
Top Ten Secrets Of Book Writing



Narendra Simone

Proven & Successful Top Ten Secrets of Book Writing

by

Narendra Simone

...Killing softly with his words.

“The Book of Secrets” Series

The first of the many books that includes a proven process based on ten secrets of book writing that I used in writing fourteen books to date and another 38 in the making.



A SIMONE BOOKS Publication

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Welcome

Top Ten Secrets of Book Writing

Thank you for purchasing the “Top Ten Secrets of Book Writing” that will illustrate how after thirty-five years of working as a chemical engineer I successfully changed my career to become a published author (of both eBooks and Paperbacks).

It is my hope that this book will also serve as your first step to learn a proven process that evokes your passion of writing and puts you on the path to an enriching life. Wait no longer and join now the ongoing revolution of eBooks and self-published paperbacks by becoming a modern and technology-savvy writer.

This book focuses on solutions rather than dwelling on the problems in an attempt to show you how to become a successful writer.



Narendra Simone

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Narendra's Books

Published

Temple of Hope
The Unholy Ghost
Desert Song
Cry of the Soul
Pink Balcony Silver Moon
Tuscan Dream
1001 Arabian Nightmares
Kismet, Karma & Kamasutra
Top Ten Secrets of Book Writing
Top ten Secrets of Getting Published
Top ten Secrets of Crowd Funding

Upcoming Books

The Transylvania Effect
Shakesbear
The Sweet Spot
Long Way Home
The Girl Who Shot Hitler
The Last Goodbye
The First Dawn
The Unbroken Line
Top ten Secrets of Writing Fiction

“Good writers define reality; bad ones merely restate it. A good writer turns fact into truth; a bad writer will, more often than not, accomplish the opposite.”

- Edward Albee

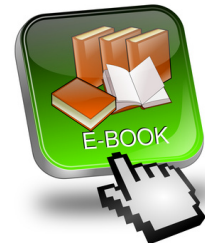


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- ‘The Book of Secrets’ Series
- About Narendra
- Praises for Narendra’s Books



1. Introduction

The secret to becoming not just simply a writer but also a *good* writer is the goal of every aspiring author. Good enough to be published. Mission impossible? Not quite. Not if you are willing to work at it. There are no shortcuts to success. If people tell you otherwise, beware; they might be selling an idea in the form of a product they are peddling for commercial gain, and it's also doubtful they are *genuine* published writers. Any person claiming that he or she could teach you to write a marketable book without a history of his or her own success is a suspect. The real question is not if they can write a book, it is can they write well?

Becoming a published author is not easy but also not impossible. Many can readily pump something out, as is abundantly evident on the Internet, but can they write well? Well enough to be published? Here is one way to do it well.

Good writers don't appear overnight. Just as an excellent engineer must be trained as an engineer and a good physician must study medicine, to become a good writer one must study writing. A degree in English literature or creative writing may help (if one can afford the time and expense), but it isn't necessary. Besides, most of us want to write in our forties or fifties or even later because either we are looking for something other than our current routine, or maybe because, as they say, 'everyone has a book in his head' that needs to be told. Whatever the reason, I can share with you that as a published author you are sure to attain a quasi celebrity status.

After over three decades of working as a chemical engineer assisting in producing more oil for big corporations at a low cost and increasing natural gas production through unnatural means, I decided to take early retirement and try my hand at writing. My first book found some success in the market but I was not happy with it. I then embarked on a methodical process of learning how to write well. Having now published seven books with seven more ready for publication, I am offering the 'Top Ten Secrets of Book Writing' that describes the methodology I developed in the process of becoming a published author.

Yes, you too can join the ranks of successful eBook and paperback writers by following this book, 'Top Ten Secrets of Book Writing,' but the process is not as easy as most websites make it out to be. It requires

hard work driven by the power of passion. But remember that passion without discipline is organized chaos. So passion alone is not enough; a *writing process* is necessary. Being an engineer with over thirty-five years of experience, I have devised or rather engineered a writing process, based on my experience of the past ten years, which is sequential and methodical and if pursued diligently, will to produce amazing results. Following this process myself, today I am a published author of seven books with over 4,000 copies in circulation and seven more books ready to hit the market in the next few years.

To simplify the process, I will discuss it by offering the top ten secrets of book writing or if you prefer, how to become a writer.

Subsequent to this Book there will be another entitled, the “Top Ten Secrets of Getting Published.” Together they can become your reference on how to write well and become a published writer. To see examples of my published eBooks and paperbacks, please visit <http://www.bestmysterybooks.com> and also check out my ongoing marketing and promotion initiatives on www.facebook.com/AuthorNarendraSimone (over 24,000 fans read this page everyday).

You are now on the journey to a successful and satisfying life as an author. Prosperum Scripto.

