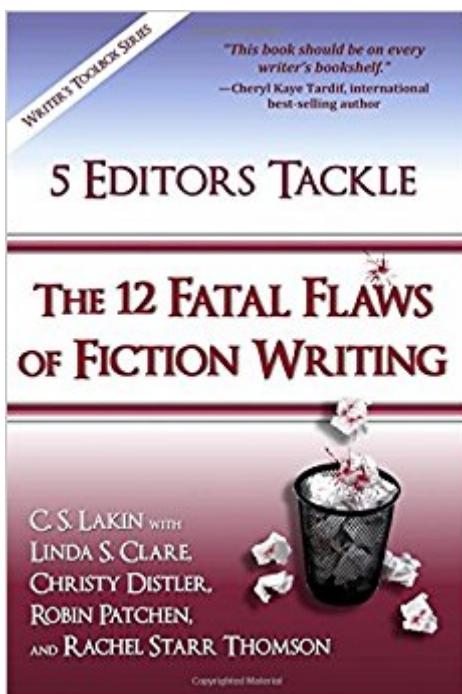


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# 5 Editors Tackle The 12 Fatal Flaws Of Fiction Writing (The Writer's Toolbox Series)



## Synopsis

Don't fall victim to the 12 fatal flaws of fiction writing. Fiction writers often struggle to improve their craft. And the biggest challenge comes from the inability to see what isn't working. The prose feels off. The scene isn't gelling. The dialogue sounds stilted or clunky. But they don't know why or how to fix it. This book lays it all out. *Editors Tackle the Twelve Fatal Flaws of Fiction Writing* demonstrates the deadly dozen pitfalls on the road to a strong story, along with revisions that show writers exactly how to avoid novel failure. No other writing craft book offers such detailed instruction in how to spot and remedy the major flaws of fiction writing. What makes this book an important addition to a writer's bookshelf? More than 60 Before and After passages showcase each of the twelve fatal flaws, which are then picked apart and examined to help writers spot these flaws in their own writing and fix them. Five editors with extensive background in both editing fiction and writing novels bring a wealth of insights, examples, and solutions to these flaws, using various genre styles and POVs. Each chapter ends with a checklist to help writers seek and destroy these fatal flaws in their manuscript, followed by bonus Before and After passages to help them test what they've learned. This in-depth guide to self-editing is an invaluable resource for any writer of any genre. It shows, not just tells, how to write better fiction. Using it, you'll be armed with the tools and skills you need to conquer the twelve fatal flaws of fiction writing. Here are some of the 12 fatal flaws:

- Overwriting • the most egregious and common flaw in fiction writing. Nothing Happening
- Too many stories take too long to get going. Learn what it means to start in medias res.
- Weak Construction • It sneaks in at the level of words and sentences, and rears up in up in the form of passive voice, ing verbs, and misplaced modifiers.
- Too Much Backstory • the bane of many manuscripts. Backstory has its place, but too often it serves as an info dump and bogs down pacing.
- POV Violations • Head hopping, characters knowing things they can't know, and foreshadowing are just some of the many POV violations explored.
- Telling instead of Showing • Writers have heard this admonition, but there's a lot to understanding how and when to show instead of tell.
- Lack of Pacing and Tension • Many factors affect pacing and tension: clunky passages, mundane dialogue, unimportant information, and so much more.
- Flawed Dialogue Construction • Writers need to learn to balance speech and narrative tags and avoid "on the nose" speech.
- Underwriting • just as fatal as overwriting. Too often scenes are lacking the necessary actions, descriptions, and details needed to bring them to life.
- Description Deficiencies and Excesses • Learning how to balance description is challenging, and writers need to choose wisely just what to describe and in

what way. Don't be left in the dark. Learn what causes these flaws and apply the fixes in your own stories. No one need suffer novel failure. You don't have to be brilliant or talented to write strong fiction. You just need to be forewarned and forearmed to be able to tackle these culprits. And this book will give you all the weapons and knowledge you need.

“This book should be on every writer’s bookshelf.” •Cheryl Kaye Tardif, international best-selling author

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've had a rough draft in the drawer for 2 years -- yes, two years! -- and was stuck in editing quicksand because I knew it wasn't quite right, but I didn't know why or how to fix it. This book helped me break through the barriers. I'm not one to take notes, but I took quite a few while reading this book. And in case you're wondering if reading 12 Fatal Flaws is a tedious task, let me assure you, far from it. It was a joy to read. Giving clear Before and After examples is an especially helpful method for those of us who need to see the difference in order to understand the difference.

I couldn't say enough great things about the way this book covers topics like white space, POV shifts, plotting, over and underwriting. Several points that I had struggled with were made clear. A good book to take down and read once or twice a year to keep yourself honest as a writer. Avoids some unwieldy concepts by providing a before and after text to illustrates the editors points. One of my favorite books on fiction writing.

This is a great book for beginners and those who are not beginners. It is full of examples of what you should not be doing. I see books every day that are full of these errors. It is well written from the viewpoint of established writers and editors who know the writing craft. It contains checklists for reviewing your writing and is a great resource.

The flaws these authors cite are spot on. However some of the 'bad' writing samples seemed too obvious and trite, and occasionally the 'good' writing samples were not much better than the 'bad'. So 5 stars for hitting the nail on the head on the fatal flaws, and 3 for the examples. For a book covering the same topics, but with more elegant examples, try *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers* by Renni Browne and Dave King

If you are wanting to be an author, please read. These ladies are letting you know what makes a great novel and what doesn't. After reading this book, I realized my writing was on track but I still made a few mistakes. Best editing book on writing that I have ever read.

I'm familiar with Lakin's work, but was especially interested in the chapter on ridding one's work of unnecessary, weasel words. I gleaned a better understanding of the process. This info and other research enabled me to put together a well-received presentation for my writing organization. In addition to good feedback about how much it helped other writers, it's helped me improve my own writing.

This is one of the best books on writing that I've ever read. The five editors do a fantastic job and revealing the 12 flaws, explaining how and why they're dangerous, and how to avoid them. I know my writing has greatly improved from having read this book. I would strongly recommend it to anyone who is committed to writing quality material. My Kindle copy of this book is chock full of bookmarks for future reference when I work through the editing process on various writing projects. Even my first drafts I can see have made a significant improvement since reading *The 12 Fatal Flaws of Fiction Writing*.

I have found this a really useful addition to my library. The examples really show how to make the necessary changes to take your writing to the next level. I refer to it often.

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