



# The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction

By John Dufresne

Download now

Read Online 

## The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne

Finally, a truly creative—and hilarious—guide to creative writing, full of encouragement and sound advice.

Provocative and reassuring, nurturing and wise, *The Lie That Tells a Truth* is essential to writers in general, fiction writers in particular, beginning writers, serious writers, and anyone facing a blank page.

John Dufresne, an acclaimed novelist and teacher, demystifies the writing process. Drawing upon the wisdom of literature's great craftsmen, Dufresne's lucid essays and diverse exercises initiate the reader into the tools, processes, and techniques of writing: inventing compelling characters, developing a voice, creating a sense of place, editing your own words. Where do great ideas come from? How do we recognize them? How can language capture them? In his signature comic voice, Dufresne answers these questions and more in chapters such as "Writing Around the Block," "Plottery," and "The Art of Abbreviation." The ideal writer's companion, *The Lie That Tells a Truth* shows that while the idea of writing may be overwhelming, the act of writing is simplicity itself.

 [Download The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fic ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing F ...pdf](#)

# The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction

By John Dufresne

## The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne

Finally, a truly creative—and hilarious—guide to creative writing, full of encouragement and sound advice.

Provocative and reassuring, nurturing and wise, *The Lie That Tells a Truth* is essential to writers in general, fiction writers in particular, beginning writers, serious writers, and anyone facing a blank page.

John Dufresne, an acclaimed novelist and teacher, demystifies the writing process. Drawing upon the wisdom of literature's great craftsmen, Dufresne's lucid essays and diverse exercises initiate the reader into the tools, processes, and techniques of writing: inventing compelling characters, developing a voice, creating a sense of place, editing your own words. Where do great ideas come from? How do we recognize them? How can language capture them? In his signature comic voice, Dufresne answers these questions and more in chapters such as "Writing Around the Block," "Plottery," and "The Art of Abbreviation." The ideal writer's companion, *The Lie That Tells a Truth* shows that while the idea of writing may be overwhelming, the act of writing is simplicity itself.

## The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #396225 in Books
- Published on: 2003-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.11" h x 6.52" w x 9.50" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

 [Download The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fic ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing F ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction* By John Dufresne

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A novelist and teacher, Dufresne (*Deep in the Shade of Paradise*) shares his blunt views on writing in this instruction book, which draws heavily on the tenets of realist fiction and method acting. Divided into two main sections—"The Process" focuses on habits and emotions; "The Product" emphasizes narrative mechanics—Dufresne's manual often adopts the tone of a fiery professor advising a group of wide-eyed young freshmen. "Fiction writing is arrested development," he declares. "Just know that you should quit right now if you can." Readers may sometimes feel lectured by his many stern instructions—"Thou Shalt Not Be Obscure," "Thou Shalt Show and Not Tell," "Thou Shalt Steal"—but the author hits his stride when he covers the mechanics of story. Particularly valuable is his advice on choosing character names, occupations, and points of view. A principle of acting teachers Konstantin Stanislavsky and Michael Chekhov—that exterior movement leads to interior feeling—forms the basis of one of Dufresne's two chapters on characterization. Elsewhere, he skillfully analyzes the work of his favorite writers Anton Chekhov, Frank O'Connor and Eudora Welty. (Dufresne also mines his own work for examples of process and technique.) Each chapter closes with a set of writing exercises. Although this volume is unlikely to displace classic fiction guides like E.M. Forster's *Aspects of the Novel*, many readers may respond to the author's encouraging, exhorting tone. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Like so many writers' guides, this one talks about creating a character, finding an idea, constructing a plot, and the rest of it. It does all of that quite well, too, but what makes it stand out in this popular genre is its tone and approach. Novelist Dufresne, the author of *Deep in the Shade of Paradise* (2002), lays out the storytelling process clearly and simply. "Fiction is telling the truth, not telling the facts." His tone is light, amiable, conversational: a professional storyteller talking to someone who wants to be a professional storyteller. Writing, he tells us, is about trusting our feelings, about describing the essence of a scene without getting bogged down in irrelevant details. Peppering his text with inspirational and instructional quotes from a variety of writers (Joseph Heller: "Every writer I know has trouble writing"), Dufresne delivers a book that is both a tremendous inspiration to novice writers struggling with their craft and a useful guide to the technical aspects of turning words into stories. *David Pitt*  
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

An engaging covers-all-the-bases guide—sometimes moving, often funny, full of goodwill and good sense. -- *Janet Burroway*

Dufresne makes it all good fun, from first to last, from guggle to zatch. See for yourself. -- *George Garrett*

Frank and friendly talk about the approach to and the craft of fiction....a welcome companion. -- *Ron Carlson*

I'll be directing people to this book for years to come. It's wonderful. -- *Steve Yarbrough*

This is the most practical, hard-nosed, generous, direct, and useful guide to writing fiction I've ever read. -- *Brad Watson*

This is the writing guide I've been waiting for. -- *Lewis Nordan*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Willie Burroughs:**

The book *The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction* will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to see, this book very suited to you. The book *The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction* is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

#### **Joyce Murphy:**

Does one one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't determine book by its handle may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer might be *The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction* why because the excellent cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is fantastic as the outside or cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly direct you to pick up this book.

#### **Gordon Rollins:**

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The book that recommended for your requirements is *The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction* this guide consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This book was represented how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book ideal all of you.

#### **Kristen Wright:**

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information originating from a book. Book is written or printed or descriptive from each source this filled update of news. In this particular modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, novel and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Are you ready to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just in search of the *The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction* when you essential it?

**Download and Read Online The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne #F6P7DZXY1HW**

## **Read The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne for online ebook**

The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne books to read online.

### **Online The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne ebook PDF download**

**The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne Doc**

**The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne Mobipocket**

**The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne EPub**

**F6P7DZXY1HW: The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction By John Dufresne**