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Storyworld First: Creating A Unique Fantasy World For Your Novel



Synopsis

The question I hear most from beginners about building a fantasy storyworld is, “Where do I start?” Oz, Wonderland, Narnia, the 100 Acre Wood, Neverland, Hogwarts, the United Federation of Planets, Westeros, Middle Earth, Alagaesia, Terabithia, Gotham City, Jurassic Park, Fablehaven, and a galaxy far, far away. These fictional places have become real in the minds and hearts of readers. These storyworlds that someone invented – someone who was once like you, learning to tell stories, learning to write, and dreaming about publishing a novel. Whether you’re starting from scratch or are looking to add depth to a finished story, Storyworld First will get you thinking. Includes tips for worldbuilding: Astronomy * Magic * Government Map making * History * Religion Technology * Languages * Culture And how it all works together.

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Customer Reviews

I’ve thought I should read this book for a while now, then I saw another writer talking about it again recently and made up my mind to finally read it. I decided to go with the physical copy of the book because I like having writing resources that I can hold and make notes in. The book is well written, easy to understand, and pretty short and concise. I don’t read hardly any Fantasy or Science Fiction, or really any books that take place in a made-up world. Therefore I didn’t really “get” any of the examples, but I was still able to follow along with what the author was trying to convey. There were some sections I skipped over because they were talking about how to incorporate magic into books, and since I never plan on doing that, I didn’t figure I needed to read those segments. There

were also various times that the author used examples from books that I'm not comfortable with, so I skipped over those parts too. At the end of the book there are a lot of helpful "Extras" that I know I'll be referencing. The book was actually full of information that I have a feeling I'll be referencing in the future. It really gave me a better idea of how to thoroughly think through the world I'm building for my readers - no matter if the world takes place here on earth or not. Once again I'm amazed by how much time, thought, and research goes into writing. I'm giving this book 4 out of 5 stars, 8 out of 10. (The lack of 5 stars is mainly because of all the magic that I'm uncomfortable with, as well as the references to books that I can't recommend.)

This book goes into great detail in creating a fantasy world and includes in depth information such as creating the map which is something I'm trying to do at the moment, also other things I haven't thought of including creating religions. I do like the word list for naming fantasy places and the various worksheets. There is a lot of information but not too much to overwhelm you which I get overwhelmed often. Overall a very informational and helpful guide/ book to help you with your fantasy or science fiction world.

As a teen writer who usually deals with realistic settings and stories, but somehow got a "weird" story idea that required world building, I was quite uncertain what to do with myself. I tried to come up with a few things on my own and wrote the story and a sequel, but now that I'm trying to edit those books, I quickly realized I needed some help. I knew my world building had serious holes and I didn't really know where to start. This book is a wonderful, practical guide full of questions to help get you thinking about your story, plus extras like how to write wars, lists of cool words to make names for your world, and examples from Jill Williamson's own work. Perfect for people in the same boat as me or anyone else who needs some prompts/ideas and tips on specific parts of world building.

I've been writing fiction privately for 20 years, but I sometimes find myself getting lost between the creation of my story and its world. I found this book to have many helpful tools and tricks, and it got my creative juices flowing. It was laid out in an orderly fashion (and I love organization), and structured in a way that will make it easy for me to find the tips I need when I need them. Whether you've been writing for years or have just sat down with a word processor (or pen and paper!), I recommend at least having this book in your arsenal. Read it through from beginning to end or peruse at your leisure to light a fire for creative expression!

This has some very good points, but I felt she asked a lot of questions without providing any real answers. Detail was generally lacking and in that sense I can't say it's really a guide, so much as something to get you thinking. You're still on your own. This tends to be true of world building guides. Anyone can think of questions. Discussing possible answers and thinking things through would be better. The pros and cons of any approach isn't really discussed, While I understand using your own work as examples of certain things, she relentlessly promotes her own work without blushing. It becomes increasingly irritating. She passes up no opportunity. You could almost think the real goal of this it to get people interested in her novels.

I found the creating sheets invaluable. There are a few good points. I agree with others that it looked like she was promoting the book she was writing at that time. I didn't know it was written for teen writers.

Among the best World Building books you can purchase. The author goes very in-depth by considering almost every question you have to encounter regarding creating a complete world from scratch. Highly recommended for those serious about building any kind of story.

I bought this book for my 11-year-old son to encourage his budding interest in writing. He writes dragon stories, and I thought he would appreciate tools to help him create the worlds where his characters live. His interest in writing and confidence in his ability has taken off! He immediately asked for Williamson's book, Go Teen Writers, and devoured that as well. He's now working on three books: one for NaNoWriMo and two for Christmas gifts. He hopes to be a writer one day. I believe Williamson's clear, engaging style has helped him dream big AND given him concrete steps to follow as far as he will take it.

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