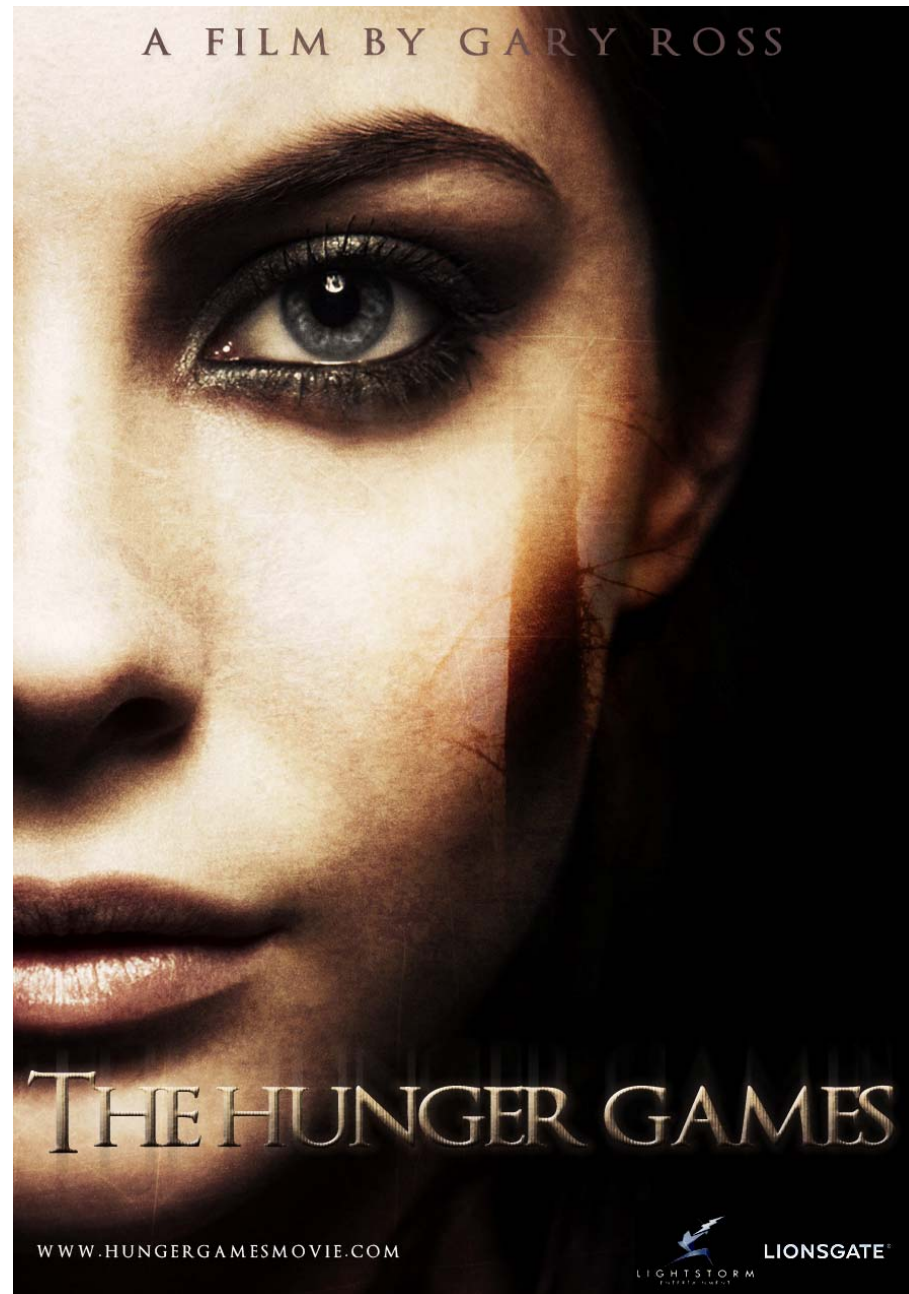


**Story
Lessons
from ...**



**By
Author
John
Brown**









THE HUNGER GAMES



New York Times Bestselling Author

**SUZANNE
COLLINS**



The Writing Excuses Gang



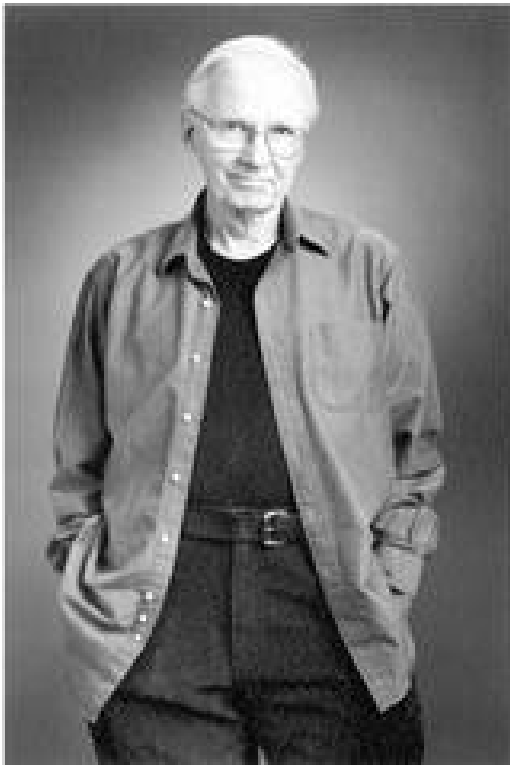
Brandon

Howard

Dan



Thomas McCormack



Former CEO and
editorial director of
St. Martin's Press

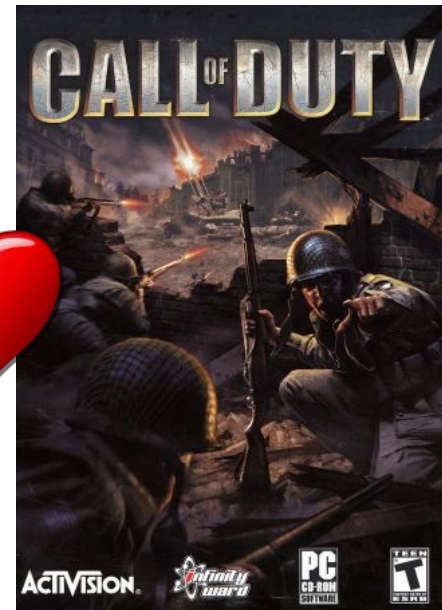
“An author needs a lot more than one person to succumb to his literarily seductive charms, but, like Saul, he must realize that he doesn't have to—and indeed cannot—capture the hearts of