



The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller

By John Truby

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John Truby is one of the most respected and sought-after story consultants in the film industry, and his students have gone on to pen some of Hollywood's most successful films, including *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Scream*, and *Shrek*. *The Anatomy of Story* is his long-awaited first book, and it shares all of his secrets for writing a compelling script. Based on the lessons in his award-winning class, Great Screenwriting, *The Anatomy of Story* draws on a broad range of philosophy and mythology, offering fresh techniques and insightful anecdotes alongside Truby's own unique approach for how to build an effective, multifaceted narrative. Truby's method for constructing a story is at once insightful and practical, focusing on the hero's moral and emotional growth. As a result, writers will dig deep within and explore their own values and worldviews in order to create an effective story. Writers will come away with an extremely precise set of tools to work with—specific, useful techniques to make the audience care about their characters, and that make their characters grow in meaningful ways. They will construct a surprising plot that is unique to their particular concept, and they will learn how to express a moral vision that can genuinely move an audience.

The foundations of story that Truby lays out are so fundamental they are applicable—and essential—to all writers, from novelists and short-story writers to journalists, memoirists, and writers of narrative non-fiction.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Teacher and screenplay doctor Truby (responsible for popular screenwriting software Blockbuster) brings his complicated but time-tested story development system to print for the first time, a 22-point process that's more thorough—"an extremely precise map of your entire plot" that "shows you the most dramatic way to tell your story"—but also more unwieldy than the traditional "three-act" technique. For example, the first seven steps Truby introduces apply to structure: develop "weakness and need" and "desire" in your hero, give him an "opponent" and a "plan" for overcoming that opponent, then throw in a "battle" that leads to "self-revelation" and, finally, a "new equilibrium." Chapters build on each other, fleshing out these steps with a number of terms and concepts (character types include hero, main opponent, ally, fake-ally opponent and fake-opponent ally) that alternate between cagey (the "character web") and confusing (the nearly indistinguishable "designing principle," "theme line" and "moral argument"). Further frustration arises in Truby's examples, old movies retrofitted with his techniques (most notably *The Godfather* and *Tootsie*) rather than a script that has actually been put through Truby's paces (or, even better, a new script invented just to demonstrate the steps). Following Truby's complex system may yield a memorable screenplay, but writers without great patience may find it more trouble than it's worth.

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Review

"Truby attempts to inform the entire story, addressing plot, character, tone, symbolism, and dialog. The key here is to grow a script organically rather than force the story into preexisting mechanics . . . Highly recommended." —*Library Journal*

"A comprehensive guide to writing stories of all kinds, Truby's tome is invaluable to any writer looking to put an idea to paper." —*Booklist*

"The Anatomy Of Story

is concrete and practical without resorting to simplistic 'Three Act Structure' screenwriting clichés. It will be an indispensable guide to writing your first great script. Then, the perfect survival manual to help you negotiate the often confusing, contradictory and cutthroat world of professional screenwriting." —Larry Wilson, co-writer /co-producer of *Beetlejuice* and co-writer of *The Addams Family*

"A veritable bible for screenwriters." —*Backstage*

"If you're ready to graduate from the boy-meets-girl league of screenwriting, meet John Truby . . . [His lessons draw] epiphanies that make you see the contours of your psyche as sharply as your script." —*LA Weekly*

About the Author

John Truby is Hollywood's premier story consultant and founder of Truby's Writers Studio. He has worked as a story consultant and script doctor for Disney Studios, Sony Pictures, FOX, and HBO, among others, and has taught screenwriting to students worldwide.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rafael Runyan:

Book is definitely written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading talent was fluently. A e-book The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller will make you to become smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think this open or reading the book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suited book with you?

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Lawrence Fox:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a guide. The book The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

Joan Munoz:

Is it you actually who having spare time and then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller can be the answer, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

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