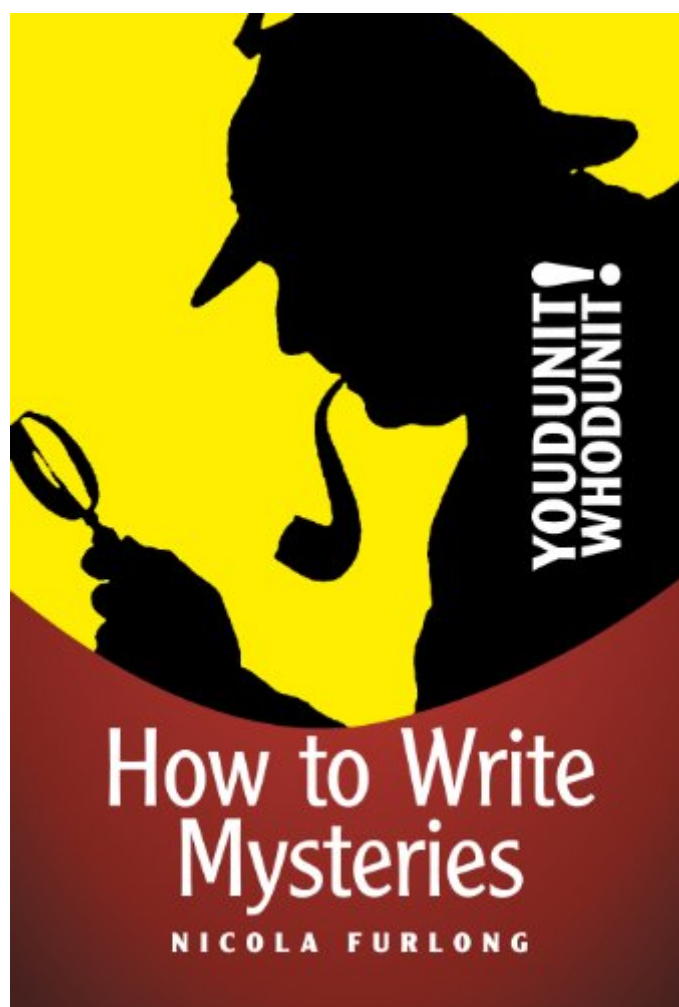


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# **Youdunit Whodunit!: How To Write Mystery, Thriller And Suspense Books (Writing Skills, Writing Fiction, Writing Instruction, Writing A Book)**



## Synopsis

Okay, so you love READING crime, mystery, suspense and thriller fiction? Well, why not WRITE one and CASH IN on this profitable writing niche? Who knows? If you follow the writing tips in YODUNIT WHODUNIT!, you could be the next best-selling crime fiction novelist. But what's inside this short, practical, how-to guide to crafting mystery and thriller fiction by multi-published suspense author Nicola Furlong? Here's your FIRST CLUE: Maureen Jennings, author of the best-selling Murdoch Mysteries, says mystery thriller author Nicola Furlong "has written a fun, engaging 'how to' book about writing mysteries. She is witty, thorough and she certainly knows what she's talking about." Look, there's more! A SECOND CLUE: Nicola Furlong has written a snappy guide that effectively covers the bases for the beginning mystery writer. You'll pick up useful insights into plot, character, point of view, suspense and so much more. The many tips should also help you find your unique style. If anything will kick start your first foray into crime writing, this great little resource will. I sure wish it had been around when I waded blindly into writing." • (Mary Jane Maffini - author of three crime fiction series) So, get your nose out of that mystery thriller book, improve your writing today and start penning your own private investigator, hard-boiled or romantic suspense mystery series with the help of YODUNIT WHODUNIT! This e-book offers simple tricks and techniques to writing murder mysteries and thrillers, supported by concrete examples, which you can apply immediately to your fiction writing. Romantic suspense? Psychological or espionage thriller? Mystery romance? Whatever you are writing, your first clue should be YODUNIT WHODUNIT! YODUNIT WHODUNIT! HOW TO WRITE MYSTERIES covers specific suspense, thriller and mystery writing essentials, such as: STRUCTURE: • Key Elements of a Three-Act Tragedy • Beginnings with a Bang • Nailing Endings CHARACTER: • Picking Points of View • Concocting Major, Secondary and Minor Characters • Dialogue Ditties STORY: • To Plot or Not to Plot • Ideas • Kicking up Suspense • Clues and Red Herrings EXCERPTS: STRUCTURE: Chapter 2: Hit 'Em Early, Hit 'Em Hard Hook and shock your audience by rocketing straight to the main crime or another crime so something important is happening, has just happened or will just happen. Set up the central plot problem (e.g., kidnapping or murder) or a major plot problem (like a stolen artefact or a missing person). This forces your villain forward; there's no turning back. CLUES: Chapter 18: Is That A Clue Or Are You Just Happy To See Me? Clues are the traces of guilt left behind by culprit. A good clue will eventually point in the right direction but initially seems to point in the wrong direction, or it means something different than expected, or it points nowhere. Earl Stanley Gardner described clues as sequences; in other words, he suggested that a clue is a succession or series of related events. The succession of

