



Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing)

By Jack Hart

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From the work of the New Journalists in the 1960s, to the *New Yorker* essays of John McPhee, Susan Orlean, Atul Gawande, and a host of others, to blockbuster book-length narratives such as Mary Roach's *Stiff* or Erik Larson's *Devil in the White City*, narrative nonfiction has come into its own. Yet writers looking for guidance on reporting and writing true stories have had few places to turn for advice. Now in *Storycraft*, Jack Hart, a former managing editor of the *Oregonian* who guided several Pulitzer Prize-winning narratives to publication, delivers what will certainly become the definitive guide to the methods and mechanics of crafting narrative nonfiction.

Hart covers what writers in this genre need to know, from understanding story theory and structure, to mastering point of view and such basic elements as scene, action, and character, to drafting, revising, and editing work for publication. Revealing the stories behind the stories, Hart brings readers into the process of developing nonfiction narratives by sharing tips, anecdotes, and recommendations he forged during his decades-long career in journalism. From there, he expands the discussion to other well-known writers to show the broad range of texts, styles, genres, and media to which his advice applies. With examples that draw from magazine essays, book-length nonfiction narratives, documentaries, and radio programs, *Storycraft* will be an indispensable resource for years to come.



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Editorial Review

Review

"If you have any interest in trying to craft the kind of narrative nonfiction practiced by the likes of John McPhee, Mary Roach, Tracy Kidder, Susan Orlean and Erik Larson, this is a book for you. . . . It offers any nonfiction writer, and freelancer, concrete ways to think about a topic, visualize the most interesting way of presenting its narrative arc, and organize most effectively the presentation of material."

(*Writer* 2011-08-01)

"Instructive and essential, reading *Storycraft* is like finding the secret set of blueprints to the writer's craft. Better still, it is engaging, funny, and wise—wonderful to read and wonderful to learn from."

(Susan Orlean 2010-12-16)

"Jack Hart was hands-down the best narrative editor ever to work in newspapers."

(Jon Franklin, author of *Writing for Story* and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner 2010-10-29)

"When I think back on what I have learned about storytelling over the last 30 years, the trail of memory leads back time and again to Jack Hart. No one has done more to inspire better narrative writing in America."

(Roy Peter Clark, author of *Writing Tools* and *The Glamour of Grammar* 2010-10-28)

"I'd tell you that I am the best writing coach there is—if I didn't know Jack Hart."

(Bruce DeSilva, former Associated Press writing coach, author of *Rogue Island* 2010-10-29)

"In *Storycraft*, Jack Hart vividly explains a lifetime of valuable lessons in nonfiction narrative. For all the celebrity star power he brings to this book, his introduction makes the topic welcoming and accessible to students and reporters who may be new to the subject. And he practices what he preaches; this book entertains the reader. It's like listening to Mark Twain on how to tell a story."

(Norman Sims, University of Massachusetts Amherst)

"The importance of understanding and utilizing established methods of narrative writing is emphasized throughout the book (structure, point of view, voice and style, setting, scene construction, interviewing), but *Storycraft* transcends typical writers guides through Hart's insights to what story is and how human nature determines the fundamentals of any well-written story. Rather than confine his scope to how to write well, Hart makes a case for why one should write well."

(*Oregonian*)

"Jack Hart's new book is quite remarkable. . . . It's the story of how to succeed. . . . How to make your mind observe, how to put your observations into words, how to turn reporting into vision and words into power. . . . Read it. It speaks for itself."

(*Jon Franklin*)

"Despite a career focused on the world of journalism, the author demonstrates much insight into the canon of more "literary" creative nonfiction by choosing sound examples that are both accessible and widely acclaimed. . . . This book can function as both a practical introduction to narrative nonfiction and a concise refresher for professionals."

(Choice)

"For me, [Hart's] book's appearance was fruitful timing, not unlike finding a new recipe the morning of a dinner party and realizing all the ingredients are in your pantry. Hart's *Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction* fortified me. It underscored lessons I thought I'd already mastered, prompting me to think deeper—and talk to my editors more—about the importance of theme."—*Nieman Reports*

(Nieman Reports)

About the Author

Jack Hart is a former managing editor and writing coach at the *Oregonian*. He received the first National Teaching Award from the American Society of Newspaper Editors and a University of Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to journalism, has taught on the faculties of six universities, and was named the Ruhl Distinguished Professor at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. He is the author of *A Writer's Coach*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur Bennett:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Think about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you'll have this *Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing).

Patsy Hall:

This *Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This particular *Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) without we understand teach the one who examining it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't end up being worry *Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) can bring any time you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This *Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands.

Publishing) having excellent arrangement in word and layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Antonio Mock:

The feeling that you get from Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) could be the more deep you looking the information that hide within the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) giving you excitement feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by means of anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that Storycraft: The Complete Guide to Writing Narrative Nonfiction (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) instantly.

Ernest Nunez:

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