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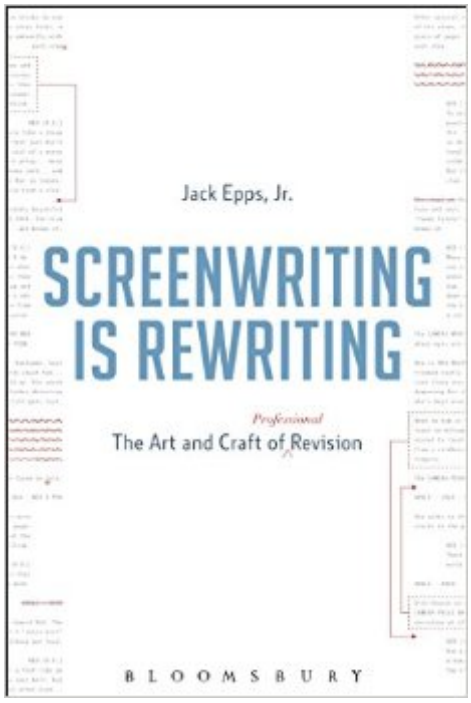
Screenwriting Is Rewriting: The Art And Craft Of Professional Revision



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Synopsis

If there is one skill that separates the professional screenwriter from the amateur, it is the ability to rewrite successfully. From Jack Epps, Jr., the screenwriter of Top Gun, Dick Tracy, and The Secret of My Success, comes a comprehensive guide that explores the many layers of rewriting. In Screenwriting is Rewriting, Epps provides a practical and tested approach to organizing notes, creating a game plan, and executing a series of focused passes that address the story, character, theme, structure, and plot issues. Included are sample notes, game plans, and beat sheets from Epps' work on films such as Sister Act and Turner and Hooch. Also featured are exclusive interviews with Academy AwardÂ® winning screenwriters Robert Towne (Chinatown) and Frank Pierson (Dog Day Afternoon), along with Academy AwardÂ® nominee Susannah Grant (Erin Brockovich).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jack Epps' rewriting workshops are legendary in the halls of the USC School of Cinematic Arts. I was fortunate enough to work with Jack on my own rewrite where he shared with me the tools and strategy he employs for rewriting his scripts. "Screenwriting is Rewriting" perfectly sums up his approach to refining your characters and strengthening the heart of your story. Quite simply, he is the master of rewriting, and this book contains immensely valuable tips and advice you won't find elsewhere.

I've taken to sampling bits of this book book before I dive into the writing day each morning, and I

can’t tell you how helpful it’s been to have everything at the front of my brain as a result. It’s a perfect match for the surgical elements of draft-digging, crafted to be dipped into as a handbook as readily as it is to be read from front to back. In short: it 100% proves Mr. Epps knows what he’s talking about in the screenwriting game, and I can’t recommend it enough.

This book is written by one of the great screenwriters of our time. And if that were all, then it would already be a great book to learn from. But Jack also has a dozen+ years under his belt as a teacher of the craft, and running the USC screenwriting program. Not every screenwriter understands how and why what they do makes their work great. Jack is one of the few who can do AND teach.Much of what a screenwriter learns comes not from writing a screenplay, but rather rewriting it, and rewriting it a dozen times until they finally crack the plot structure, or the character arc, or dialogue, or any of a dozen skills involved in the craft of screenwriting. Jack has taken his experience (and the experiences used by his colleagues) and distilled it into a book that not only captures that process as a whole, but gives the novice bite-sized chapters focused on smaller, manageable rewrites so they can focus on perfecting one skill at a time. (Which in truth, is how we all naturally do this, heâ ™s just jumpstarted the process by giving you a roadmap of each step so you donâ ™t have to figure it out all by yourself.)â œScreenwriting is Rewritingâ • is not just a title, itâ ™s a secret. Itâ ™s where the professional screenwriter is born. If youâ ™ve read a book by one of the many second rate screenwriters or non-screenwriters who profess to understand the craft, perhaps itâ ™s time to read one by one of the greats.

This is a fantastic book for screenwriters at all levels. It’s a working reference guide that you can access over and over again at various points of your rewriting process and your career. There are other screenwriting books on the market that you read once and never reference again. This book is not one of them. It’s more like a great investment in your writing career than just a book. Incredibly useful and helpful overall.

Outstanding book that answers so many questions! If you’re tired of reading theory and what you SHOULD be doing to make your script great, but don’t know HOW to do it, Epps gives the answers aspiring writers have been waiting for. Each page is filled with encouraging words and examples of how you shouldn’t give up, but with real life, proven methods you can follow step-by-step. He doesn’t preach about formulas, but mentors with both humor and tough love. This guy "wasn’t optioned once," he’s a pro - look up his credits to see that he KNOWS what it’s really like out there!

Professional screenwriting is WORK, but totally worth it. Once you realize that the author penned Top Gun, you will seek his wisdom like Archer for the nearest bar.

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