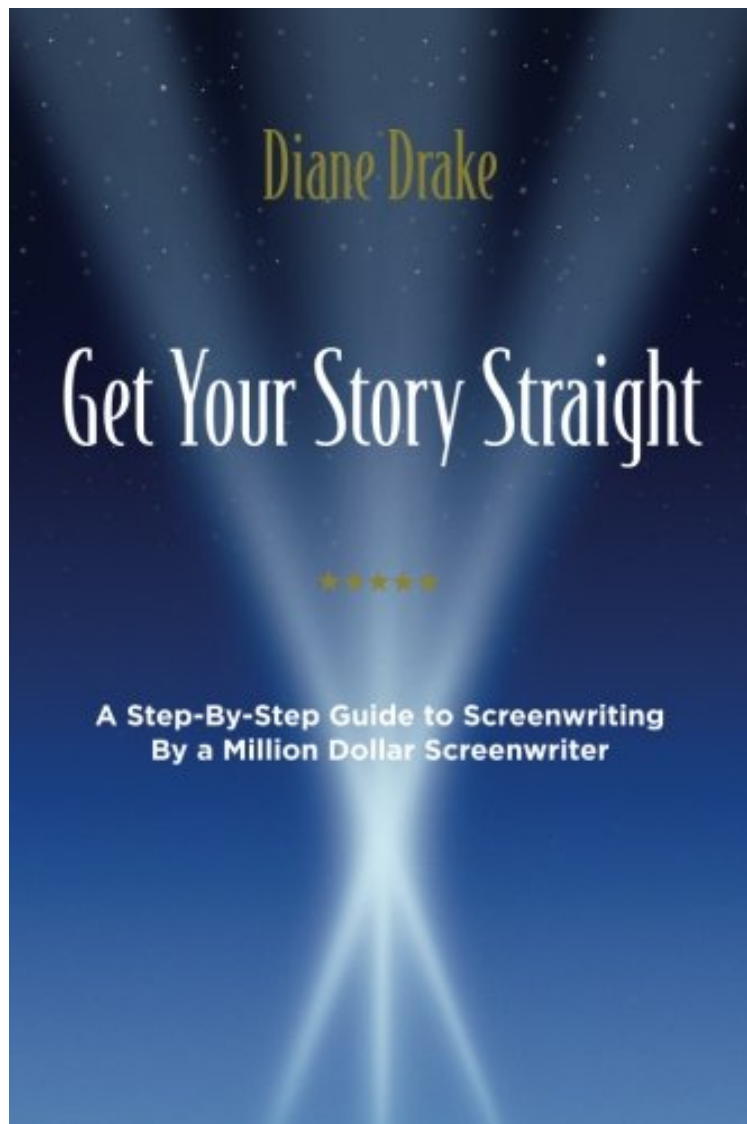


(Read free) Get Your Story Straight: A Step-by-Step Guide to Screenwriting by a Million-Dollar Screenwriter

## Get Your Story Straight: A Step-by-Step Guide to Screenwriting by a Million-Dollar Screenwriter

*Diane Drake*

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**Diane Drake : Get Your Story Straight: A Step-by-Step Guide to Screenwriting by a Million-Dollar Screenwriter** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Get Your Story Straight: A Step-by-Step Guide to Screenwriting by a Million-Dollar Screenwriter:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Definitive Screenwriting GuideBy SparkTo all you aspiring

screenwriters out there, your definitive guide has arrived! This in-depth book will help you think like a writer and show you the ropes, both as you face your blank page, and as you take on the life of a content creator in Hollywood. How do I know? Because I'm an aspiring screenwriter who has faced many a blank page and often not won the battle. Here, Diane Drake, who is a successful screenwriter with produced movies starring the likes of Robert Downey, Jr. and Mel Gibson, breaks everything down into digestible tidbits, such as what the three-act structure is and how to manipulate it to your story's advantage; how to create compelling heroes and villains; and what it takes to write meaningful dialogue that moves the story along. Plus it includes 10 analyses of well-made movies - everything from ROMAN HOLIDAY to IRON MAN to ARGO - which are priceless insights into what works and why. It's very informative to see how the same cogs and gears and principles work so well in such varied films - almost like lifting the hood on your favorite cars to see how they run, with a master teacher by your side to explain every moving part. I wish I had this book in hand when I started writing years ago. I truly believe I'd be a better writer now if I had. Don't miss it!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. ... day and this is arguably one of the very best. The author has some serious writing chops