every possible reader out there. No matter who the writer, his ideal intended audience is only a small fraction of all the living readers. Name the most widely read authors you can think of—from Shakespeare, Austen, and Dickens to Robert Waller, Stephen King, and J.K. Rowling—and the immense majority of book-buyers out there actively decline to read them” (*The Fiction Editor, The Novel, and the Novelist*, p8)

Lesson 1

There is CRAP

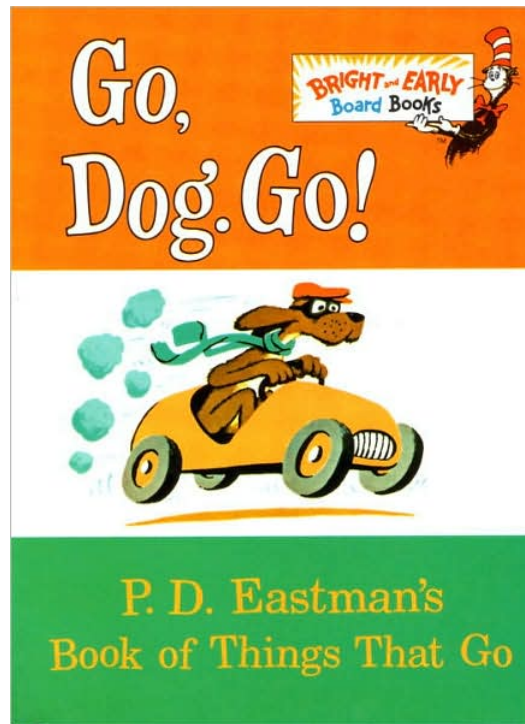


And there is not being
IN THE AUDIENCE



Lesson 2

Write to YOUR PASSION, not someone else's . . .



