



Writing a Killer Thriller: An Editor's Guide to Writing Compelling Fiction

Jodie Renner

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This significantly expanded version of Jodie Renner's popular thinner e-book, the first edition of Writing a Killer Thriller, is four times as long as the original e-booklet, with many added chapters and two appendices.

As of August 30, 2013, this book has 35 5-star reviews and 8 4-star reviews on Amazon, out of a total of 45 reviews (average 4.7 out of 5 stars).

Whether you're planning your first novel or revising your fourth, you'll discover lots of concrete ideas here for taking your fiction up a level or two, captivating readers, and gaining fans. Both published and aspiring authors of fast-paced, popular fiction will find these tips indispensable, and the reader-friendly format makes it easy to zoom in on specific advice, with examples, for creating compelling characters, planning a high-stakes plot, writing a riveting opening, ramping up the tension and intrigue, picking up the pace, revising for power, and creating a page-turner that sells.

“Finally, someone who understands the thriller! More than ever an author must also be his own best editor and Jodie Renner is there to help. Writing a Killer Thriller should be on every thriller writer’s desk. It breaks down the thriller into its must-have component parts to write a scintillating, edge of the seat novel that will get readers buzzing and sales flowing.”

~ Robert Dugoni, New York Times bestselling author of *The Jury Master* and *Murder One*

“Writing a Killer Thriller by Jodie Renner is an in-depth journey through each component of the thriller. Renner breaks down the process into key elements, each essential to keeping the reader turning those pages. From character development to building suspense, Writing a Killer Thriller should be on the desk of every thriller author out there. A staple for the beginner, a refresher for the pro.”

~ Joe Moore, #1 Amazon and international bestselling co-author of *The Blade* and *The Phoenix Apostles*

“Writing is hard, editing harder, and self-editing almost impossible. Writing a Killer Thriller demystifies each of these steps on the road to a published manuscript. Read this book. It will help you now and for many years to come.”

~ DP Lyle, Macavity Award winning and Edgar, Agatha, Anthony, Benjamin Franklin, Scribe, and USA Best Books nominated author of the Dub Walker thriller series

“A killer of a thriller guide! Jodie Renner lays out, in clear, easy steps and lists, how the best writers craft their works of art – and shows how you can do it, too. A terrific how-to in avoiding the pitfalls and burnishing the gotta-haves of writing a bestselling thriller novel, by an editor who knows her way around action, drama and creating characters so fresh and real you’ll swear they were your friends.”

~ Shane Gericke, national bestselling and No. 1 Kindle bestselling author of *Torn Apart*

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From Reader Review Writing a Killer Thriller: An Editor's Guide to Writing Compelling Fiction for online ebook

John Yeoman says

This is an excellent guide to the 'how to do it now' skills of writing crime/suspense fiction, presented in a succinct and readable style. As a story writing coach myself, I often find that new authors don't want theory. They need proven practical techniques - and they need them *fast*, so they can develop their craft at once. This book supplies everything that a newbie needs.

Julia Ash says

WRITING A KILLER THRILLER helps writers understand the ingredients of a thriller. Very organized and methodical approach to thriller writing. Great read!

Allan Leverone says

Writing fiction is such an intimate, personal experience that it would be impossible for an author to do it successfully by following a template. It's not like cooking; you don't just buy a book of recipes and get to work.

That said, there is no question a satisfying thriller must contain certain elements. Jodie Renner has demystified the process of thriller-writing with WRITING A KILLER THRILLER. This little booklet is packed full of information which is not just useful, but critical to the success of any thriller writer, whether just starting out or a veteran of many books.

WRITING A KILLER THRILLER proceeds logically, starting out with what might seem obvious at first glance but really is not - explaining the difference between a mystery and a thriller. The booklet then addresses issues critical to the success of your thriller, like the importance of conflict, how to heighten suspense, and techniques to use which will keep readers compulsively turning the pages.

I've worked with Jodie in the past, she helped me transform THE LONELY MILE from a good book to a "gripping and unnerving" Amazon bestseller, and I look forward to working with her again. But if you want to avail yourself of the knowledge of one of the best freelance thriller editors in the business, you couldn't ask for a better deal than WRITING A KILLER THRILLER, especially for such short money.

Gerald Hornsby says

Enjoyed this book. Very useful, and with some great tips.

Katie says

Not sure what to rate this. It is a great read and has a ton of useful tips, but they are ALL quotes from other books on writing.

Steven says

If you've already read a lot of books on the craft of writing most of the material in this book will seem familiar because Renner has done an excellent job compiling the collective wisdom. If you haven't read a lot of those books, start here and shift right into a high gear. Even if you have read all those books this is a great compendium of advice, a big juicy checklist of reminders, and a revision cheat sheet.

L.J. says

Jodie Renner is a terrific editor, one that I trusted with my last three novels. And her advice columns are so good, I print and save them all. For thriller authors, this will be the best money you ever spend. --L.J. Sellers, bestselling author of provocative mysteries & thrillers

D.J. Adamson says

Jodie Renner's craft book on suspense is now on my bookshelf to take out and remind myself what a suspenseful story should look like. Not only does she offer quotes and instruction from those authors who have excellently gone before, but she also offers plot structures, advice on characters, structure grafts, storytelling grafts, and a consistent reminder to put tension on every page.

Do suspense writers already know some of this instruction? Yes. But what is wonderful is that Renner puts it out simply for the novice to learn and the professional to use as a rewrite check.

Francene Carroll says

This book is packed with tips and useful advice on how to create suspense and write a thriller. I found it helpful and inspiring. Now I just have to get cracking on that bestseller!

Chris Keane says

This was a great primer on the killer genre. Some gems of advice. My only issue is that I wish it were a little more expanded/longer!

Heather says

Great resource for newbies

Very helpful as I drafted my first novel. Provided some great ideas on POV and how to plan out the story arch to keep things engaging for the reader. Thank you!

Emma Sea says

I assume the term "an editor's view" is being used ironically, as the book consists of an extensive selection of attributed quotes from other books. Renner does appear to craft a mean linking phrase. Skip this: buy the originals she quotes from instead.

James N. Frey
Donald Maas
Writer's Digest
Jessica Page Morrell
James Scott Bell
Nigel Watts
Hallie Ephron
Jack M Bickham
Elizabeth Lyon

Bryn says

I read this shortly after finishing *Fire Up Your Fiction* and found that that most of the same points were made here as well. There were some different quotes sourced from other writing books and a more thriller-oriented recommended reading list, but otherwise, I found this to be thin on content. I started skimming about halfway through and started seeing the same advice from one chapter to the next.

Michael Burton says

If you want to know how to write a thriller, this is a must read. The book outlines all the essential parts a thriller must have. Many examples are given that helps the reader understand the point made. I can't wait to apply what I learned to my own writing.

Kathrynn says

Wonderful book! Writing, plotting, strategizing tips and more were packed in this book. Nicely written and laid out with great examples, both good and bad. It is easier to mention what was not covered and that would be publishing tips which I didn't expect to find in the book. Everything else about writing, brainstorming, creating, building, writing with more impact, writing with shorter sentences for fast paced ride or longer sentences for a slower scene is in this book.

5 Star Favorite from This Reader.
