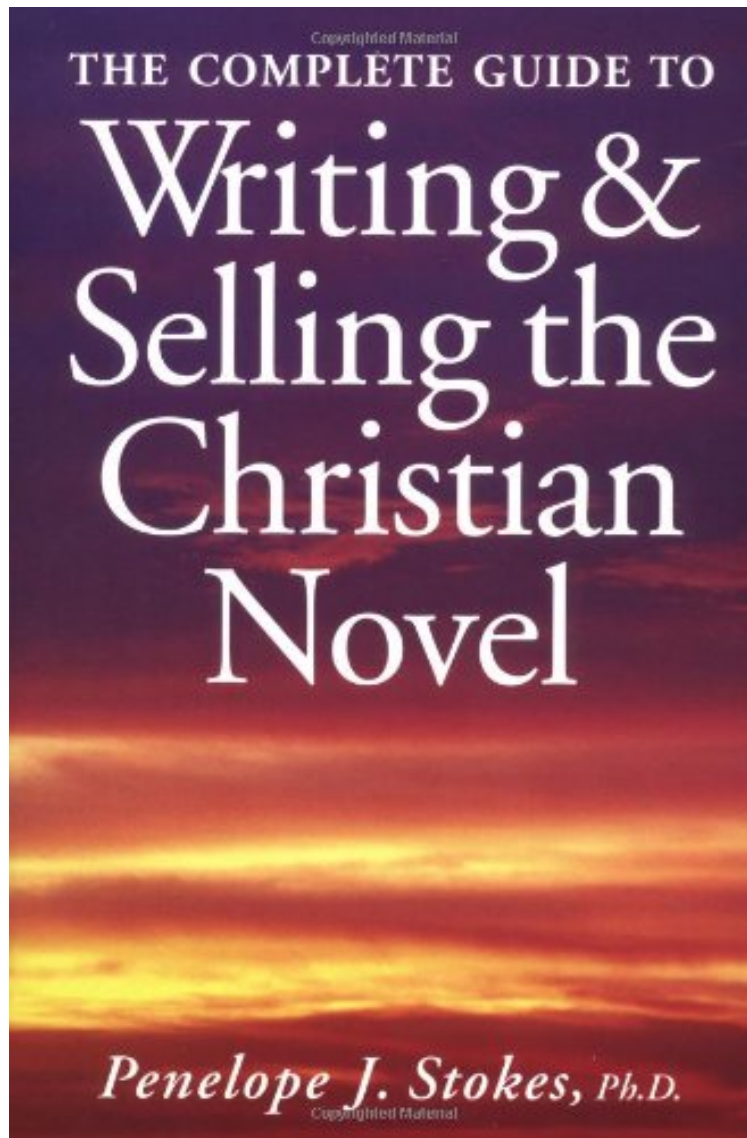


(Read free) The Complete Guide to Writing and Selling the Christian Novel

# The Complete Guide to Writing and Selling the Christian Novel

*Penelope J. Stokes*

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**Penelope J. Stokes : The Complete Guide to Writing and Selling the Christian Novel** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Guide to Writing and Selling the Christian Novel:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. but this does the best job of explaining how novels go together By Mayo Quinn I own a bookshelf full of how-to-write books, but this does the best job of explaining how novels go together; the component parts. Its usefulness is not limited to readers who share the author's faith viewpoint. This is a

nuts-and-bolts writing guide, with special admonitions for writers hoping to score in the Christian category.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Honest CoachBy EmelyI bought this book because I was new to novel writing and had just started writing my first Christian novel. I wish I had bought this book before I started writing my novel. At first I was afraid of getting another handbook that was filled with outlines detailing how my book should be structured, thus leaving me with no room to be creative on my own. This book does not hinder your creativity as an author, it enhances it. It is what it says it is, a guide, and an excellent one at that. Dr. Stokes shares with authors what makes a novel great, and she does it in an entertaining and enjoyable way. I didn't feel like I was reading a textbook about writing a novel. I felt like I was talking with an engaging and encouraging coach who's not afraid of being honest about what works and what doesn't. The way I like to put it, she steers you in the right direction, and gives you wings to fly in that direction. A rare treasure indeed!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Barbara MischkeThis is very practical advice.

Dr. Stokes takes you through every step of the creative process, from plot development and characterization to editing and revision. And, with her expert advice on the Christian literary market, you'll be able to submit your work. But what's more, you'll learn to craft beautiful, inspiring fiction that touches the hearts and imaginations of your readers.

.com Writing for the Christian-fiction market has its benefits. One generally doesn't need an agent to get one's manuscript considered. Though the quality of Christian fiction has improved greatly in the past decade or so, publishers are still willing to take a chance on a newcomer. And most Christian publishing houses are small, making the publishing process a warmer, more personal experience. But be forewarned. Christian, or evangelical, fiction isn't just about characters who "pray, preach and sing gospel songs," says Penelope J. Stokes. It's about "living, breathing spiritual beings who grapple with the hard questions of life and find ... hope in the reality of God's presence in the world." Stokes has edited (and written) Christian fiction for 15 years; her Complete Guide to Writing Selling the Christian Novel is a fantastic resource for the writer of Christian fiction. In addition to providing advice from which any fiction writer would benefit, Stokes does a fine job of defining Christian fiction. It is, she says, first and foremost fiction. It is not sermonizing. It is not about saving lost souls ("Rarely," she says, "does a religious novel find an audience among the unconverted"). It best not be full of religious jargon or Bible-quoting zealots. Still, it must have "a distinctly religious viewpoint, usually marked by the personal conversion of one or more characters." And just because, as a believer, you see your writing as a gift and a calling, don't think for a minute that your work is beyond revision. "Creation is not the end of the process," says Stokes. "It's the beginning. In the image of our Creator, we continue the work of ongoing re-creation. We revise, refine, reorganize and rewrite. And at the end of the day we, too, can rest and say, 'It is good.'" --Jane Steinberg