2. Why is this Book Different?

A good question! Today one has many choices: to attend courses, buy books, subscribe to online courses, and download guides on how to become a good writer. As you well know that all of these options cost time! Time is precious so before you commit yourself to reading this book, ask what value will you find in this guide and why is this book different?

Different because it is a *low-cost* book. Most such Books would like you to pay upwards of \$20 (and ask for you personal details to promote their future products), but this book is sold outright and at a minimal price of \$4.99 (simply to cover its cost). For a limited time I am offering this book for free.

Different because it is *well proven*. It was written by a published author who is actively writing paperbacks and eBooks.

Different because it works, as the author of this book has produced fourteen novels in ten years and has 38 more in the making.

Different because it is a product of hard work. This represents ten years of researching, developing and implementing the techniques of good writing.

Different because the author of this book is committed to refining the techniques of book writing and will make all revisions of this book available to public.

Different because it is written with the goal of helping aspiring authors in their pursuit to becoming an author without being either misled or scammed.

Different because other books would follow it including the “Top Ten Secrets of Getting Published” and “Top ten Secrets of Crowd Funding” etc.



*Differentiation
Creates Value!*

Secret **#1**

3. Secret #1—The Well Read Write Well:



“When you take stuff from one writer it’s plagiarism; but when you take it from many writers, it’s research.”

-Wilson Mizner

The art of good writing is found in the quality of your reading. I’m sure you have heard this one before. This is an open secret and one of the most important tips on becoming a successful writer. Please pay full attention to the details of this secret. It is an absolute must that you read, read and read. In the words of Stephen King, “If you don’t have the time to read, you don’t have the time or the tools to write.” This is the most critical step in the learning process of becoming a good writer.

Put away your writing plan for the moment and get started by making a list of what you are going to read. Unfortunately, reading commercial novels is not going to help you much. You must read the classics. The mind adapts to its environment. It is equally influenced by a positive or negative milieu. Cultivate your mind with the writings of the masters. You read 19th century writers not because you want to write like them but because you want to be successful like them.

I would recommend that you read the works of Charles Dickens, Leo Tolstoy, Feodor Dostoevsky, Henry James, D. H. Lawrence, Edith Wharton, Graham Green, Somerset Maugham, Jane Austin, Oscar Wilde, Emily Bronte, Thomas Hardy, Evelyn Waugh, Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, and Homer, as well as others celebrated in the field. Several online resources can help you determine which books and authors you would like to read. Below are a few examples of such sites:

[http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/16.Best Books of the 19th Century](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/16.Best_Books_of_the_19th_Century)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/may/08/books.booksnews>

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/books/072098best-novels-list.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_100_Best_Books_of_All_Time

Like writing, reading is an art too. Casual reading is for entertainment. Passionate reading is for a higher cause—learning from the masters. Read these authors but not as a routine task. Study them with passion and an eye for detail such as how a plot is developed, how characters are formed, how the story moves forward, how conflicts are developed and resolved, and most important of all, how emotions are expressed and made to come alive. Technique is all about ‘how’ and that is what you need to keep in mind when you are learning the art of writing by reading. And reading alone is not enough. Make an effort to evaluate their works in order to build your own resource library. This will be an ongoing exercise in building your foundation as a writer.

Try reading about four to five books of each of these authors. Variety within (for every author goes through a variety of phases in his or her life) an individual author and amongst the diverse group of writers will yield a plethora of writing skills. Remember to follow the rule of VALUE (Variety in Authors for Learning and Understanding their Expertise). Yes, I agree that it is a lot but all this hard work will pay handsome and long-lasting dividends. Don’t let the media hype make you believe that the path to successful writing is easy and it lies in some clever software or a set of three DVD courses or by spending three days at a retreat resort. Work at it and work hard. Find notes on these authors and read them too to see what motivated them to write. Good writing comes from one’s heart and must be in sync with one’s mind. Great writing comes from the soul.



Successful writing requires passion, perseverance and patience.

I am going to give you an insight—nineteenth century masters did not write fiction. That’s right. Their “fiction” was based on events from their own past or on the people they knew and places they visited. They did this because they knew that the best way to tell the truth is through fiction. Here is a tip that will help you with your reading without costing you a penny. On the net, go to amazon.com and search for ‘classic on kindle free’ and you will find most of the classics of these authors for free. Download them to your Kindle.

So, remember the secret that the ‘Well Read Write Well’: believe it, act on it and start reading now.



4. Secret #2—Ready Reference is Good Reference:



“Life comes before literature, as the material always comes before the work. The hills are full of marble before the world blooms with statues.”

-Phillips Brooks

The problem you will face now is that reading is time consuming and one cannot retain everything one reads. So the solution is that you develop a library of your own including only the material you would like to refer to again and again. It will be your reference library for a long time to come. Don't worry if you don't use all the material all the time. Having such a comprehensive resource will play a vital role in crafting your novels.