related events may occur close together or many pages or chapters apart. For example, we know that a cold beer creates beads of moisture on its glass container. Now, if our suspect states that he finished his lager a couple of hours ago and our dazzling detective spots beads on the glass, guess what? The detective knows the suspect is lying. It's dead easy! So read on dear Watson. The game's afoot!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Of the dozen "how to" books on mystery writing I've read, most wasted too many trees, and on Vancouver Island, that's important. One big-name author provided only a single worthwhile nugget of advice in four hundred pages: don't write about boring people. But Canadians are very innovative, especially about saving time. Didn't we invent Velcro? Pabulum? The Bloody Caesar? Recently my colleague Nicola Furlong produced a short, compact, and helpful e-book called Youdunit Whodunit. This crash course in mystery writing is as jam packed with gems as Nicola's signature chocolate-pecan turtles. For those starting out, or for authors who want to keep their writing on track, YW has twenty-two chapters in three basic innings: Structure, Character, and Story. With a wealth

of pithy examples taken from selective authors, she cuts to the chase. Hit the reader early and hit him hard. Why is the protagonist involved, if it's not a police procedural? What do you do in mid-story, where a book often bogs? What are the pitfalls of various POV's? Where do you get your ideas? How should you handle flashbacks and make smooth transitions without the speed bumps which mar even the best books? Nicola will have you off and running in minutes. She's an editor, agent, and coach all in one. It comes as no surprise that the book is introduced and endorsed by two of our northern mystery lionesses, Maureen Jennings and Mary Jane Maffini. With multiple series and decades of best-seller success, when they speak, wise authors listen.

I enjoyed reading this short book. It is a brief but savvy overview of writing mysteries. It doesn't go into a lot of examples or long explanations. But the text is written in a clear conversational and reader-friendly style. It should be good for those new to mystery writing and can serve, as well, for more experienced writers that would like a quick review. And, besides covering the requisite need-to-know information, there are frequent helpful tips. I would buy it again, if I lost it. For those interested in this type of material, highly recommended.

This is a really good read for a beginner. However there are nuggets of wisdom even the expert writer could use. It's written in a conversational tone. A quick read. Not a step by step how to. Reads more like a series of blog posts on a writers website.

I encourage writers of mystery to check this book out! It is filled with clear understanding of how to write a Whodunit Mystery. Many examples are cited. I'm going to buy the hard copy to add to my writing library.

Not having written any mysteries but wanting to know how to I found this book very informative and helpful. She shows all the pointers, how to's and some pitfalls that a mystery writer needs. She has virtually taken the mystery of how to write mysteries away and uncovered the real knacks. A great find for a budding mystery writer.

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