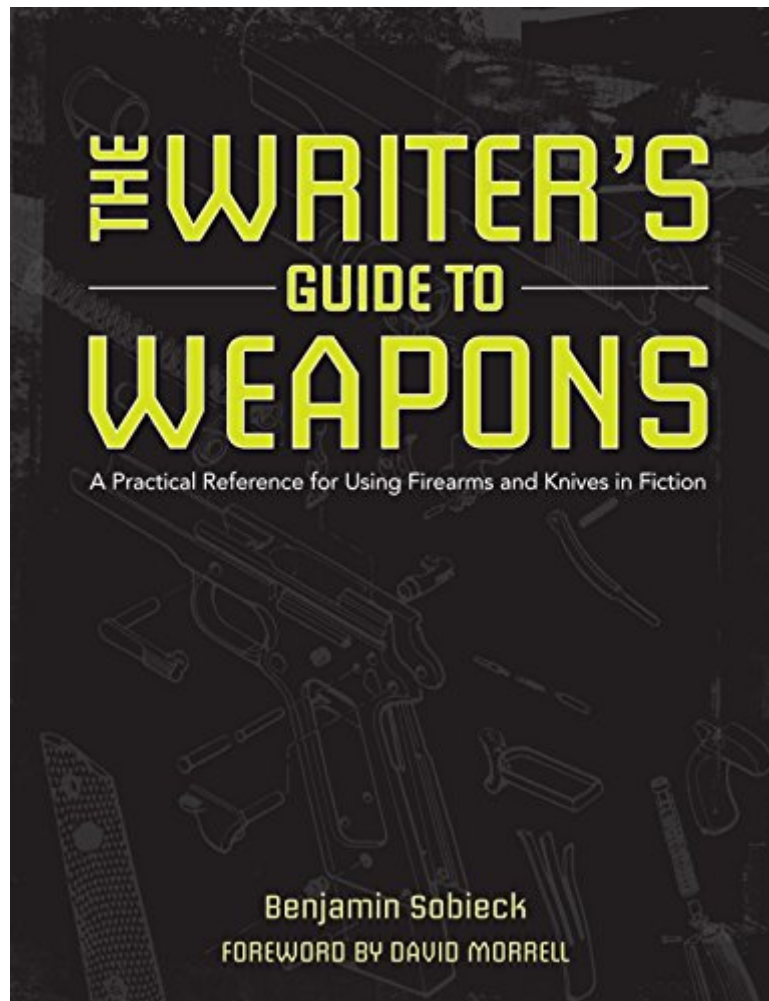


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The Writer's Guide To Weapons: A Practical Reference For Using Firearms And Knives In Fiction



Synopsis

When it comes to writing weapons, most authors shoot from the hip--and miss. The Writer's Guide to Weapons will help you hit your target every time. Firearms and knives have starring roles in a wide range of genres--crime, thriller, war, mystery, Western, and more. Unfortunately, many depictions of weapons in novels and film are pure fiction. Knowing the difference between a shotshell and a slug, a pistol and a revolver, or a switchblade and a butterfly knife is essential for imbuing your story with authenticity--and gaining popularity with discerning readers. Inside you'll find: An in-depth look at the basics of firearms and knives: how they work, why they work, what they look like, and how to depict them accurately in your stories. The biggest weapons myths in fiction, TV, and film. A surefire guide for choosing the correct weapon for your characters, no matter their skill level, strength, or background. A review of major gun and knife laws, weapons safety tips, and common police tactics. "The Hit List," showcasing the most popular weapons for spies, detectives, gunslingers, gangsters, military characters, and more. Examples highlighting inaccurate vs. accurate weapons depictions. An insightful foreword by David Morrell, the award-winning creator of Rambo. Equal parts accessible, humorous, and practical, The Writer's Guide to Weapons is the one resource you need to incorporate firearms and knives into your fiction like a seasoned professional.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a true guide: more than a primer, not a textbook. Sobieck breaks things into useful sections, including the Ten Golden Tips For Writing About Weapons. (Number 3: YouTube is your friend.) Even more fun are the 25 Top Weapons Myths (Number 22: "Being shot with a gun is like getting hit by a train loaded with concrete and circus animals;" • Number 24: "Handguns go click-click-click when they're empty.") There's also a brief section on half-myths, and a run-down of which weapons may be most practical for a specific character, taking into consideration, gender, size, age, physical condition, and bad-assedness. Those are great for learning what not to do, and how to handle certain things, but the meat of this book lies in the two core sections. Part One (Firearms) has sections titled, Firearm Safety; entry-level courses on shotguns, handguns, and rifles (including advantages and disadvantages of each); ammunition; suppressors and silencers; ballistics; and how to kill a character with a firearm, among others. The Knives section covers all the similar, applicable general topics, as well as worthwhile information on sharpening and sheaths. (I had no idea why knives are stropped to keep the edge, and I'm not going to tell you here. Buy the book, cheapskate.) There is also contains an excellent list of references and external resources, as well as a comprehensive glossary. This material could be dry as a desert road in a sand storm in less skilled and compassionate hands, but Sobieck keeps things moving, with some help from his ongoing series character, "egal-damned" detective Maynard Soloman. Maynard and a couple of assistants provide examples of what not to do, then show how to do it better; Sobieck describes what was wrong.

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