



Writing Fantasy & Science Fiction

Lisa Tuttle

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What makes fantasy different from other types of fiction? How do you build a science fiction world? Does magic need rules? From outer space to cyberspace, from *The Lord of the Rings* to *Harry Potter*, fantasy and science fiction are more popular with readers than ever before, and offer a unique set of challenges to the writer.

Writing Fantasy & Science Fiction Details

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Author : Lisa Tuttle

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From Reader Review Writing Fantasy & Science Fiction for online ebook

Anna Elizabeth says

This was the first writing guide I had ever read. There were SO many pointers that I found helpful - such as the stressing of writing every day, getting your work published, the need of an agent, the different types of fantasy and science fiction, writing dialogue, etc. etc. etc.

A lot of the book was showing her personal experiences as a writer, which I found helpful because I like to be shown an example rather than be just told how to do it. I learn better that way. :)

She interviewed several writers and editors, which helped me see a bit more of what my experience might be like with an editor.

Overall, I think this book is very good for anyone, who is beginner in the fantasy and/or science fiction writing field.

One point that I would like to make is that the the author's example of an omniscient author wasn't exactly the most appropriate - on pp. 83 and 85, I think.

I think this book is best for a teen and adult audience.

My rating: 8 out 10

Jc says

A great read. I got lots of ideas and information about pursuing this type of writing.

Airaology says

From types of science fiction to types of fantasy, this book is handy to reference and learn. Like, I didn't know the difference between epic or high fantasy and dark fantasy and dynastic fantasy and it explains clearly.

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Ahmed El Wakeel says

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Katharine (Ventureadlaxre) says

Utterly fantastic. Yes, I knew most of it already from being an avid reader of the genre/s and from reading other books on writing, yet Tuttle backed up her statements far better, and the eloquence was astounding. So many arts are easily sharable, explained things that have only been half-explained or shared before, and really connected and assured me as someone who's attempting to write.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to write fantasy and/or science fiction, because wow. I've read a dozen or more books on writing and this is the best by far - just as helpful as Eats, Shoots & Leaves (Lynne Truss) is for grammar.

Ahmed Mahdi says

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Rebecca says

A lot of the advice in this book is helpful no matter what genre you are writing. Equally, there are aspects

that will be particularly useful to sci-fi and fantasy writers - for example, the section where the author sets out definitions and examples of some of the many sub-genres, which can seem bewildering at first if you're a newcomer to genre fiction. Some of it is basic common sense - like checking that your character names don't have embarrassing meanings in other languages!

There are also sections on finding an agent, writing for magazines etc - although given that this edition of the book is from 2005, there is the danger that such information is out of date. Self-publishing is not mentioned and I don't think e-books were around back then either. But the basic advice is sound and I like the fact that the author includes examples of her own processes for producing certain works - but at the same time acknowledges that we will all have our own approach.

Maegan says

Plenty of quality information and advice for writers of F&SF during all stages of their writing; from first drafts, to editing, to approaching agents/publishers - as well advice from multiple publishers, which I felt were insightful. I also found the last few pages in regards to the communication between Lisa Tuttle and George R. R. Martin in regards to their collaboration for their novella 'The Storms of Windhaven' interesting.

All in all, a good read. Would recommend to any writer of F&SF.

Nikki says

I didn't learn anything from this book. I was hoping for something that didn't just describe fantasy and science fiction, and then give the general tips all writers are given, but went into it a bit deeper -- saw something I didn't see, at least. But everything in this book was what I already knew from being an avid reader of the genre. A lot of it was just description, or stating the obvious. In some cases it wasn't so much a "writing handbook", which it's supposed to be according to the cover, but a reflection of her personal experiences in the genre. All well and good, but not what I signed up for. The last chapter in its entirety is about her experiences in collaborating with another author, complete with excerpts from their letters to each other.

The only reason I've found to recommend it is that if you have no idea what you're getting into, both with fantasy/SF and writing, then it's as good an introduction as any.

Annemarie Slee says

Nothing new, you can read this in any book on writing advice (chapters on Structuring, Plotting and Rewriting).

The chapter on World Building is interesting though. "Landscape, in both SF and fantasy, is more than just a background; it plays a role equivalent to that of a major character... Discovering and describing your background is as essential as the plot - usually, world-building is an inextricable part of the story, and the

two tasks will go hand-in-hand."

Ok, gotta go now... have to create a few worlds!

Nic says

Pretty helpful - nice to read a book on writing by someone who has done some really cool stuff, like interviewing Roald Dahl. Also, at the age of twenty-one she co-wrote a book with George R. R. Martin, and she includes many of the actual letters they wrote back and forth to discuss the project - very neat to read.

Dee says

If this is the first time you've thought about writing speculative fiction, this is the book for you. Otherwise, this is a tremendously basic primer.

Ash says

I didn't read the last section and skimmed through some sections like the one on writing short stories and children's literature but overall a good book on the genre.

Sasha says

As I've been reading books about writing lately, I'm discovering that most of them are bland repetitions of the same old same old. This book is no exception. When it comes to SFF, though, there aren't a lot of writing books out there. So far this is the best SFF writing book I've come across.

(Jerry Cleaver's Immediate Fiction has been my favorite writing book so far, but he zeroes in on some of the most essential elements--namely conflict and its related elements--and nearly ignores everything else.)

While most of the book is fairly bland and superficial, as I said, there were a few things that were relatively unique. She summarizes the subcategories of SFF. For many who are more hardcore about SFF or fandom than I am, this will be old news... but for me it was enlightening in some cases... of course I knew what Urban Fantasy was, but I was not sure what High Fantasy is and how it was different from general fantasy... that sort of thing.

I think her best contribution comes from her chapters on short stories, and interviews with publishers (both magazine and publishing houses, IIRC).

Her writing voice is somewhat funny and light. It's personal and comes with personal judgements and biases, but overall she's relatively less judgemental than other "let me tell you about writing" authors I've read or flipped through. That's a pet peeve of mine--if I'm a dullard that can't write, and I don't already know that, some hectoring author isn't going to clue me in; and if I can write, then I don't need the hectoring. LT avoids

that trap.

Also a useful bibliography.
