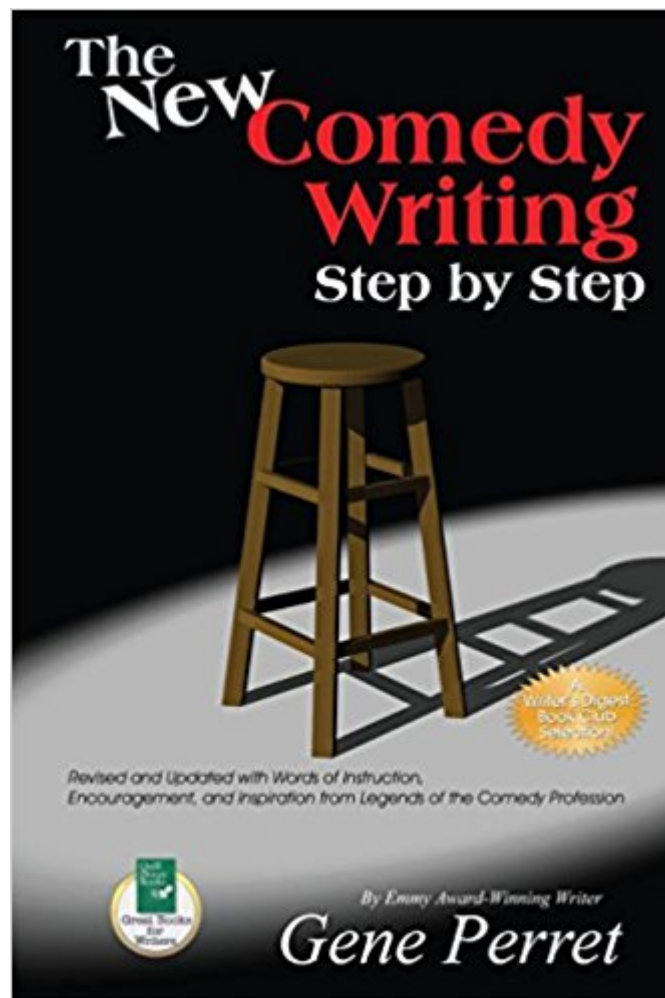




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# The New Comedy Writing Step By Step: Revised And Updated With Words Of Instruction, Encouragement, And Inspiration From Legends Of The Comedy Profession





## Synopsis

Three-time Emmy Award-winner Gene Perret's ""Comedy Writing Step by Step"" has been the manual for humor writers for 25 years. In this new book, his first update, Perret offers readers a treasure trove of guidelines and suggestions covering a broad range of comedy writing situations, along with many all-important insights into the selling of one's work. Perret covers all aspects of comedy writing in his uniquely knowledgeable and anecdotal fashion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

""The classic by three-time Emmy-award winning writer [Gene] Perret . . . offers timeless, nuts-and-bolts practical advice. He discusses finding your voice and your genre, and writing for your audience."" --""ASJA Monthly""

From the basics of comedy writing as a craft: disciplining one's wit, discovering what works, visualization, and avoiding the obvious. On through the nitty-gritty of the work: finding a topic, constructing monologues, sketches, scripts, writing to your audience, and writing for sitcoms. And finally, to comedy writing as a career: overcoming writer's block, how to reach "unreachable" stars, and marketing one's material. Perret covers all aspects of comedy writing in his uniquely knowledgeable and anecdotal fashion.

It's an okay book. Filled with too much fluff for me to rate it higher than a three. Too much of it is the

Author reminiscing about his glory days as a writer for Bob Hope and Phyllis Diller, which is awesome that he accomplished that, but not very useful or interesting to me. The writing exercises in the second section give you some ideas and something to work on. Remember this book is, or at least some of the book is, about writing comedy and not performing it. Examples of comedy that are presented are lame in my opinion, and very dated. Some might still enjoy that kind humor - I don't.

The anecdotes are the best part of this book aside from the titular step by step guidance you probably came for. Perret has tons of experience from his years writing for the likes of Phyllis Diller and Bob Hope, and he also mentions some comics in the 80s like Emo Phillips who are still around but not on TV so much anymore and are really worth checking out on YouTube or following on Twitter. On my second time through reading it, I think there's some outdated information -- e.g. it doesn't seem as good of an idea to write greeting cards or newspaper comics anymore. But the Carol Burnett script examples are timelessly valuable, as is the structural writing advice, especially the chapter on routining. Some mention of Twitter would be really useful in a future edition. With the advent of internet self publishing, it's easier than ever to find an audience for your comedy as well as a community of comedians to learn from. Current successful comedians have been using social media not only to find new fans but also ensure that the right audience will come to their shows, which is a major change from the old club culture of the 80s. I keep the digital edition on my iPad so I can highlight the passages that are particularly useful to me and skim through my notes quickly for inspiration when I have a creative block. It's always nice to have some encouragement, and this book's supportive tone will keep me writing comedy for the rest of my life.

He had both me and my seven year old writing corny jokes by the book's end. He's a funny guy, a throwback from days when comics actually told jokes. I laughed out loud at his Bob Hope and bomb sniffing dogs joke. I mean, this guy wrote many, or was it most (not sure), of the Phyllis Diller "My mother is so..." jokes. That alone makes him an expert in my book. His exercises had my son and I dreaming up jokes in minutes using his simple rules. I'm not a comic, so I don't know if these rules are something every comic knows or not; but I didn't know them so it was new to me. Seems to me that his exercises on joke writing also apply to writing prose that is more dramatic and has greater tension. This book deserves every bit of 5 stars.

Gene Perret is a genius. He knows comedy writing and how to teach it.

Average.

Perret's advice mimics Churchill's: "Never, never, never give up." His advice seems real because he has lived it. As a writer for the biggest names in comedy, his anecdotes add tremendously to the instruction. If you wanna write - write.

Very practical advice. It made a difference in my comedy writing immediately.

I enjoyed reading this book. The author walks you through the processes of creating jokes, writing monologues, and even on how to promote your material. I found this book to be an interesting worthwhile read.

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