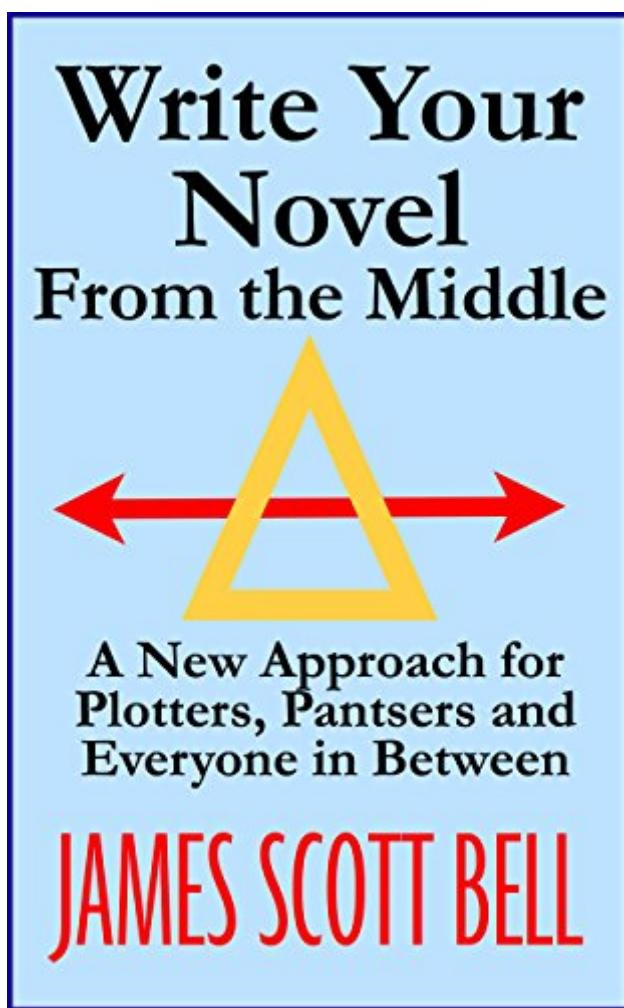


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Write Your Novel From The Middle: A New Approach For Plotters, Pantsers And Everyone In Between



Synopsis

A powerful secret, and a fresh approach to writing bestselling fiction! What's the best way to write a "next level" novel? Some writers start at the beginning and let the story unfold without a plan. They are called "pantsers," because they write by the "seat of the pants." Other writers plan and outline and know the ending before they start. These are the "plotters." The two sides never seem to agree with each other on the best approach. But what if it's not the beginning or the end that is the key to a successful book? What if, amazing as it may seem, the place to begin writing your novel is in the very middle of the story? According to #1 bestselling writing teacher James Scott Bell, that's exactly where you'll find your story's heart and heat. Bell's "Mirror Moment" is the secret, and its power is available to any writer, at any stage of the writing process. Bringing together years of craft study and personal discovery, Bell presents a truly unique approach to writing a novel, one that will stand the test of time and serve you all your writing life. "I need three things before I tackle a new novel: Diet Coke, a laptop, and my dog-eared copies of James Scott Bell's books on writing craft!"
- Kami Garcia, #1 NYT Times & International Bestselling author

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Customer Reviews

Any time James Scott Bell writes a book on writing, I buy it. I have every single one of his books on writing (as well as a good bit of his fiction), and all of them have given me a new and exciting perspective on how to write better. This book might be a game changer for plotters and pantsers. Many books claim to be flexible, but appear to be some version of "outlining lite". There's nothing wrong with that, but it's not really new information. This plotting from the mirror moment out is the perfect compromise between writing a 50 page outline and writing the entire book by the seat of your pants and then revising heavily. It's a bare bones structure, either from the plot or character standpoint, that allows you to fill in the blanks as much or as little as your writer's heart desires. There's also extra bonus goodies at the back of the book, including one of Bell's best exercises. It shows you how to channel your creativity to mimic the lovely period right before falling asleep. I use it almost every time I write and it's made a huge difference. All in all, this book is worth every dollar, and much more than the price he's charging. He remains one of my go-to authors to insta-buy from, and someday I will realize a life long dream of attending one of his seminars. Until then, we can be content with the writing books he puts out.

