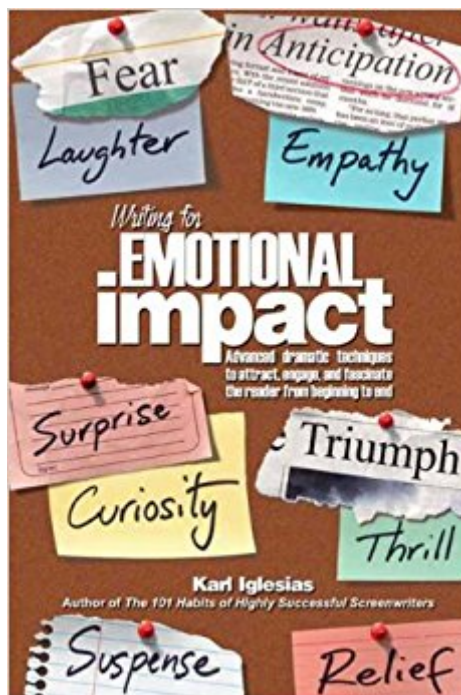




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Writing For Emotional Impact : Advanced Dramatic Techniques To Attract, Engage, And Fascinate The Reader From Beginning To End



Synopsis

There are three kinds of feelings when reading a story – boredom, interest, and WOW! To become a successful writer you must create the WOW! Feeling on as many pages as possible, and this requires writing that engages the reader emotionally. In his best-selling 101 Habits of Highly Successful Screenwriters, screenwriter Karl Iglesias explored the working habits of A-list Hollywood scribes. Now, he breaks new ground by focusing on the psychology of the reader. Based on his acclaimed classes at UCLA Extension, Writing for Emotional Impact goes beyond the basics and argues that Hollywood is in the emotion-delivery business, selling emotional experiences packaged in movies and TV shows. Karl not only encourages you to deliver emotional impact on as many pages as possible, he shows you how, offering you hundreds of dramatic techniques to take your writing to the professional level.

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Customer Reviews

I would give this book 3 stars but am adding an additional star mainly because I am not the target

audience and then am giving some benefit of the doubt. I am a fiction writer and this book is aimed at screenplay writers but I thought I'd give it a whirl. The book promises to not talk about basics and only more advanced topics. What I found was that most of the lessons seemed very obvious to me, so I am wondering what about them is not basic. There are a few gems mixed in, however, and I particularly liked the chapter on dialog. The biggest problem with the book is the endless repetitive lists that are used as "examples". Occasionally, there is a well thought out and thoroughly presented example, but those are the exception. In general a statement is made then a reference is given to a character or scene in a movie with little or no explanation to the specifics of why or how it works. For example, create a bittersweet ending like *Thelma and Louise*, talk to the camera like *Ferris Bueller*, the leitmotif of *Chinatown*. I guess the assumption is that the reader has seen and studied these endless lists of movies and can identify the scenes in them. Even if that were true, I would still have liked to see a more detailed explanation on exactly how the technique is employed and why it works. Since reading the book, I have watched a few movies and interestingly I find myself deconstructing scenes and seeing why and how some of the things were done. That was neat. But as far as my fiction writing, I think the book was of little help to me.

This book was absolutely fantastic. I actually loaned it out to others who were struggling with writing. With its use of examples from famous movies and the breakdown of what a story actually is, Mr. Iglesias actually transformed my writing. I now realize how to package the emotions I want my audience to feel into a movie. I now realize and see the importance of every little scene and detail. I've written ten scripts, and never have I taken such care as with my most recent one and it is far better than any in the past. Definitely a good book to read. A must have if you're looking to up your game, and understand what a good story looks like.

Fascinating book about writing. It's not for the easily intimidated though. This book assumes a working knowledge of ARCs, Three-Act-Play, Character Development, Etc. It is written for screenwriters, although 99% of the content applies to novelists as well. It teaches something very specific - How to connect the two primary emotional ARCs of a story. The emotions of the character on the page. The emotions of the audience beyond the page. Fascinating stuff and he teaches it in a very applicable format. This earns a place on my very small keeper shelf for writing craft (right next to Swain).

My editor assigned me this book when my first and second drafts were flat. Using some of these tips

dramatically improved drafts 3 and 4, and isn't that the true measure of a how-to book on writing?

As an aspiring novelist I have a decent library of books on the craft, and most of them are helpful in a tangential sort of way. They are more like attending a motivational speech: they give you a rush of inspiration and positive energy, but a week later it's gone. I'd resorted to a DIY approach to building stories and characters. I would collect my favorite TV shows, movies, and novels, and try to figure out what made certain stories or characters compelling. I made lists and it was the most helpful thing I'd done for my writing, but it was like a child trying to figure out the universe by studying the stars: fumbling and incomplete. *Writing for Emotional Impact* is the map of the universe. It's a comprehensive, practical, uninhibited manual on how to make your characters and stories hit home in the real world. If this book can't help you write a good story, nothing can. It's geared towards screenwriting, but also excellent for the novelists among us.

This is a must have for any screenwriter or novelist. He covers everything related to the emotional impact required in any story. But I also love his other topics such as coming up with a title, creating dramatic scenes, and on and on. There isn't a book out there that has covered this topic as well as Karl has done here. I have the other books and it doesn't compare. I can tell he is a detailed-oriented person because he has covered all the ways to make our screenplays stand out. The people who gave it a lower rating don't understand the importance of emotional impact. It is one of the problems in some of the films today and why other films work so well.

Excellent general screenwriting guide for those who already understand the basics (3 act structure). I bought this book after an online class Iglesias gave on PIXAR emotional core (which was excellent). But in his book Iglesias provides many more tips and key examples of what to do to make one's script better in more than just emotional impact. It teaches one how to be a better writer in general.

One of the better books I've read on story telling. I'd also recommend this to producers, directors, actors, cinematographers, editors, etc, as it really helps you identify the elements that create emotion. It has helped me find new ways to strengthen and maximize the potency of my work. It's also written in a very digestible way, nothing rambling where you have to read it twice to figure out what the author is getting at. This book is clean and directly, quickly, applicable, I use it as a reference and will reread individual chapters from time to time to help with whatever issues I need to

solve or polish.

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