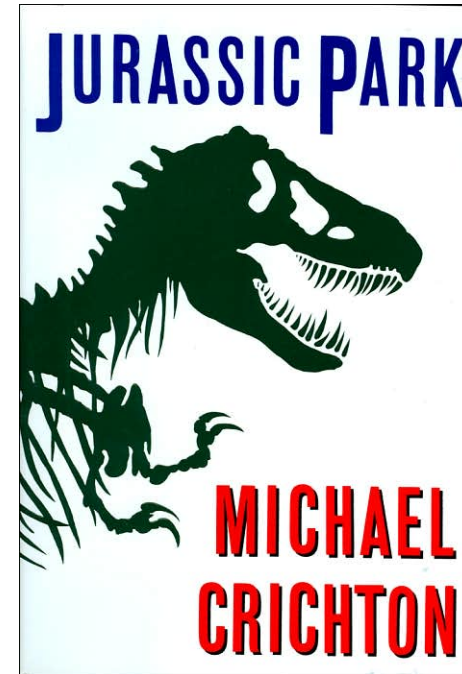
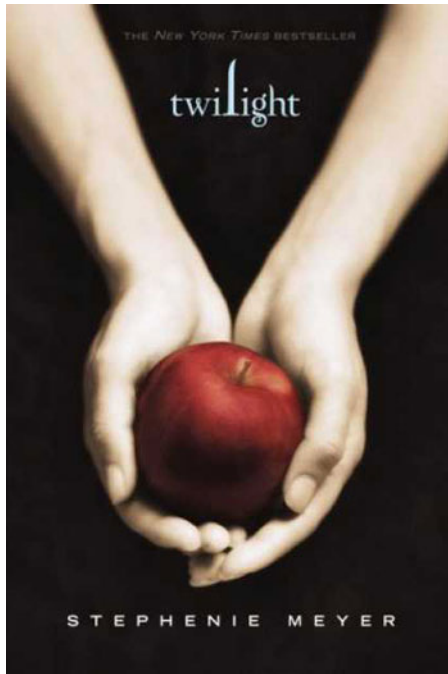
Even if they're one of the shiny ones

Doofus or Spiderman?



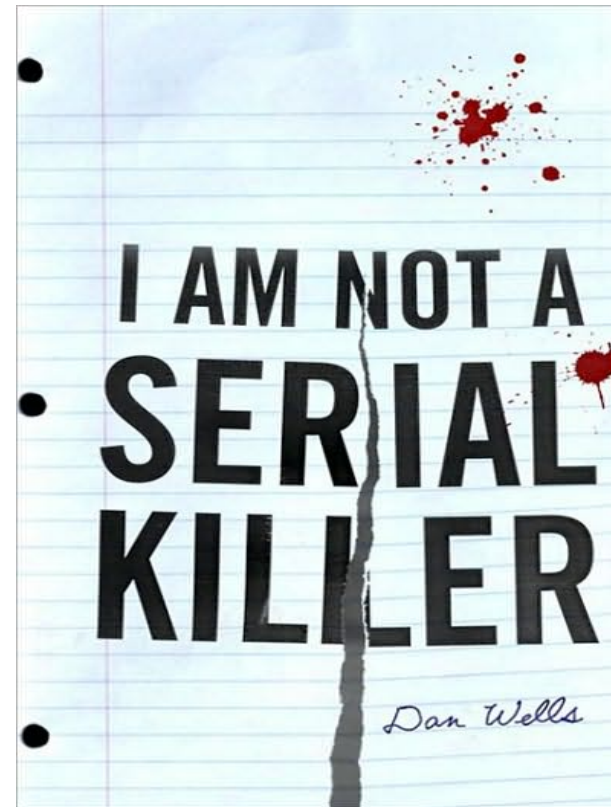
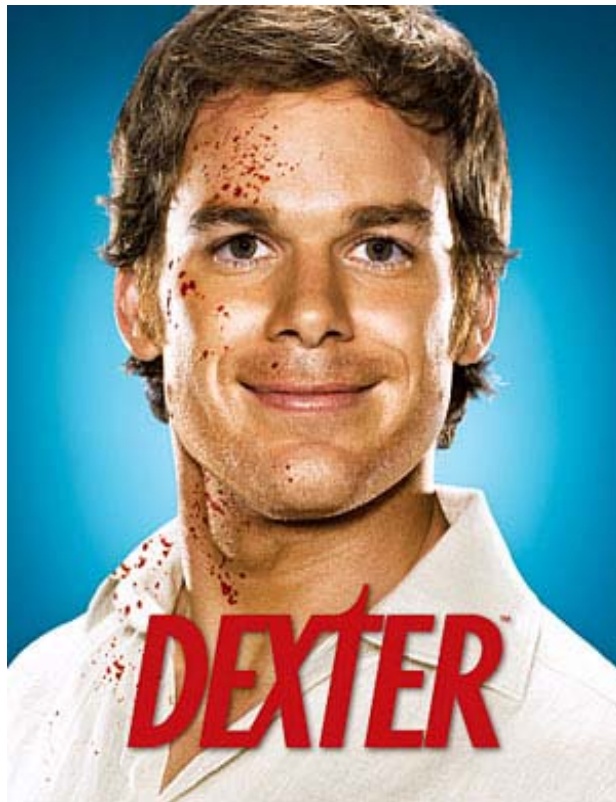
Lesson 3