By Lucy

I've read plenty of screenwriting books in my day and this is arguably one of the very best. The author has some serious writing chops, having written not just one but two "million dollar" screenplays both of which went on to become bonafide Hollywood hits. What's more she's also worked on the development side for arguably one of the most talented and critically acclaimed producers in business, Sydney Pollack. The author's knowledge of the business and mechanics of being a successful screenwriter is as vast as it is varied. The book is chock full of advice, quotes, resources and humorous anecdotes. As an instructional, the author breaks the key elements of all successful screenplays down into digestible bits so that even the most green of writers will not be overwhelmed. If you're looking for a how to from someone who has been there, done that and done it well, then I highly recommend giving this book a read.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. (who sold her screenplays for millions of dollars mind you) explains with great authority of the craft

By Customer

Get Your Story Straight is an ironic title, yet so fitting. The whole endeavor of writing and the business of writing as many would say is never a straight path. It's riddled with unexpected turns at every corner. But if there ever was a premier guide to flatten out all the wrinkles to this process, this book would be your proverbial steam iron. First and foremost, Diane Drake is a uniquely qualified expert on the subject of both writing and the business. A former VP of Creative Affairs for Academy Award-winning director/producer Sydney Pollack and later a screenwriter herself, (who sold her screenplays for millions of dollars mind you) explains with great authority of the craft. But what makes that special is her taste and sensibilities of the films she dissects to illustrate her points. Another highlight of this book is her multitude of story breakdowns of critically acclaimed and commercially successful films. They say the best way to learn screenplay structure is to deconstruct films. Diane does the heavy lifting for you in such an articulate way; it really speeds up the process for any writer looking to study films to improve one's craft. In addition, her colorful commentaries about these films make it such an enjoyable read. She's very conversational, almost playful, which makes the whole learning process that more accessible. Speaking of which, Diane is also an instructor who teaches writing, as stated in her bio. And that's what I took away most from this book. It's like having a nurturing coach, who gives you all their tools to bring out the best in you. For example, read the chapter on Being a Content Creator. No other screenwriting book I've read dealt with your own inner struggles going into this field. She covers all grounds so you don't have any blind spots. Well worth the purchase and then some.

In this step-by-step guide, you'll learn: Essential elements and principles of screenwriting with examples from popular films  
Keys to creating a hero your audience will really care about  
How to structure your story into three compelling acts  
The secret to making your scenes and story build as they progress  
Insider tips on the business of showbiz and how best to try to break in  
How to keep going when the muse is fickle, and much more

"Diane Drake has created truly brilliant and original high-concept stories for the screen. Anyone hoping to write a great screenplay would do well to consider her advice." - Kim Krizan, screenwriter of "Before Sunrise" and "Before Sunset"

"Diane Drake knows about screenwriting, and lays it out for aspiring writers in this funny, engaging book. With examples from an array of genres, terrific step-by-step exercises, and plenty of inspiring quotes to keep you focused on the story you want to write, Get Your Story Straight is the first tool I would put in any screenwriter's box. This is a book I'll revisit regularly. Fabulous!" - Meg Waite Clayton, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of five novels including "The Race for Paris" and "The Wednesday Sisters"

"Want to learn what it takes to write a million-dollar screenplay? Then you must check out Get Your Story Straight by Diane Drake. Her book is a thorough insider's guide to writing a script worthy of seven figures by someone who has actually done it. I highly recommend it." - Jen Grisanti, Story/Career Consultant, International Speaker, Writing Instructor at NBC and author of "Story Line: Finding Gold in Your Life Story" and "Change Your Story, Change Your Life"

"Diane Drake's experience in script development and screenwriting is both educational and inspiring. Unlike some screenwriting books that are written by those who just teach, Get Your Story Straight gives you an inside look at how one writer used her tools and experience to write engaging and successful scripts that actually made it to the screen." - Alan

Wenkus Co-Writer/Executive Producer "Straight Outta Compton" About the Author Dianes produced original screenplays include "Only You" starring Robert Downey Jr. and Marisa Tomei, and "What Women Want" starring Mel Gibson. Her script for "Only You" sold for \$1 million. Prior to becoming a screenwriter, Diane worked in development as the Vice President of Creative Affairs for Academy Award-winning director/producer Sydney Pollack. Shes a member of the Writers Guild of America, has taught screenwriting through UCLA Extension Writers Program and offers story consulting, guided online courses and an on-site writers workshop through her website, [www.dianedrake.com](http://www.dianedrake.com).