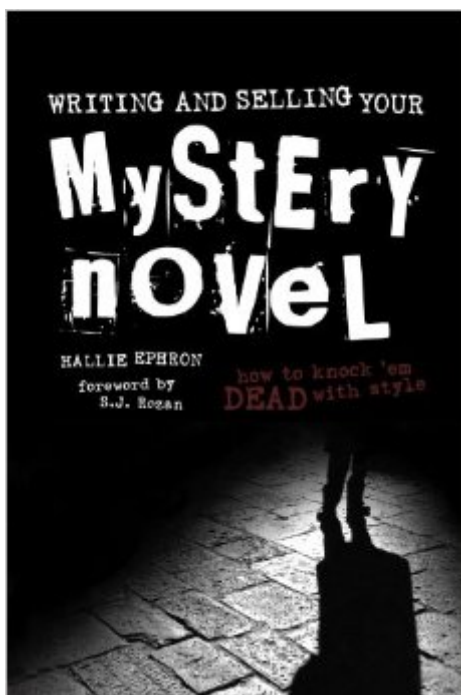


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# Writing And Selling Your Mystery Novel



## Synopsis

Solve the MYSTERY of how to write and sell a KILLER story! With the help of interactive exercises, mystery author and crime fiction critic Hallie Ephron gives you the momentum you need to turn a kernel of an idea into an intriguing mystery novel. You'll learn to capitalize on your writing strengths and shore up your weaknesses. This comprehensive guide covers every aspect of mystery writing, including: planning, twisting the plot, and constructing a credible surprise ending creating a compelling sleuth and a worthy villain deceiving and revealing with red herrings and clues writing investigation, spine-tingling suspense, and dramatic action revising - from sharpening characters, to optimizing pace, to smithing words engaging the reader By the time you finish reading part one of this book, you will have a blueprint for your entire story. Parts two and there take your blueprint from idea to well-polished novel. Part four is an insider's guide to getting it into an agent's or publisher's hands."

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (43 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book because I recently had an idea for a historical romance with a strong mystery/suspense plot. I've never tried to write a full-on mystery before and I felt intimidated. The idea of having multiple suspects and subplots and dropping (and hiding clues) felt overwhelming to me. When I looked through the books offered on for mystery writing, I saw many reviews that said the books were less about mystery writing and more about writing in general, which was not what I wanted. I already own books on writing and I've studied writing, so I just wanted a book to explain the particulars of the mystery genre. This book was perfect. The book is divided into four main

sections: Planning, Writing, Revising, and Selling Your Mystery Novel. Each section includes several chapters. The first section covers the basics: The premise, the sleuth, the villain, the crime, the suspects, etc. The Writing Section explains dialogue, point-of-view (POV), how to insert clues and make them seem unimportant next to red herring clues. There is also a chapter on how to write the action/suspense scenes. As other reviewers have stated, this book contains a lot of exercises. Some of the exercises relate to using examples from your own work-in-progress and some exercises are based on excerpts from other books that Ephron presents and you have to continue the dialogue or write another version of the scene. I enjoyed this book because it broke things down in a way that was easy for me to understand. I found Chapter 17, Writing Investigation: Clues, Red Herrings, and Misdirection, to be very helpful. Page 157-158 in my edition explain how to distract the reader from realizing the significance of a clue. The chapter on the villain is basic, but useful.

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