You can go to your public library and borrow books. You can go to a secondhand bookstore and buy books on the cheap. But this leaves you living in the twentieth century. Time to move on to the twenty-first century. Time and delay are the two greatest enemies of the mind's growth. Time elapsed is time lost and will eventually slow one's growth.

Here is an insight into how to maximize the value of your time when building a ready reference library of your own writing gems and that too is at no cost to you. Sounds good? It is. Wait no longer and purchase a Kindle. No, I am not on Amazon's payroll, I just believe in their product. Why? The answer is simple—value. They represent perhaps the best value in their offerings for the world of literature.

So, respect your time and read the authors (mentioned in Secret #1) in the digital form. Why? Two reasons. One, you can buy most of the above authors' books on Kindle for free; and second and most

importantly, you can highlight and save passages that you like on your computer. This way you can customize your reference resource library to make the information readily available to you.

As you acquire the classics in your reference library, study how these authors develop descriptions of people, anguish, anger, love, passion, places, landscapes, houses, gardens, sunrises, sunsets, and so on. Highlight and save structure for dialogue, expressions of emotions, internal conflicts, rage, and sadness. Writing is an art of crafting sentences that express emotion. See how the nineteenth century masters do this. Russian writers Leo Tolstoy and Feodor Dostoevsky are skillful at bringing emotions alive, Charles Dickens has no parallel in storytelling, when it comes to describing internal conflict no one surpasses D.H. Lawrence, Henry James perfected the narration of human nature, and Somerset Maugham was best at bringing drama into every scene. These are my impressions. Study to find yours.

Here is a helpful tip. You will notice that these novelists write the way the mind works. When one speaks, his mind is computing several answers and then as his breathing, facial expressions, and movement of hands changes, his mind arrives at an answer that his eyes express and mouth delivers. An amateur would go straight to a response but a master would build the mind process, develop tension, show internal conflict and then give an answer.

After reading each book, link your Kindle to your computer and download your saved clippings. You can organize them on your computer by category such as sunsets, sunrises, anger, passion, internal conflict, people, houses, and gardens. Review and reflect on this information often. No one is advising you to plagiarize someone else's work. But studying these stories will inspire you. It is the same as aspiring painters visiting art galleries to seek inspiration. This exercise will help you develop your own writing style.

Your writing style, as you will be amazed to find, will take form as you assimilate the various styles of the masters, especially those that appeal to you. Soon you will be crafting your own sentences to describe emotions, places and people; include those in a separate folder on your computer as ready material for when you embark on writing your own eBook or paperback.



The path to successful writing requires dedication, determination, and diligence.

Get savvy with the evolving technology when building your digital reference library and it will serve you in a time-efficient way for years to come. An added bonus is that once you start developing and later using your own reference resources, you won't experience writer's block—realizing two goals for the price of one. Or was it something to do with two birds and a stone...well, you know what I mean.



5. Secret #3—Distinction through Differentiation:



“Writing has laws of perspective, of light and shade just as painting does, or music. If you are born knowing them, fine. If not, learn them. Then rearrange the rules to suit yourself.”

-Truman Capote

You have come a long way and now it is time to put into practice what you have learned by embarking upon developing your own writing style. That sounds like a daunting challenge. It is and it isn't. It is if you have not diligently gone through the first two steps of the writing process we have discussed, and it isn't because if you have been reading great authors and have your own digital-ready reference library resource, then you are well prepared for this natural extension of the writing process.

Of course every book needs a new idea, a plot, a twist and powerful characters to attract readers, but there is one thing that underpins the development of loyal readers. It is your own writing style that differentiates you from the crowd. And it must be developed. It is not something you are born with; you will need to experiment with it by consistently working at it.

Before we go any further I shall reemphasize that having your own writing style is critical your survival as a writer. Here is a simple analogy. When you were a little baby your mother told you bedtime stories. Now I'd bet on it that sometime it was the same story being told over and over again. You see it is not just the story (that of course has to be interesting) it is the narrator with the same voice that is important to the listener (and in our case to the reader).

One as a narrator must develop one's own voice in the form of writing style. The development of your own unique writing style will require initiative, innovation and investigation. It will evolve with hard

work and over time, so be patient.

So the question remains: How does one go about it? Being an engineer, I believe in the process of development. I will share the process that worked for me and enabled me to write literary fiction with my own unique style.

Step one of the process is to determine which author had the greatest impact on you. Did you like the way he portrayed scenes, weaved his story, depicted the qualities of his characters, described the sunsets and sunrises, and made you laugh, cry and angry? In short, did you feel as if you were not just reading, but watching his story, like seeing a movie? It could be more than one author that stands out, as one may appeal to you in terms of his narrative powers and another for his powerful dialogue. Make a short list of no more than three such authors. Once you have that list you are ready to go to step two.