This is another fine five star effort by James Scott Bell. Starting your novel from the middle provides a different POV on the process of creating a page turning story. Bell puts this point at the dead center of the book and has it often as a point within a scene. It's a mirror point where the main characters sees himself for what he is or will soon decide he will become from that point to the end of the book. I find it useful to look at your WIP from this point of view in a way to check for weakness in your storyline which you would not otherwise notice. What is so interesting for me is that I am now taking a course on Shakespeare in which the professor also claims that Shakespeare has this same hinge point at the end of his act three in his five act plays. It is at this hinge point that the play gets locked into the path it will follow until the end. Like much of Bell, Shakespeare's characters are very concerned with finding out what kind of person they really are. That is, who they are as opposed to who they have appeared to be. The who am I really hinge point works classically well for the bard and it would be hard to improve on it. I believe that Bell has intuitively seen what makes great writing work and last through the ages. Bell has expanded this idea and make it easily obtainable for

many different genres. The author shows how this method can be used by plotters and pantsers while at the same time allowing them to mostly follow their natural writing MO. While I think *Starting in the middle* is as useful as using a preflight checklist before taking off in your private plane, I don't think it is per se a method that either plotters or pantsers will actually adopt. As a plotter I want to be sure the book is going to be a great book before I begin the project. So I write the last chapter first. I write a chapter that I call a *Stand up and cheer I can't wait to buy your next book* ending. I can't stand the idea of working on a book for a year or more and not knowing the whole time if it is going to be a good book. That does not make sense if your goal is to make money from your writing. First write a great ending then make that ending come true. This way you can keep your eyes on the prize; you can look up and see the shining city on the hill; you can find motivation during the dark moments of the writer's soul because you know there really is a prize behind door three. You know because you put it there. A pantser, after a year of work, may have to take the only ending that will work given what came before. This is no way to get a stand up and cheer ending. Also, when the dark days of the sagging middle get the pantser down, it is easy to think the whole effort is not worth the candle. To sum it up, I will use the guidance offered in this book which I feel is a great return on my investment in time and money. However, I will still write the way I write but I will be going back and making sure my midpoint moments take place and, when possible, I'll have them take place on all three levels Bell mentions. I see the midpoint mirror moment as a handy midcourse correction on the way to the moon. Actually, there is a lot more writing advice in this book as a bonus and just that material alone would be well worth the price. I will be reading this book several more times so that *trip to the middle* becomes second nature to me. James Scott Bell Does it Again! A five star return on investment!

Wowzee. A concise book for plotters and pantser alike. And it's rocking my socks off. Seriously - I first thought it was going to be too short to enjoy - it comes only with 72 pages. But this brevity brings merit. The main idea is about crafting your story from the middle - what James Scott calls the 'Mirror Moment', where the protagonist decides which way he/she should go. It's explained in detail, together with the two other instances that intensify your story. I recommend this book for any storyteller that wants to tell a compelling story but that doesn't want to get bogged with too many "to-do's" and must haves. Most storytelling books are too complex, but this one is so effective in its simplicity that it works especially for pantsers and similar story souls.

I write stories, and sometimes they come out good and sometimes not. He has a test in his book to prove his method works. I applied his test to the stories I did successfully, and he was right! Now that I understand how I am creating good stories, I can apply it to other stories. It has helped me to write a story I was stuck on, and it is turning out very well. It may sound simple in the title, but reading this book has opened up more possibilities and tools to write much better. Get it!!!

**** 4 Cranky Stars **** I picked this book up on the recommendation of a friend and am glad I did. A tight succinct read with great examples, this book should be of interest to readers or writers. If you've ever read a book and don't quite know why it didn't work for you, Write Your Novel from the Middle makes a pretty decent argument as to why. As a writer, Scott Bell's approach allows plotters or pantsers to follow their favourite styles, but strengthens areas where both styles that can be problematic. This book has certainly made me think.

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