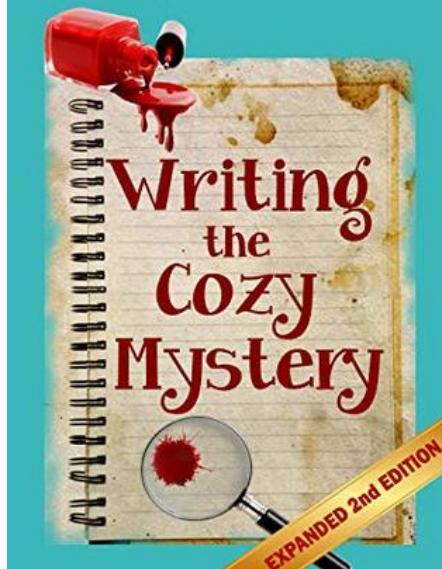


Nancy J. Cohen



Writing the Cozy Mystery: Expanded Second Edition

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Writing the Cozy Mystery: Expanded Second Edition Nancy J. Cohen

Do you want to write a cozy mystery but don't have a clue where to start? Or maybe you've begun a story but are stuck on the plot? Perhaps you're already writing a series, and you need tips on keeping your material fresh? Writing the Cozy Mystery will help you develop your characters, establish the setting, plot the story, add suspense, plant clues and sustain your series.

This Second Edition contains more examples; additional writing exercises; expanded sections; and seven new chapters including The Muddle in the Middle, Romance and Murder, Special Considerations for Cozy Writers, Keeping a Series Fresh, Writing the Smart Synopsis, Mystery Movies, and Marketing Tips. You'll find everything you need to know in an easy-to-read, clear manner to write your own mystery and maintain a long-running series. Recommended for cozy writers, mystery fans, and creative writing classes.

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From Reader Review Writing the Cozy Mystery: Expanded Second Edition for online ebook

Tammy Goldthorpe says

Nancy J. Cohen wrote a MARVELOUS 'Guide to Murder' when she wrote Writing the Cozy Mystery. It is well organized, making it extremely easy to follow. She really puts herself into this book, as she uses her own personal writing as examples in regards to what makes for good writing/reading. I look forward to following her advice when I write my own cozy mystery series. Thank you Nancy.

M.S. says

Succinct and informative

I learned of this "How-to" book from a close friend of mine, and I'm so glad I downloaded Writing the Cozy Mystery by Nancy J. Cohen. I was in the midst of creating my very own "Cozy" when this appeared on my kindle. I have always been a huge fan of murder mysteries, but was not entirely sure how to attack my own series. WtCM helped gather my scattered thoughts and put them into order. This book, while only 50 pages or so, uses its brief word count to its fullest potential. No words are wasted, and all bases (or clues) are covered. highly recommended for the budding Cozy author.

Alyssa Maxwell says

A must for aspiring and published mystery writers alike! This guide covers each step of plotting a cozy mystery from start to finish, including developing characters, setting, clues, motives, red herrings, etc., in a way that's clear and easy to follow. There are also tips on organizational tools for keeping track of your progress so that no thread is left hanging. Takes the mystery out of writing mysteries!

August says

Until last night, I didn't even realize that cozies were a sub-genre of the mystery genre. Between this little book (quite short, I read it in half an hour) and some additional online research, I feel equipped to tackle my very first mystery story (for NaNoWriMo). Cohen did a nice job of pointing out the kinds of writing tools that are critical to nailing this particular genre, especially cozies, which require a deft touch with the usual mystery suspects of murder, sex, and violence. She provided several lists of details to think about when crafting a setting and a plot, and I will be jotting those down in my notes and referring to them regularly. Thanks for arming me with a toolbox, Cohen!

Maggie says

A great primer for the beginning writer and a great reminder for those of us in the business. Cohen takes you through the framework of a cozy, defining the genre and the amateur sleuth. She delves into characterization and community, into setting to establish mood, and into the value of a good secret for each suspect, among other aspects.

I found this short book to be easy to read and chock full of useful information.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

Author Nancy J. Cohen has done what I have wanted to do for a long time. Using words I could never find (She is a wonderful writer after all), she explains what a true cozy mystery should be. This one sentence says it perfectly. "These stories contain no explicit sex, violence, or bad language." She also goes on to mention ". . . they are clean books that can be read by all ages."