Step two is to get every book, yes, every book these authors wrote. Read them all, more than once if necessary. Study their writing style by cutting and saving clips of the pieces of writing you liked, categorize them in different folders and save them on your computer. This will be your 'Core Resource' and you can study it over and over again when crafting your sentences. Such methodology should be at the center of your style development. Your own distinctive style of writing will be a mix of different aspects of different authors. What may surprise you is that through your investment of time and perseverance, the influence of your chosen authors will diminish and a style that is distinctly yours will appear.

The third and last step is refinement. Every time you're certain you have the style you like, discuss it with friends and family, or even with professional writers. Ask them to critique it. See if they feel the way you did when you read your favorite author(s). Approach all criticism with an open mind. Remember, you asked for their help and not sympathy. So be brave and take all criticism in a positive way. Work at your writing style again and again and again. With this process you will reach your goal and you will know it when you get there.

Secret #4

6. Secret #4—Build a Blueprint:



“The discipline of the writer is to learn to be still and listen to what his subject has to tell him.”

-Rachel Louise Carson

Words don't just fall out of a pen (or keypad) and arrange themselves into a story. No projects, especially of complex nature, of an industrial, commercial or residential nature, can be effectively realized without making a proper blueprint first. Planning is the key to modeling a good story. I can guarantee you that the story you finish with will be very different from the one you started with. Why? Because a story has a life of its own and it evolves based on 'What If' and 'Why Not' scenarios. Don't ever try force a plot into a story, let the story evolve. But it must start with a plan based on a blueprint. If not, you will find that the story has no intrigue and, thus, no soul.

You want your readers to be captivated by the intrigue with which your story unfolds. To do so the story must be complex in nature yet always moving forward. So we turn to the idea of process again, and must ask, how do you model your story to first create its blueprint before building a structure around it?

This unnerving task is surprisingly simple, thanks to technology. Here is how it works. Step one is to pick a novel that you like best. That is, best in terms of storytelling. In my case it was *The Painted Veil* by Somerset Maugham. On your computer make a table with five columns with column headings: Chapter No, Story Time (flashback or present), POV (point of view), Plot Summary (intent of the story) and Remarks (what you think the author is trying to convey). Now as you re-read the novel filling out your table, observe how the story develops moving through flashbacks, character development and plot buildup. Your last

7. Secret #4—Write from your Heart:



“One’s life story cannot be told with complete veracity. A true autobiography would have to be written in states of mind, emotions, heartbeats, smiles and tears; not in months and years, or physical events. Life is marked off on the soul by feelings, not by dates.”

-Helen Adams Keller

Okay, so here we are. You have reached the halfway mark, so congratulations and do something you enjoy to celebrate your success to date. That is right. Don’t wait for the world to discover you, for your biggest accomplishment has already been realized by you discovering your hidden talent(s). Perhaps with a special coffee, or a glass of wine, or even a glass of champagne, indulge yourself. Success is worthless if not celebrated.

The process of working with your head has been completed with Secret #4 and now working with your heart starts. What also begins now is the process that will reveal how one ‘drafts & crafts’ a story.

Learn to write from your heart and not from your head. It is like with any sport where initially step-by-step training is required in developing hand-eye coordination, which over a period of time and after a comprehensive training program yields an automatic reaction and without thinking. Muscle memory provides an instinctive response based on a well-coordinated, hand-eye response. What one requires then is a lot of heart and courage to trust oneself and as a result excel in one’s sport. The art of writing is the same.

How do you make this switch in writing? It may sound odd but instead of short stories or fiction, write your first novel as a non-fiction or better still a memoir. That’s right, a memoir because in that genre all the

pieces of the puzzle are already present and all that's required is for you to put them together in such a way that the puzzle completes the picture.

Don't look far for stories as they are all around you. To learn to write from the heart one must draw on emotions from one's own experiences. So a memoir is perhaps the place to start. Write how you feel and not what you think. Allow yourself to be transported back in time to re-live your past. Someone once said that there is enough material to write based on the first 15 years of one's life. Alternatively, choose a story about your mother or father, or it could be about one of your brothers or sisters, or even a close friend.

We all have the power of self-hypnosis. Past events, even decades old, are buried in the deep recesses of our mind. To evoke these memories one simply has to sit in a quiet place and reflect on one's past. First day. Nothing. First week. Still nothing. But don't give up because it takes concentrated thinking and sooner or later there will be a spark and the past event will materialize like a slow motion movie. And then the floodgates will open and one's whole past is relived. It is not a matter of try and try again, it has more to do with building a certain momentum before a breach occurs and then the dam bursts. I tried this myself and brought back five-decades-old memories, as vivid as if they took place yesterday. Such material is priceless in writing from your heart. Of course you can supplement this by further research (through Google).

