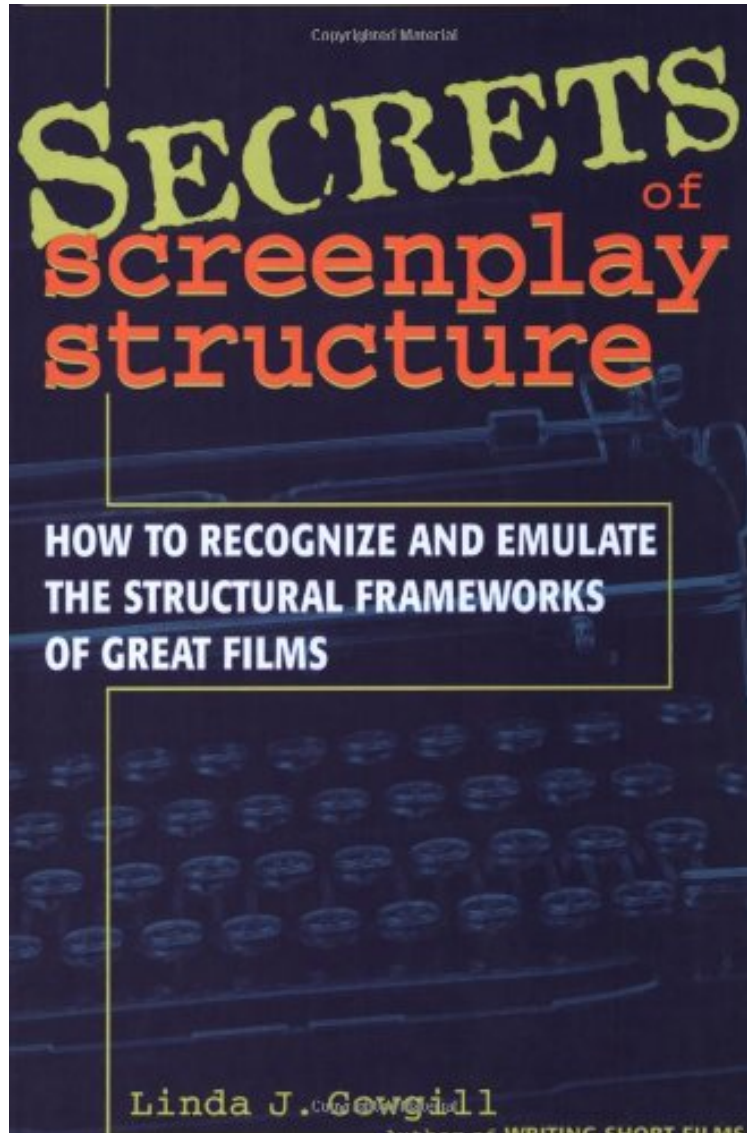


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## Secrets of Screenplay Structure

Linda J. Cowgill

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#956524 in Books Lone Eagle 1999-01-01 1999-01-01Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.98 x .79 x 6.051, 1.20 #File Name: 158065004X225 pages | File size: 21.Mb

**Linda J. Cowgill : Secrets of Screenplay Structure** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secrets of Screenplay Structure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you want to understand story, this book will take you far...By Abner RosenweigSecrets of Screenplay Structure is not just another screenwriting book. It should be one of the bibles of the industry that working writers read and regularly re-read. Cowgill is simply one of the best expositors of screen story principles. This book, like all her others, is a pleasure to work through. It contains profound insight on every

page. Cowgill demonstrates a masterful grasp of her subject and takes the reader well beyond structure to deliver a superb and comprehensive treatise on what it means to write a great film. The chapter on subtext alone is a revelation. Cowgill's thorough critical analyses of almost 20 films are spot on, and they provide a revealing glimpse into the mechanics of story, in addition to provocative insight into human nature. At times I felt the book was tedious and painstakingly thorough, with excessive plot summary and historical trivia about the analyzed screenplays. It is, however, hard to fault the author for being meticulous and complete. 5 stars for this outstanding screenwriting work, which clearly and completely articulates the rules of the game. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. And here are three MORE reasons for buying this book... By Windchyme50 I agree with the observations of all the positive reviewers of this book. As an aspiring novelist, a psychologist, and a movie fan I can add three more: First, this book was tremendously helpful in writing my first novel. The points Cowgill makes about structure in film go beyond simple "how to do it" or "how to sell it" gimmicks, and leave you with a far better appreciation of how, and why, "structure" works in ANY medium, be it film, fiction, or even nonfiction. It's made all the difference in my own writing. Second, as a psychologist I liked both the general depth of her writing and her ability to demonstrate just HOW good structure affects the audience (Robt McKee does, too; his "Story" and this book comprise a great two-volume complete set on this stuff.) Third, as a movie fan, I'd give my greatest recommendation: literally every movie I've seen since reading this book, whether a new flick or an old favorite, has become a completely different and richer experience. If for no other reason, read her to increase your perceptiveness and appreciation of the films you see! 10 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Love this book! By Sara Stadler I'm new to screenwriting and have read a few books that covered the basics although Linda Cowgill's *Secrets of Screenplay* structure along with the *Art of Plotting* are the two books that really helped me understand structure, plot devices and how to use all the separate elements in a way that plays off of a viewer's psychology by evoking emotions of suspense, surprise.. ect. and weaving them together in a way that makes sense in order to form a cohesive whole. I just love how this book uses a variety of study films to correspond to the different elements/chapters. It really helps to visually see a film and see how it looks on a script. While reading this book I was actually inspired to start thinking and re-thinking some of my own concepts and have been working thoughtfully on a couple different outlines. Now I can look at just about any film and break it down to all its separate elements and understand how and why the writers pieced it together in such a way. This book has given me a great deal of knowledge, tools, and confidence to where I feel I'm ready to start putting it all into practice and finding my own style as a writer. This book is great for those who are passionate about creating screenplays that are intelligent just as they are entertaining. It doesn't constantly hammer the industry standard into your head.. while that's certainly helpful and necessary to know.. that's another book. This book is more concerned with the craft rather than how to deal with a cut-throat industry.

This guide helps writers understand how and why great films work as well as how great form and function can combine to bring a story alive.

About the Author Linda J Cowgill