

# How the Professional Writer Trains to Write Top-sellers

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You've probably heard this secret: A writer becomes one by reading and writing - a lot.

But some make it - most don't. Why?

There are no shortcuts. Just lots of writing, lots of reading.

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The difference between the successful and unsuccessful writers is in how they go about it.

First, the professional writer sets that as their goal. They want to make a good living at what they like to do best - writing.

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So, they study good writers, successful books. And reverse engineer how they did that.

And they'll collect books or essays by successful writers who wrote up what they found to be workable for them.

From this, the studious writer will start finding commonalities. People will start saying the same things.

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Occasionally, a writing text will come along which studies successful writers and lays out those commonalities. And that's were you'll find there is a natural system at work. Once you know it, then the world opens up for you.

Start with why you're writing.

First, writing - and any creative process - is a joy. It's something to do with creating

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itself. The satisfaction of bringing something new into the world.

Next, the writer learns to see again. The world around them becomes a constant source of inspiration. Settings abound. Character traits show up in the people they meet. People are living through story arcs - romances, mysteries, adventures.

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All that's needed is to compile these and then "leave out the dull parts."

An observant and smart writer will also read and study the most successful books - both in their current age, and those perennial-selling books that never go out of print.

That writer is on his way to becoming professional. Because

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just as there are no really new plots out there, our culture is constantly changing. The job of the professional writer is to regularly rehash, revamp, and rewrite the old into the new. To update the successful patterns of top-selling books into our modern culture's lingo and phrasings.

What worked - in its basics - for centuries, is still the working patterns that drive our current bestsellers.

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That's how Shakespeare succeeded. Standing on the shoulders of giants to see further in the new world he lived in then. And how Romeo and Juliet became West Side Story. How Macbeth became The Lion King.

You read. You write. And your best finds immortal life in print - and maybe onscreen.

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Meanwhile, you're own lifetime is filled with joy from the business of bringing great stories back to life in new versions.

Because people are always demanding the stories they loved. Those stories fit the way we're hardwired. And our wiring hasn't really changed in the last 10,000 years or more.

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It's just easier these days to discover the winning patterns, the winning system that enables books to find new life.

Becoming a professional writer is simple. It takes work. You read the best. You write a fresh version for today's culture.

Too simple.

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