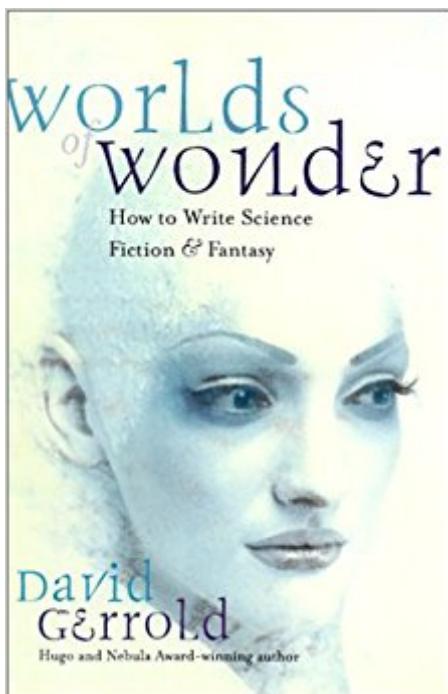


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# Worlds Of Wonder: How To Write Science Fiction & Fantasy



## **Synopsis**

Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author Gerrold charms and challenges readers with his detailed instruction for creating compelling tales of fantasy and science fiction.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 246 pages

Publisher: Writer's Digest Books; 1st edition (February 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582970076

ISBN-13: 978-1582970073

Product Dimensions: 8 x 5.4 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,227,882 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Science Fiction & Fantasy #4259 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Writing Skills #6135 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Fiction

## **Customer Reviews**

While both science fiction and fantasy evoke "a sense of wonder in the audience," says David Gerrold in *Worlds of Wonder*, science fiction "is about what's possible," while "fantasy is about what's not." Writing for both these genres is a lot like "playing with a set of Lego bricks," Gerrold says: you're creating your own world, but you have to work within a logical framework. Like other forms of storytelling, says Gerrold (best known for his "Trouble with Tribbles" Star Trek episode), science fiction and fantasy rely on mysterious first sentences, effective exits, and surprises in every sentence in between. The difference is that your characters inhabit whole worlds of your own making, worlds that may be "marvelous and surprising to the reader," but must remain ordinary to the story's characters. To carry this off, says Gerrold, "you have to write each moment"--no matter how improbable--"as if you lived it yourself."

Hugo and Nebula Award-winning novelist and screenwriter Gerrold passionately discusses the challenges and excitement of writing sf. Creating believable new worlds in which to tell universal stories of conflict, growth, and transformation requires not only imagination but also the discipline to ask and answer tough questions. As in writing other genres of fiction, careful attention to setting,

plot, character, and dialog must be observed, along with the mechanics of grammar, tense, sentence structure, and paragraph transition. But writing successful sf and fantasy, Gerrold contends, demands an even greater commitment to the integrity of language to create and define reality. In a chatty, informal, and even humorous style, he provides numerous exercises and questions, challenging the would-be writer to imagine the answers. Examples from films, novels, stories, and television supply practical evidence of his suggested techniques. Gerrold is a first-rate writer, best-known for his Star Trek writings. Given the rising popularity of sf, this book would be a welcome addition to any public library. Denise S. Sticha, Murrysville Community Lib., PA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I had a copy of this book about 15 years ago, and I used it until it started to fall apart. Life happens, and things get misplaced, and now that I'm writing again, I decided it would be nice to have another copy. Written by the writer of the iconic Start Trek episode, "The Trouble with Tribbles", this book demystifies the process of writing fantasy and sci-fi. It's a literal one-stop-shop for the genre specific writer in that the author teaches you how to bring your characters to life through creating arcs, interviewing your characters, and creating profiles for each individual character. The author also touches on world building, creating cultures, and consistency in your writing. He explains how to avoid cliches, and how to write fresh prose that are not carbon copies of what has been done to death in these genres. I would encourage every fantasy and science fiction writer to add this book to your library. It's an invaluable resource that you will return to time and again.

While I find this book to be very helpful in structuring science fiction stories, I have to agree with the two individuals who complained about the examples given in the chapter on sex scenes. I found the examples to be poorly written. They were replete with awkward, incomplete sentences while being scant on sexual imagery. I must say that I was surprised by this initially, but when I read what Mr. Gerrold had to say about writing sex scenes, it made sense to me. He starts this particular chapter by saying that sex scenes are embarrassing to write, to read and to publish. There is no way that a writer can ever create a strong sex scene with such a poor attitude. Why even attempt them?

The first time I read this book I highlighted the most helpful parts. I went through three highlighters. This is a must read for any writer! I myself don't really like books that teach writing but this one is amazing. It covers everything from grammar to the difference between sex scenes and love scenes. It talks about how to think through your plot logically and some helpful little tricks to making your

story extra interesting. It discusses how to construct your first and last lines and it is written extremely well and on a level anybody can understand. If I could I'd give this book a hundred stars. Not only was it helpful but it was able to keep my attention, a feat very few fiction books can do.

I absolutely love this book! It has so many good sayings in it, even if you don't want to write sci-fi or fantasy. One of my favorite quotes from the book is "A problem is created every time you avoid doing your part." I feel that this book should be given a once over by everyone, simply because of the multitude of sayings found between its covers.

Great book. Loaned my first copy. Never got it back. Had to buy it used. Now I have an unused hard cover! Wonderful

daughter loves it.

This was a very interesting and great book. I found it very helpful.

Don't let the "How to Write Science Fiction & Fantasy" sub-title fool you! Yes, that's in here, but this is possibly the best book about writing that you'll ever come across. Friends who have read the book agree. It's a pity that the book is out of print, but don't let that stop you. Find a good used copy from one of the sellers and enjoy this marvelous book!

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