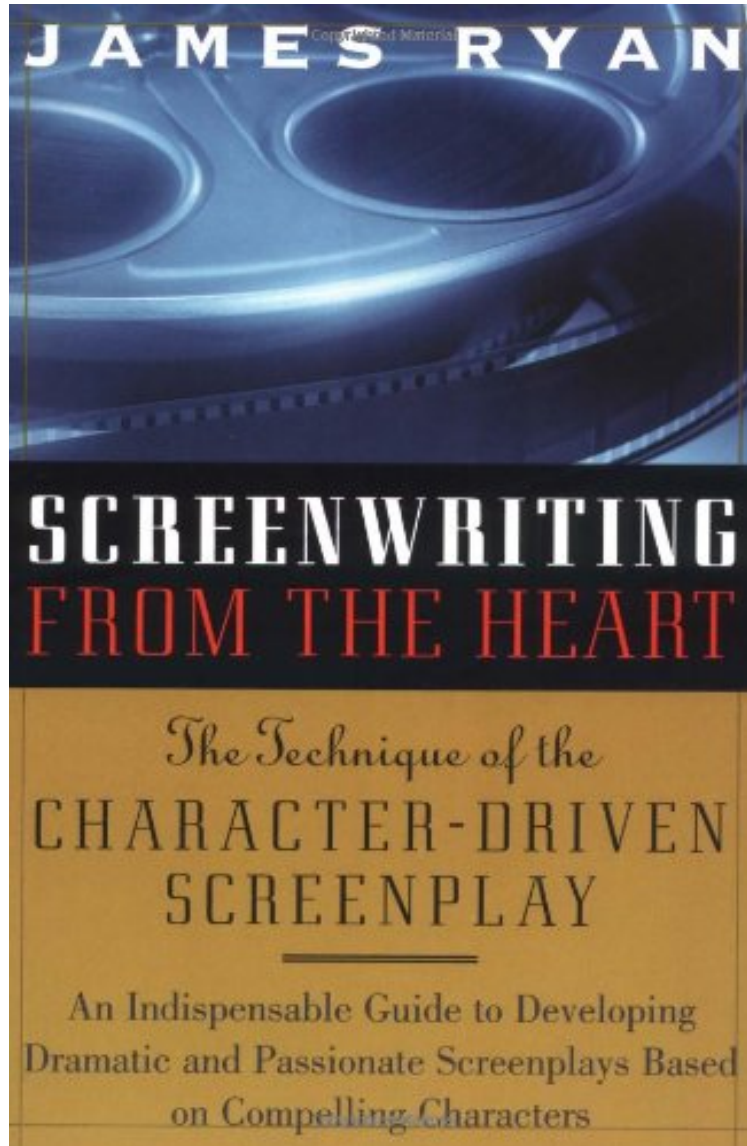


(Download pdf) Screenwriting From The Heart

## Screenwriting From The Heart

*James Ryan*

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**James Ryan : Screenwriting From The Heart** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Screenwriting From The Heart:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highest Rank for Screenwriting Books By Fijate Eso I came across this book at the NYPL for the Performing Arts. I have read dozens of books on writing and screenwriting in particular and can honestly say that this book would rank as one of the most refreshing and thought-provoking ones. I love how simply and clearly the idea of the need to go back and forth from conscious thinking to subconscious thinking is

explained in a step-by-step way from start to finish of the process of writing a screenplay. I longed to read something about writing for TV and unfortunately this book doesn't offer that. I cannot give it less than five stars because of that as its subject is screenwriting and not TV writing. I would have loved to read Mr. Ryan take on the process when writing a TV pilot. Surely some of the advice here can be implemented while other is irrelevant. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Second Subtitle Says It All By J. Adams This is a great book, unfortunate title, but great book. Its subtitle regarding compelling characters is on the nose - which in this case is a good thing. This is probably not the first screenwriting book you should read, but definitely one you should read before you try to fill that empty page. Realize that screenplays are highly formatted, and the writer can't stray too far from that structure and expect to have his work read. But, if you have read Ackerman, Field, Hicks, Hunter, Kitchen, Walker, and/or Russin Downs there is STILL MUCH TO LEARN in the pages of this book! For a different way of developing your story within that strict screenplay format (maybe THE way for your style of writing or conceptualizing a story) I highly recommend "Screenwriting from the Heart". My only complaint is that it seems Ryan hasn't written any other books since. 8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. feed the roots By AGR James Ryan's idea of writing from the heart reinforces confidence in the hearts of novice writers. As opposed to most of the other approaches which scare the novice showing that the writing process is an alien mechanism which has to be learnt from the seasoned Gurus or some institutions, rather than by intuition. Ryan demystifies the myth behind the writing process as, "there is nothing very abstract or academic about writing; it is an art form, yes, but first and foremost it is a craft." (pp. 5) While reading the first half of the book, this starting assurance has helped me to proceed further with enthusiasm. But, somewhere along the line, I found a question which was bothering me. That is, "How do you judge your own work whether you have achieved a genuine product of your heart or synthetic product of overflowing intellect, based on this approach?" I didn't find the answer to this question yet, but, this question is not meant as a complaint. James Ryan explains how the intangible creative flow from the heart can be triggered consciously by choosing an object. This exercise sounded very interesting and promising. Over all, this is a very useful book for both beginning writers and experienced writers. One small comment I can't resist sharing with the co-readers and the author: On the one hand, Ryan advocates the ORIGINALITY that a writer can discover from his/her work, and on the other hand he tells us how there are already existing/fixed styles and types of films. This comes as a slight contradiction in the book: if every writer starts respecting his/her own originality, he/she can't stop it at the content only..it could eventually extend to inventing a new style or type! I wrap up again summing up that this is a great book which gives a deep insight into the complex writing process without scaring the novice writer.. and to an experienced writer, it serves as a tool to re-examine if he/she is on the right track. This book shows us how we can control the final product, the screenplay by working on the central controlling element, the heart, just like how we can affect the external beauty of a plant by just feeding its roots. 'the heart.'

The value of character-driven screenplays is demonstrated in this step-by-step approach to showing aspiring filmmakers and writers how a script is created through the development of compelling characters. Included is a scene-by-scene commentary on an original screenplay.

About the Author James Ryan is a screenwriter, director, playwright, and teacher. He has written screenplays for Hollywood Pictures, Warner Bros., and Spring Creek Productions. He is the writer and director of the film *The Young Girl and the Monsoon*, wrote for the *Days and Nights of Molly Dodd* on television, and his plays have been produced off-Broadway and in many theaters across the country. He is an adjunct Professor of Playwriting in the Actors Studio MFA program at the New School for Social Research University in New York.