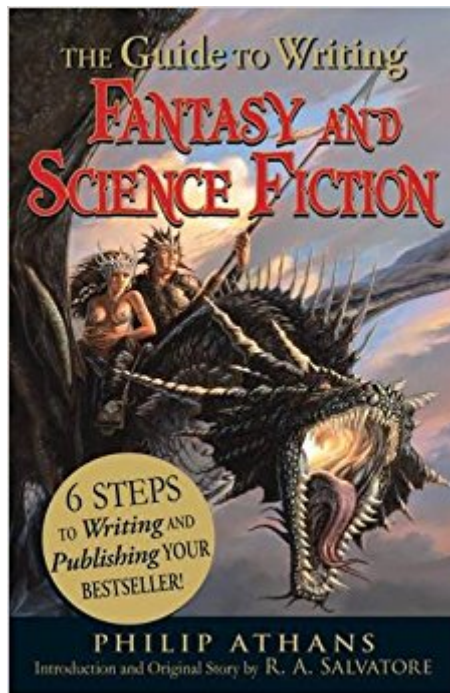




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# The Guide To Writing Fantasy And Science Fiction: 6 Steps To Writing And Publishing Your Bestseller!



## Synopsis

Science fiction and fantasy is one of the most challenging--and rewarding!--genres in the bookstore. But with New York Times bestselling author Philip Athans and fantasy giant R. A. Salvatore at your side, you'll create worlds that draw your readers in--and keep them reading! Just as important, you'll learn how to prepare your work for today's market. Drawing on his years of experience as one of the most acclaimed professionals in publishing, Wizards of the Coast editor Athans explains how to set your novel apart--and break into this lucrative field. From devising clever plots and building complex characters to inventing original technologies and crafting alien civilizations, Athans gives you the techniques you need to write strong, saleable narratives. Plus! Athans applies all of these critical lessons together in an unprecedented deconstruction of a never-before-published tale by the one and only R. A. Salvatore! There are books on writing science fiction and fantasy, and then there's this book--the only one you need to create strange, wonderful worlds for your own universe of readers!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Philip Athans is managing editor of novels at Wizards of the Coast, the largest producer of fantasy hobby games in the world. He's worked with such authors as R. A. Salvatore, Margaret Weis, and Tracy Hickman. He's also published his own fantasy novels, including the New York Times bestseller *Annihilation*. R. A. Salvatore is the New York Times bestselling author of numerous works of fantasy fiction, including the Dark Elf series featuring his signature character, Drizzt Do'Urden.

With humor, blunt advice, warnings, and fantastic examples, the author shares insights into the craft of creating a story and how to best work with agents and editors, specifically in the science fiction/fantasy genre. The suggestions for improving characters and creating consistent and plausible worlds are helpful and motivating. I am inspired to continue working on my story. I've learned more about how to keep on writing even when I feel stuck, how to liven things up, how to evaluate my progress, and how to direct my efforts when revising. The guide reads like a personal conversation with an expert. Grab a drink, get ready to take notes, and make like a sponge to soak up wisdom from a collection of well-respected professionals.

Overall a decent read... I ate it up in a couple of days. There are certainly some solid pieces of advice on a variety of things, and the author has a good sense of humour (I guess you'd have to try to make a living in this genre). It does in my opinion weigh a bit more to the Fantasy side of things, than the Sci-fi side, but that didn't bother me personally. What I didn't like is that it's fairly vague on some major issues. The section on publishing was very high-level, what one would expect in a "Publishing for Dummies" book. The guy is (was) an insider, so I wanted a few more juicy tidbits and secrets. He only hinted at some brutal realities in the industry, so I wonder if the editor held him back there. Regardless, I started reading his blog, which is a bit more bold and answers more questions. A solid 4 stars.

Good book to learn the basic to writing fantasy and science-fiction.

I'm learning so much from this book. It's a perfect starter for the beginner and the perfect refresher for anyone who has taken a step back from writing for a while and is trying to get back into the habit/profession. Athans divides the book into three major segments. The first talks about the genres and reading level of your audience. The second talks about the process of creating the novel. The third talks about the publishing industry and helps you learn what to expect regarding your writing.

As a newbie writer this was a great guide to starting out in the fantasy/sci-fi genre. The basic concepts are explained well and should be useful for any future writing I have planned. I read this book in tandem with the excellent Self-Editing for Fiction Writers. Great stuff.

Thanks so much helping me strategize and build depth into what I'm trying to write. What started out as a two page start to short story, has now expanded to sixteen plus pages and lots of notes. I'm currently working on some layouts of structures to help the action flow. I'm also doing a lot more research. Again, thank you for all the help.

I've read a lot of these "how to write" genre books. This one is hands down my favorite. It's great for those reading their first how-to book on writing fantasy and science fiction. In the clearest language and using good examples, Athans makes plain what young writers need to look out for when crafting such stories. He identifies which barriers can be broken and which should be obeyed. Keep in mind, however, this is NOT a nuts and bolts approach to writing or submitting. It's more of an overview with general guidelines. Appropriate mostly for those just getting into the craft.

Much of the challenge of doing something new is figuring out what you don't know. Athans explains what kinds of questions you need to answer for your book in all stages, from developing the first idea to submitting for publication. This book is about the big picture, not details. That said, it's a very worthwhile resource. Because of this book, you'll know which direction to go and what questions to ask, and that is well worth the asking price.

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