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**Hank Quense : Creating Stories** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating Stories:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Useful and Practical GuideBy Stuart AkenThis writing manual is about making stories; the creative process and the practical work involved in getting the story from mind to page. As a fairly ancient and experienced writer, Irsquo; ve come across quite a few books about writing, so itrsquo; s difficult for an author to present something new for me. In this volume, Hank Quense uses his own experience to develop ideas on a way of approaching the issue of actually creating a story that readers will want to read. He presents his subject matter in accessible and easily understood terms. Each section of the book deals with one or more of the hurdles and challenges that come with writing a story. He uses straightforward language to describe often technically challenging topics and gives advice in an easy to follow form. The book is divided into four parts; Setting and Characters, Plotting, Story-telling, and More Stuff. Each part is subdivided into chapters, presenting the matter in easily consumed bites. Itrsquo;s intended to help authors writing in all styles and for all genres, as he approaches the subject from the storytelling point of view, which, of course, relates to all types of writing. I write as a pantster, so plotting is of secondary importance to me; it comes late in the process. But many writers, and especially those starting out, need to plot in order to get the story in some sort of order. This book sets out that process in a simple form that covers all aspects and explains the importance of planning. Character drives my work, and the author here explains why character is important, indeed essential, to a good story. He provides ways and means to develop characters, keep track of them, use them to good effect and make them matter to the reader. A story where no character is of interest to the reader is, after all, not going to work on any level. Setting is a vital element, but so often oversold by writers, both new and experienced. It takes a lot of effort to develop a world from imagination and therersquo;s a great temptation to provide the reader with every detail of that construction. But, in the way that a house owner doesnrsquo; t need the plans of his house to enjoy living there, the author here explains that the reader doesnrsquo; t need to know every last detail of the invented world to enjoy the story. In fact, such detail can bring the story to a halt and lose the reader. Storytelling is at the heart of this book and Hank guides the reader through the process using charts, examples and simple narrative to illustrate what makes a good story. He also explains what prevents a good story from being told in a form that readers will find engaging. The final section deals with the thorny subject of humour in stories and how to create it. He also looks at subjects like copyright, the fear of manuscript theft and other practical issues that cause anxiety or concern for new writers. Itrsquo; a complete manual for the subject. As an experienced writer, I found new ways of thinking about the process of writing a book, ideas that will inform and help my future writing. For the new writer, there is much to absorb here, but its friendly style and ease of delivery makes the learning process that much more enjoyable. A useful addition to the canon of books on writing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Refreshing new ideas to

get the writing juices flowing!By Terri Hoffman CurtisI have read my share of books on writing techniques and new ideas on writing methods in my life, so it was with mixed feelings that I decided to read and review Hank Quense's "Creating Stories". I felt some trepidation wondering what Quense could possibly write about that I haven't read before. I am the author of two children's books which have been published and have been searching for help in moving on to adult writing. Quense presents many of the same ideas that I've read in other self-help writing books, but his unique slant combined with some new methods he personally uses struck a chord with me. Half-way through the book I realized that here were techniques I could use. He cites examples from his own published works which lend him credibility in the field of writing. He relates personal experiences in a humble, self deprecating way which makes his advice that much more palatable. I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Will help my writing so much!!By Mary C. BlowersHank Quense has penned a masterpiece in Creating Stories. The structure of a story, whether it be long or short, story or book, is outlined with detailed instructions on how to make each of these sections work. For instance, rather than being made up of chapters a book is really made up of scenes. There is a standard outline for any story, but very briefly you are introduced to the main characters, and then therersquo; a conflict, then there is resolution of the conflict. There are several helpful graphics in the book for visual aids, and they appear small but just click on them and they will expand. Quense shares his unique viewpoints on plot, setting, characters, writerrsquo; s voice, and using humor correctly. Not written for Pantsers, this book will add structure to anyonersquo;s writing. Itrsquo;s the logical way to approach crafting a story.

Do you have a story in you? Do you know how to write it or how to tell it? Creating Stories has the answers. Hank Quense, the author of more than twenty books, tells you how to do it. He believes that stories come from the melding of three elements: getting ideas, story design and story-telling. Ideas have to come from the author. Creating Stories covers the last two. The book concentrates on developing characters including such rarely discussed requirements such as a dominant reader emotion and the character's biography. Plots are also covered in depth and a number of graphics are included to illustrate complex points. Another topic discusses subplots and how to utilize them and how to nest them within the main plot. A separate chapter discusses the relationship between the plot and the emotional arcs. Other topics covered are: character arcs, scene design, point-of-view, writing voice. Here is the Table of Contents: Part 1: Setting CharactersChapter 1: Getting StartedChapter 2: SettingChapter 3: Characters-1Chapter 4: Characters-2Chapter 5: More Character StuffPart 2: PlottingChapter 6: PlottingChapter 7: SubplotsChapter 8: Scene DesignChapter 9: Plot and Emotional ArcsPart 3: Story-tellingChapter 10: Basic StuffChapter 11: Point-of-ViewChapter 12: Writing VoicePart 4: More StuffChapter 13: Parody, Humor and SatireChapter 14: Odds Ends Chapter 15: Other StuffChapter 16: AppendicesChapter 17: About the Author

Indie Reader:nbsp;CREATING STORIES is a useful resource for new writers who have a terrific story idea but aren't sure how to go about turning that into a functional, readable, enjoyable novel. 4.5 stars

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