Use all this material and other research and through applying it to the standard blueprint model (Secret #4) of your choice, develop your story logic tree. Experiment with 'What Ifs' and 'Why Not' to build intrigue, plot, and twists to build a compelling story. Go through several iterations until you feel satisfied that you have a story you can believe in. Don't write yet; just develop a blueprint that excites you.

Building the blueprint of a story has three key attributes: creativity, concentration, and consistency.

8. Secret #4—First Write the Beginning and the Ending:



“There are three rules of writing the novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.”

-W. Somerset Maugham

So many writers abandon their stories before completion because they either have not set the goals, or do not know what the end result is of their story, or worse, both. Experience has shown that writing the beginning of a story first in the form of a prologue or a preface will help to set the scene of how the story will evolve. Equally important is to write the ending soon after the prologue. Why? Because the lack of a written ending could well be a hindrance in the development of a smooth-flowing story. The end of the story is like a beacon to keep the writer focused while a prologue is like fanciful wrapping on a present, enticing readers to unwrap it to discover the story.

So, an important key to keeping one focused and to maintaining clarity in one's head is to write Prologue and the Final Chapter as the starting point of one's novel. This helps create a solid framework that aids the writer in developing his story pragmatically, for now he will know where he is going with the plot.

The intent of a prologue is to set up a hook to foster an interest in readers to pursue the story. The hook must present multiple scenarios to fashion intrigue. If you don't get excited by reading your prologue then change things around, add and delete as necessary and most important of all, stay flexible in changing the concept of your story, if warranted, to

remain excited about the way the story is introduced in the prologue. If you were not excited about your story by reading the prologue then no one else will be either. Once written it is not cast in stone! You will find that later when you embark upon writing the main body of the novel you might change your mind about what is in the prologue. Go ahead and make the changes. All three aspects of a novel—prologue, main body, and the ending—live in a parallel universe during their evolution. They are interrelated and interdependent.

The conclusion does not always have to be a ‘happily ever after’ ending. It can be sad or evoke other emotions, but it must resolve conflict satisfactorily. Whatever you started must be finalized. You don’t have to startle your reader by dropping bombshells in the end to construct a surprise ending. When you are ready to write the main body of the story, you will be building clues throughout the novel and allowing your reader to grasp them as they follow the plot. That is the way you engage your readers. It is not only your story; it will be the story of all of your readers, too.

The prologue builds expectation and the ending meets it. Alternatively, prologue sets the aim of a journey to a chosen destination while the conclusion is the destination and the main body of the novel is the path, the journey. Think of the prologue and the completion of the story as the two pans of a scale kept in balance by a beam in flux to find equilibrium. Change weights in either or both pans till a perfect equilibrium is struck. It is not just a matter of writing a story but crafting a plot encased between the prologue and the ending. Treat your prologue and ending as an oscillating pendulum and change and refine both until a perfect harmony is established. Now you are ready to embark upon writing your masterpiece.

9. Secret #7—Construct the Story Structure:



“Writing is easy. All you do is stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.”

-Gene Fowler

This step in the overall process of successful eBook and paperback writing is the most demanding and complex. I do not have a simple two-step process or a technique that will help you develop the structure of your story. One needs several tools to correctly structure a story. Don't jump ahead into the process of building your story just because you have the prologue and know the ending. I can assure you that your mind will be bubbling with ideas and will compel you to take the plunge straight into writing your story. But resist the temptation. A methodical and well-thought-out strategy here will later pay handsome dividends.

The first step is to develop a resume of the protagonist. Write out every aspect of his or her personality. How tall, the weight, skin complexion, hair color, eye color, physique, parents' origin, countries travelled, number of languages spoken, education, special interests and hobbies, sports, and whatever else comes into your mind. Study the list and see if you like what you have created. Your character must become a person. If not then make changes until such time that you like the protagonist you have created and can relate to him or her as a living being.

The second step is to repeat the process for each character in your story. Yes, compose the resume of every character in your story. Why? Because this will make your characters ring true due to the consistency in their behavior and traits. There has to be a chemistry amongst all your

characters; otherwise, the story will sound disjointed. The only way to establish such chemistry is to develop the background profile for the characters and change that profile as you deem necessary to make them fit.

As you develop the resumes of various characters you may get ideas as to how some of these characters may be different to distinguish them from each other. You don't want your various characters to look and sound alike so re-write their resumes and make appropriate changes. Ensure that the names you give them are also very different sounding to avoid confusion in the reader's mind. To get ideas in developing various characters think of your friends and family members. Take aspects from their different personalities and create a composite effect of what you want to develop as a fictitious character. Ideally you want to use parts and behaviors of real people in creating your characters so that they look and feel authentic. You may also want to include characters that are your favorite on the cinema screen and once again create composite character from the various attributes of stars you like.