“Been done” means squat



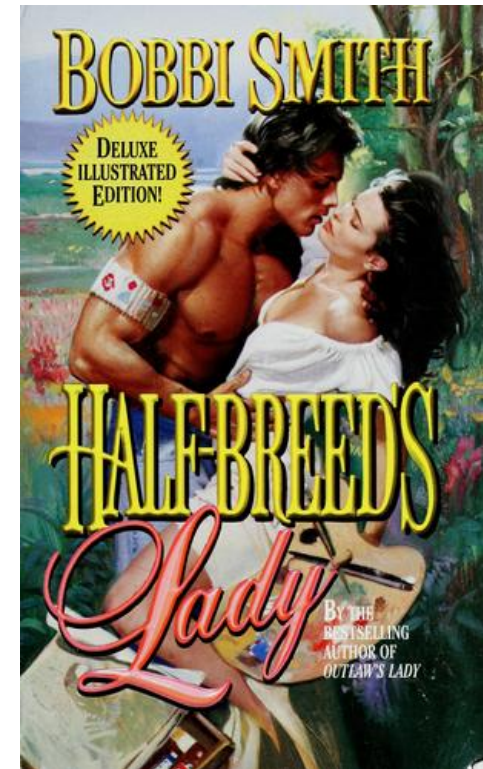
Lesson 3

“Been done” means squat



Lesson 3

“Been done” means squat



Lesson 4

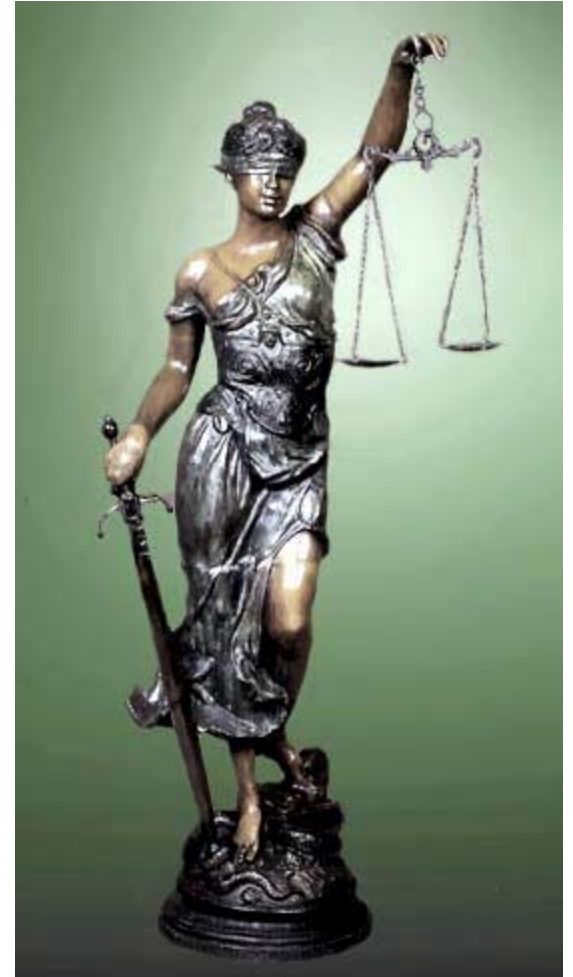
Likeability + Problem → Rooting

– Problem

- Danger or Opportunity
- Hardship
- Vulnerability
- Underdog

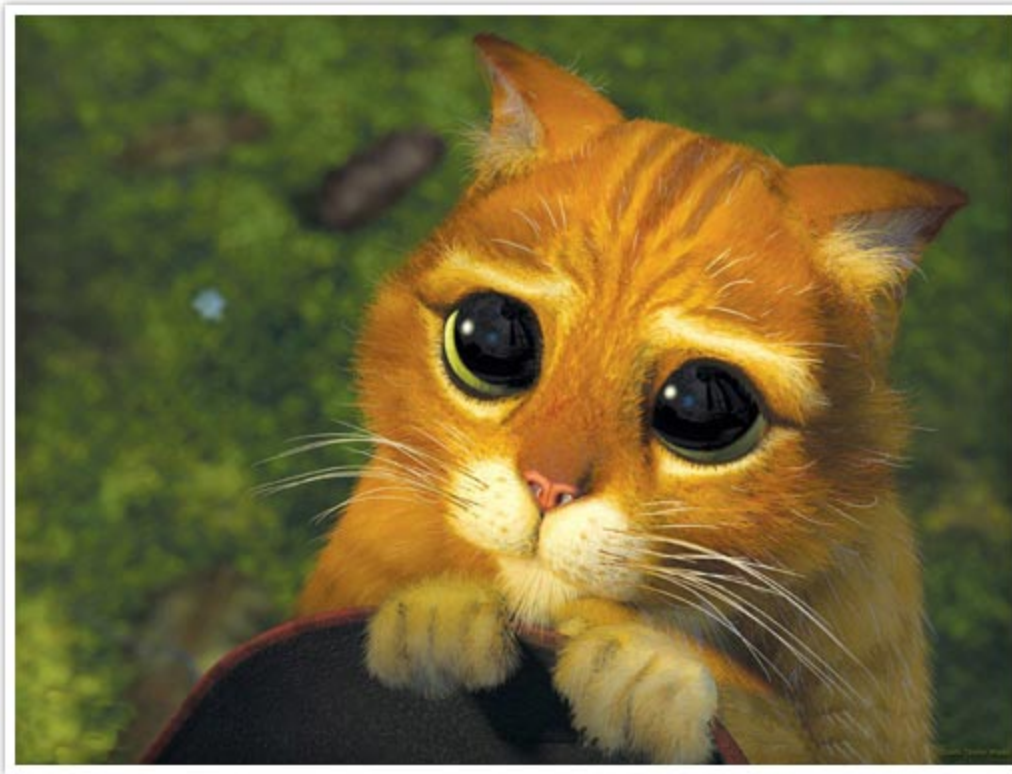
– Likeability

- Interesting
- Good
- Active, with a chance



Lesson 5

Present the trigger



The response is automatic
(we can't help it)

Lesson 6

Katniss vs Rue: rooting is more than sympathy



Lesson 7

Dilemmas make the reader sweat . . . deliciously



How curvaceous art thou? P-S-R

<i>Hunger Games</i>	8-79-12
<i>The Mentalist</i> (random)	2-83-15
<i>The Good Guy</i>	4-74-22
<i>Servant of a Dark God</i>	17-68-15
<i>Monster Hunter International</i>	28-66-6

Lesson 8

Stay away from
Procrustes'
Bed of
Perilous
Plots



Lesson 9

1. Present the possibility (good or bad)
2. Let us worry
3. Turn (surprise helps)



Lesson 10: turns are good & bad

1. -	16.-
2. -	17.+
3. +	18.-
4. +	19.+
5. -	20.+
6. +	21.-
7. -	22.-
8. -	23.?
9. -	24.-
10.+	25.+
11.+	26.-
12.+	27.+
13.+	28.-
14.-	29.+
15.+	30.-

Summary

1. There is CRAP, and there is not being in THE AUDIENCE
2. Write from YOUR PASSION, not someone else's
3. "Been done" doesn't mean squat
4. Likeability + Problem → Rooting
5. Present the trigger, the response is automatic
6. Katniss vs Rue: rooting is more than sympathy
7. Dilemmas make the reader sweat . . . deliciously
8. Stay away from Procrustean plot beds
9. Present the possibility, let us worry, turn
10. Turns are good and bad

“Gentlemen, this is a football”

Some people try to find things in this game that don't exist, but football is only two things - blocking and tackling.

Vince Lombardi



And this is just plain scary



JohnDBrown.com