



Writing for the Soul: Instruction and Advice from an Extraordinary Writing Life

Jerry B. Jenkins , Francine Rivers (Foreword by)

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From learning the fundamental lessons of the writing world, to breaking in with small (even non-paying markets), this book walks readers through the skills and abilities required to build a writing career.

Writing for the Soul: Instruction and Advice from an Extraordinary Writing Life Details

Date : Published August 1st 2006 by Writer's Digest Books

ISBN : 9781582974170

Author : Jerry B. Jenkins , Francine Rivers (Foreword by)

Format : Hardcover 241 pages

Genre : Language, Writing, Nonfiction, Christian



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From Reader Review Writing for the Soul: Instruction and Advice from an Extraordinary Writing Life for online ebook

Leah Good says

Great book for Christian authors!

Glenda says

I enjoyed the book and it led me to read more of Jenkins work.

Ron says

Probably the best non-fiction book Jerry Jenkins has ever written. Helpful insights for the aspiring writer, but also a glimpse into a life well lived.

Diane Ramirez says

I enjoyed this book and felt encouraged to forge on in my writing endeavors even though Jerry used a lot of sports anecdotes (I am not a sports fan of any kind) I did not mind them.

Lyndie Blevins says

I was attracted to this book because...

Jerry Jenkins and the Left Behind books taught me there was a place for Christian writers in today's market. I was going to his writing conference when I bought the book.

This book was about...

Jerry Jenkins' experience as a freelance novelist and his advice on writing with a particular emphasis on writing for the inspirational market.

The most important thing I liked about this book is how often Jerry expressed my own thoughts and perceptions about writing. That made the rest of the book more comfortable to read and process. I felt at home. I also found his practical advice and the stories he shared from his own experience very helpful.

Why you should read this book...

if you need encouragement for your writing efforts, Jerry is someone who brings hope, encouragement and practical advice to face the fears and requirements of being a freelance writer.

This book lived up to the back cover copy...

The back cover leads with this invitation, 'Come take the journey of a lifetime.' This is an apt description of the story of his writing career Jerry shares in these pages.

Erica Senecal says

Not only did I learn things about Jerry Jenkins that I didn't know, like he's written over 150 books; but I also learned a ton of new stuff about writing. I highly recommend to fans and writers alike.

Nikole Hahn says

Loved this book. A keeper.

Mark Carr says

If you are familiar with the Left Behind series of books then Jerry B. Jenkins will be no stranger to you. In Writing for the Soul, Jenkins addresses aspirational writers in general and those who want to write specifically for the inspirational market.

His comments are encouraging and challenging. More than once he asks the reader if the writing life is really what they want to do.

It reminded me of the question I've often heard, "Do you really want to write? Or do you just like the idea of being a writer?"

Jenkins even relates the story of a doctor who said to him that he had often thought of taking up writing.

"And I have thought of going into medicine," Jenkins replies.

"Really," the doctor says, "I didn't know you had the training."

"Exactly." Jenkins said.

Jenkins uses interviews and tales from his vast sports biography writing career to entertain and make his points.

I found this book fast paced, easy to read, and personally challenging. To all writers everywhere his resounding message is write! Don't wait for the inspiration, write because you have to regardless of if you ever get published. He admonishes that writing is really work and you have to treat it as such if you ever hope of making any money at it.

He talks about finding the balance in life between work and family.

He also encourages writers to write across genres. Don't be limited to one type of writing but explore of all types of writing: biographies, newsletters, newspaper stories, fiction, and non-fiction.

The final chapters include reminders of style and a healthy reference section of books aspiring and current writers need to read.

This is a great book if you need encouragement, insight and a little direction to get you from where you are to where you want to go as a writer.

C.J. Darlington says

Pop quiz. How many books did Jerry Jenkins write before penning the smash hit Left Behind? 0, 4, 17, 58, or 124? Believe it or not, the correct answer is the last one. Says Jerry in Chapter 1: "It shouldn't surprise me, but it amuses me when people ask if I've written anything besides the Left Behind series. I'm tempted to say, 'No, I hit pay dirt on the first try.'"

Writing for the Soul is more than a writing how-to book (though it does dish up some helpful morsels for writer wannabes). It's also an autobiography of sorts in which Jerry shares how he got started as a writer and what's motivated him for the 40+ years he's been at it. With an easy-to-read and often humorous style, Writing for the Soul's thirteen chapters cover everything from "What to Write" to "Pursuing Publication". The nuts and bolts elements are cleverly interspersed throughout the stories documenting Jerry's trials, errors, and successes.

Also included are nine stories featuring some of the famous people Jerry's had the privilege of spending time with over the years. Included are Walter Payton, Billy Graham, B.J. Thomas, Meadowlark Lemon, Brett Butler, Mike Singletary and Joe Gibbs, Orel Hershiser and Nolan Ryan, Madeline Manning, and Paul Anderson. These intriguing anecdotes alone make Writing for the Soul a worthwhile bookshelf addition for the glimpse into these lives. I'm coming away with a new appreciation for the evangelist Billy Graham's humility, for example.

Maybe not as detailed as some writing instructional books (you won't find query letter how-tos or entire sections devoted to specific techniques), Writing for the Soul is still an inspirational beginning primer for anyone with writerly inclinations. At the end of several chapters is a Q&A section where Jerry answers questions like, "How do you know when a scene or chapter should end?", "How important is comic relief?", "How can a young writer succeed?" and more.

Positive and encouraging, Writing for the Soul is an honest discussion about what it takes to be a writer. Jerry's words say it all: "I'm living my dream as a full-time freelance novelist, writing about things I believe in and care about. And you can too. The path is crowded and the passage long, but the reward is worth it. You can write for the benefit of your soul. And you can write to reach the soul of another."

Rick says

I do not consider myself much of a writer, but still truly enjoyed this motivational and instructional blend.

Sherry says

Such great advice for writers/ new authors. I'm so glad I read this one!

Katelyn Bolds says

Chocked full of anecdotes and great advice, Jenkins has written a book that all writers, especially freelancers,

should read. You'll be instantly drawn in and you won't be able to resist reading just one more chapter.

Paul Marshall says

Part autobiography; part advice book. Reminds me a little of the Stephen King book, "On Writing," with its dual nature. Jenkins also gives advice specifically about the Christian's life priorities vis-a-vis being an author, which he illustrates from his own life experience.

Klasko says

This book has some general information about writing and good practical advice. If you are a Christian writer or have any interest in writing for the Christian market, then this book should be on your shelf

Sarah says

I really enjoyed the first part of this book. While I haven't enjoyed any of Jenkins fiction works, there is no denying that he has a lot of talent. His words were a blessing for both new and experienced writers. Why didn't I finish reading this book? Honestly, because he took a stand that was not only offensive to me, but also was against two pieces of advice he had already given.

He said that Christians were embarrassing for being against the Harry Potter books and it was silly to think that their children would become witches because of it. First off, this was off topic for the chapter it was in, second, it showed lack of research. Most of the people I know (including my family) know that kids won't become witches because they read the book (I would agree that is a far-fetched idea) but still have an problem with the book because it glorifies something God says he is against.

While I liked some of what this author had to say, I felt that this note did not fit the book, nor was it necessary to mock those of us who hold a different opinion. If he had used the Harry Potter books as an example of excellent writing, that is fine with me, but don't make light of what other people believe.