So now you have the starting and the ending and most if not all the characters ready to participate in the development of your story. The stage is set. It is like casting for all the characters first so their chemistry can be evaluated and matched before shooting a movie. But hold on. We are not quite ready yet to start writing the novel.

The third step is to draw a timeline of events and to place all your characters at the right age as they progress through the events of your story.

Okay, we are ready now. Follow your story logic tree diagram and progress your story according to the blueprint. Compose the complexity of your plot and build it in accordance with the story logic tree diagram, while creating suspense through clues that may first seem irrelevant, but eventually fit perfectly in the resolution of the story. Crafting a good story is like solving a puzzle where the pieces eventually form the complete picture.

Let me share an insight into how to tell a story from someone else's point of view (because it is likely that the story will be told by the protagonist). It is an out of body experience! That is right. Imagine you are at some place higher and further away watching yourself telling the story (where you are the protagonist). This way you can be the actor and observer at the same time.

Gustave Flaubert said it best, “An author in his book must be like God in the universe, present everywhere and visible nowhere.”

More tips to strengthen your story. Work on your dialogue by acting it out. One can't possibly depict anger well by quietly sipping steaming coffee while sitting by a window writing the book. Pace around inside the room. Watch your body gestures in front of a mirror. Say your dialogue out loud, for dialogue must sound spontaneous to appear realistic. Keep writing and rewriting till your dialogues sounds true and the characters come alive. Write dialogues you would actually say.

Don't worry about the story being perfect yet for at this stage you are merely drafting your story and crafting it will follow later. Stay true to your story as by doing so you will be treating your readers with respect. You are writing to indulge them, to offer them a ride down the path of adventure and intrigue, so it is as much their story as it is yours.



10. Secret #8—Draft & Craft:



“I do not believe that any writer has ever exposed this bovarysme, the human will to see things as they are not, more clearly than Shakespeare.”

-George Eliot

It is important to maintain the flow of your thoughts so don't be constrained by the number of words and pages, just keep writing. Your first draft should be longer than what your final manuscript will be. Over 120,000 words and still not done? No problem. Keep going. Think of your story at this stage as a canvas. The artist first covers the canvas with gesso to build a strong foundation. He then uses background color to cover his canvas and draws the outline of what he wants to paint. Layer by layer the variety of colors of paint are applied to give distinction to every aspect of the painting. Eventually the final touches are applied to bring the painting to life through its expression, theme and emotion.

Keep drafting your story until you are satisfied that all your thoughts are expressed. Once you are satisfied with what you have written then the process of crafting will start. Remember, the first time around, if you cannot even find the right house, or the right job, or in this modern world even the right spouse, then how do you expect to right the perfect novel through your first draft. The time has come for you to take the steps to draft and craft.

Now read your writing chapter-by-chapter, paragraph-by-paragraph and sentence-by-sentence. Eliminate those chapters that either sound superfluous or impede the progress of the story flow. Study the paragraphs and see if you can shorten them without losing their intent. And here comes the tricky part. Consider each sentence to determine if it delivers a message, a meaningful idea. Don't be in a rush to push your

novel out because it only remains yours to play with until you publish it. Once published it belongs to your readers.

It is easy to delete what you find unnecessary. Read and re-read to ensure that the storyline flows smoothly, the characters are true to their nature, and the scenes come alive as you read them. Be critical and ruthless. This is when you may want to refer to your digital reference library to see if there is better way, as demonstrated by the masters of the art of writing, to say what you wish to say.

Don't be dismayed thinking that this is the process for all your books. No, this is for your initial work. Because with time and more books you would realize that your writing has become quite sharp requiring less and less improvements. You know, learning to walk before we can run kind of scenario!



11. Secret #9—Review & Critique:



“Some editors are failed writers, but so are most writers.”

-George Elliot

There are considerations other than the storyline that you also must take into account, such as the English language itself. Find a family member or a friend who is willing to read your story and can offer you a candid critique: character-by-character, and scene-by-scene. Study these critiques and discuss ‘what if’ and ‘Why not’ scenarios. Take all criticism as positive and use it to your advantage by improving your story.

But we are not done yet. The novel that you have revised and thought finished must be reviewed one more time with ‘quality’ in mind. Ensure that the story progresses organically, has momentum, is filled with hooks to keep the readers turning pages, the characters are true, there are no inconsistencies in the characters’ behavior, the suspense offers cliffhanger intensity, and the conflict evokes the appropriate emotion. But that is not enough. Check your grammar, spelling and tense for correctness. There is more. Use active sound and bring your dialogue to life with a natural voice. Just when you think you have a masterpiece, ask yourself what is missing. Talk it over with friends and family. Revise, revise and revise.