WRITING THE COZY MYSTERY goes beyond explaining what a cozy mystery is and/or should be. Ms. Cohen lays the ground work for any aspiring writer to create their own cozy mystery. By following her suggestions, I can see a batch of future cozy mysteries by new authors showing up on the scene within the next few years.

A book that as a blogger/reviewer I will turn to again and again, WRITING THE COZY MYSTERY is the perfect resource for what I consider the best (sub) genre there is.

Already have, WRITING THE COZY MYSTERY? Well, it's time to update. This is the Expanded Second Edition!

Devon says

Writing the Cozy Mystery is quick and concise, but packed with information. None of the "this is how you write" nonsense, Nancy Cohen gets straight to the point and outlines precisely what goes into writing a good cozy mystery. (She even defines the genre itself, which is marvelous.) I especially enjoyed her tips and examples of outlining and keeping character information in one place. I try to be an organized writer, but struggle with ways to outline and organize effectively. I'm going to give Cohen's suggestions a try (especially the poster board and sticky note method) and see how it goes.

Dawn Hamilton says

Overall, I thought this book contained good basic tips all in one place. Also, links to writers clubs and meetings, etc at the end of the book are a bonus. The only problem I had with the book is that I would have liked to see more examples of her advice. For example, several times in the book she says "Show, don't tell" and "Add conflict to every scene". How do you mean you show, don't tell? And add conflict to every scene? Really? Every one? Maybe a second edition is warranted to add some of that additional information.

Cat Tutt says

This was a very helpful, clearly written manual. She pointed out a number of things that I didn't realize were ever-present characteristics of cozies until she said it, but then I said "Oh, that's true!" and realized I needed to find ways to work them into my own writing. The book was short, but well done and full of great information!

*5 Stars

Vonnie Kennedy says

This is a useful little reference book to keep close by if you're writing a mystery. Nancy Cohen provides all the tools needed for writing a best selling Whodunit. I'll be rereading the easy-to-follow examples as I write. Thanks, Nancy!

jennspoint says

Fantastic Resource! Many of us have aspirations of writing a book, and may even have the loose elements of a story rattling around in our head, but this is a great book to answer the question, "How do I get started?" The resources are timely and relevant, and the author's advice to other authors and aspiring to write in this genre is very practical and useful.

Richard Denney says

Really informative and it helped me so much!!! It's 44 pages long but it got through everything very neatly. It's only a dollar for Kindle so if you need something like this go get it. :)

Lisa says

The title of this book is pretty self-explanatory. The author, who has written many (totally awesome, IMHO) cozy mysteries herself (as well as books in other genres) shares tips for how to write a cozy mystery. Within recent years, I have read several books on writing and have honestly found this to be the most useful and meaningful resource in terms of the actual writing process to me thus far. I really appreciated how Ms. Cohen took some of the intimidation out of the process by sharing many useful tools, tips, and resources. For the first time since owning a Kindle, I found myself highlighting passages in a book. And, they weren't necessarily the instructional "how to" parts, either; instead, they were gems of wisdom that spoke to me. I found the sections regarding character growth to be quite enlightening. I'll definitely be re-reading this book many times over. I've no doubt I'll continue to learn from it. Thanks so much for sharing your knowledge with us, Ms. Cohen. It is very much appreciated!

Yvonne says

If you have ever thought about writing a cozy mystery, you need to read this book. Everything you need to know about the genre is in these pages. The author gives you a wonderful definition of the cozy mystery genre. There is definitely a difference between a cozy and a traditional mystery. This is the place to learn about it.

Nancy J. Cohen has a true knack for providing aspiring authors with the tools they need to accomplish their goal of writing their own cozy mystery books. It felt as if she was in the room with me explaining it all in an easy to understand method. It's, also, a great idea having a book dedicated to writing one specific genre. Every genre has their own nuances.

This is a quick read and the perfect guide to assist in your writing. It's like having a writing course at your fingertips whenever you want it. Now I need to put my knowledge to use and write my own cozy mystery :)

FTC Disclosure: I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from the author. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Joyce Sweeney says

I've been teaching writing craft for over 25 years and I love recommending books that I know will really help writers. Nancy J. Cohen is an experienced writer of cozies (Bad Hair Day series) and she has packed this book with information on virtually every aspect of writing a cozy. She defines the genre clearly, explaining its conventions, she covers everything from plot to character to marketing and much, much more. She also delves into how to create a series and keep it fresh. I will recommend this one to all my students who are working on mysteries.