There will always be some who will be envious of your success as a writer and criticize your work, trying to discourage you with such statements as ‘not bad for the first one,’ or ‘not as good as my other friend has done,’ or ‘not bad, but don’t give up your day job just yet.’ Ignore them with a smile.

You are trying to become a storyteller and not an English professor. So, don’t worry if you cannot correct grammar, use appropriate tense, and maintain an active voice because once you have come this far it is time to

engage a professional editor to critique and do a line-by-line edit of your book. There are literally hundreds if not thousands of editors who are trying to sell their services. Beware, because like in any other profession, they are not equal.

Make a short list of say six editors selected from reputable magazines like “Writer’s Digest” or, if you are a member of a writer’s guild, ask for their recommendation, or search Google for list of recommended editors. Send each a four-page sample of your manuscript and ask them to give you an example of their work and their fee. This sample edit should be free of charge. Select the best and determine if the cost meets your budget.

Once your manuscript is fully edited, you should receive two versions from your editor—a highlighted manuscript with suggested changes and corrections, and a clean copy. Go over the former with patience and study every suggested change to both learn how it improves your original work and see if you feel satisfied with the change.

If you are dissatisfied with the edited version and have the time and money, then perhaps you may want to engage the services of another editor and see how she will enhance an already edited version of your manuscript. Once you feel satisfied you are ready to move on to the last stage of the writing process.



Secret #10

12. Secret #10—Doze & Closes:



“Writing only leads to more writing.”

-Sidonie Gabrielle Colette

The time has come to doze & close. Put aside your final work for a week and mull your story over in your head without looking at the manuscript. Something you see on TV or perhaps in a movie, or read in the newspaper, may give you an idea to make minor changes to your manuscript. Don't be afraid to make those changes. Remember that the manuscript once published is beyond your control so you still have time to play with it. It still is your baby.

Rewrite if necessary those parts that you feel can be enhanced with new and improved ideas and then finalize your novel. Read and review it as many times as you can and then finish it.

There are a few more steps that we can learn in the ‘Top Ten Secrets of Getting Published’ but for now move on to your next novel, for you are writer. Writers are about writing so don't confuse your ability to write with the process of publishing. Just like an athlete is not ready to compete without proper training, a writer is not ready to publish without an ability to continue writing. Besides, once you develop a good number of readers with your first book, you will want to keep those readers by providing them with more books.

Well done! Having learned the top ten secrets of writing and finished composing your first book, you are a writer now. Enjoy the process as it unfolds, as writing is perhaps the only vocation that you can relish even in your eighties or even nineties. It does not demand a strong physique or well-developed muscles, but it does require practicing the writing exercise to keep your mind active. So keep writing. Write at least 1,000 words every day and enjoy.

Other Resources

I'll be writing other guides that would help you in finding solutions on how to become a successfully published writer. I tend to break away from traditional approaches to book business and based on my over 35 years of international experience as a strategist for major businesses I am always exploring new and innovative ideas that are practical and easy to implement and employ out of the box thinking.

You can also follow me on various social media sites to check my ongoing suggestions about writing, publishing and crowd funding. My Social Network community includes >10,000 LinkedIn, >24,000 Facebook, and >5,000 Twitter connections.

[*Narendra's Books*](#)

[*Narendra's Facebook Page*](#)

[*Follow Narendra on Twitter*](#)

[*Join Narendra on LinkedIn*](#)

At the end of this guide you may want to check out some of the praises that my books have received from professional book reviewers that shows that the guides that I offer to assist you in becoming a successful writer works. You could also check out some of my eBooks and paperbacks at my website at [*Narendra's Website*](#)



“The Book of Secrets” Series

The book of secret series would contain several helpful guides in making you a successfully published author. All books would be made available for a minimal price on the website <http://www.bestmysterybooks.com>

- 1. Top Ten Secrets of Book Writing** *[Published]*
 - 2. Top Ten Secrets of Getting Published** *[Published]*
 - 3. Top Ten Secrets of Crowd Funding** *[Published]*
 - 4. Top Ten Secrets of Book Promotion**
 - 5. Top Ten Secrets of Book Selling**
 - 6. Top Ten Secrets of Fiction Writing** *[Soon]*
 - 7. Top Ten Secrets of Memoire Writing**
 - 8. Top Ten Secrets of Travel Story Writing**
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About Narendra:

Narendra (Naren) Simone and the Hindu God, the Lord Krishna has something in common—they were both born in the town of Mathura (India), albeit about a few thousand years apart. He attended schools in India, England and Canada (Narendra, not the Lord Krishna) and studied at the Universities of Agra & IIT Roorkee (both in India), Nottingham (England) and Calgary (Canada). He has lived and worked in the USA, Canada, England, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and India.

Witnessing six wars (4 in India and 2 in the Middle East) and travelling to over 80 countries has allowed him to gain an in-depth knowledge of various and diverse cultures. Inspired by true events and human rights issues his writing offers insight into cultural differences, age-old traditional values and behavior dilemma that coexist in the vast diversity and different races of the world.

Nomad by nature and apt on taking up challenges he travelled through many countries building his repertoire of dozens of stories. Writing the stories was not enough. These needed to be told. So, he is building a platform from which he can tell his stories to the world. Today he has over 10,000 LinkedIn connections linking him to about 26 million professionals, over 25,000 Facebook fans, over 5,000 Twitter fans.

Although richly influenced by his foreign travels, Narendra finds his inspiration from his life experiences and through his novels invites you to join him on a journey of life, adventure, mystery and intrigue.

Narendra is a citizen of Canada (and resides in Canada and the USA) and writes fiction, memoirs, and misadventure.

Praises for Narendra's Books:

Desert Song - Narendra Simone in "Desert Song" goes beyond entertainment to provide insight into the very complexities that challenge our understanding of conflicts; and prevent peace in the region today. Watch out. This is a great tale. Once you pick this book up you will also find it a challenge to put it down; with surprises continuing till the end. — Kim (Amazon)

Desert Song – "Reading *Desert Song* is what I imagine a few evenings to be like of listening to a master story teller take us through the descent of Beowulf. Medieval in its proportions, gruesome in its verity, raw in its necessity, *Broken Dream* exposes the sinister triangulations of politics, religion, and law in a world wrought with dark forces. Our hero, Matt Slater, witnesses unimaginable crimes in his desperate search for a lost child. Startling ironies erupt on each page as Simone's first thriller hurtles us through a journey both disturbing and authentic. Before you read any other book on the Taliban, read this book first."—Almeda Glenn Miller, author of "Tiger Dreams"

Desert Song – A Brilliant Story Masterfully Crafted – "Right from the beginning I enjoyed Narendra's style ... the picture was drawn and I stepped right into the set ... he cleverly interweaves his characters and gives his reader intrigue and interest in learning the dangerous world of Arabia ... Once I started reading it I could not wait to finish it." – Praveen Gupta, Published Author of 14 Books

Desert Song - Narendra Simone is an author that truly knows how to capture the imagination! Like all great storytellers, he transports you into another world and gets you completely wrapped up in it. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to step into a hidden world within the Middle East and get consumed by a cleverly woven tale. Can't wait for Narendra to release more books!"— Maria (Amazon)

The Last Goodbye – "In his riveting story, *The Last Goodbye*, Narendra Simone skillfully portrays the soul of a mother/son relationship in a culture that remains an enigma to so many of us." – Mike Sirota, author of "Fire Dance" and "The Burning Ground".

Tuscan Dream – **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** – Narendra is a widely travelled author with an eloquent writing style. Artistic descriptions of the beautiful city of Florence, creates an enriched backdrop for the characters and plot of this novel of romance and intrigue. I began reading this story and could not put it down as it transported me to a culture of great beauty, architecture and art, through the eyes of captivating characters. – Elaine Fuhr, Allbooks Reviews

Cry of the Soul - Nail-biting thriller written with great style—Like his other novels, you are automatically drawn into Simone's novels due to his elaborate style of writing and rich use of the English language. His stories are nicely paced, and his characterization of each person in the story is quite marvellous. – Dickinson (Amazon)

Tuscan Dream - At storytelling Simone is a master, getting you to turn each page with ease. The joy of this book is truly in the writing. — Jan Heart (Amazon)

Temple of Hope - Narendra Simone establishes himself as a top-flight mystery/thriller author with this excellent book. We can only be grateful that Sophie Kramer will be around in his future novels. Highly recommended on many levels.— Grady Harp (Amazon)

Pink Balcony Silver Moon - Amazing combination of poetic character development, great plot and wonderful way to put you right in the scene. — Avid (Amazon)

The Unholy Ghost - This is Narendra Simone's best so far. It addresses the ugly reality of pedophilia in those we should be able to trust. His writing and descriptions are really good and I really like his protagonist, Sophie Kramer. She keeps the pace going at a fast and furious rate and of course everything is not as it first appears. This novel is well worth reading.— Dickinson (Amazon)

Tuscan Dream - Stunning and original - shows great promise—The strength of this novel is undoubtedly in the writing, where the author describes quite remarkably the Italian landscape, atmosphere, the city, and Italian culture - it is extremely rich in language and quite original. I found the novel to be both absorbing and appealing, a measure of the writer's talent.— Jan Heart (Amazon)



“A well-written life is almost as rare as a well-spent one.”

-Thomas Carlyle

The End

