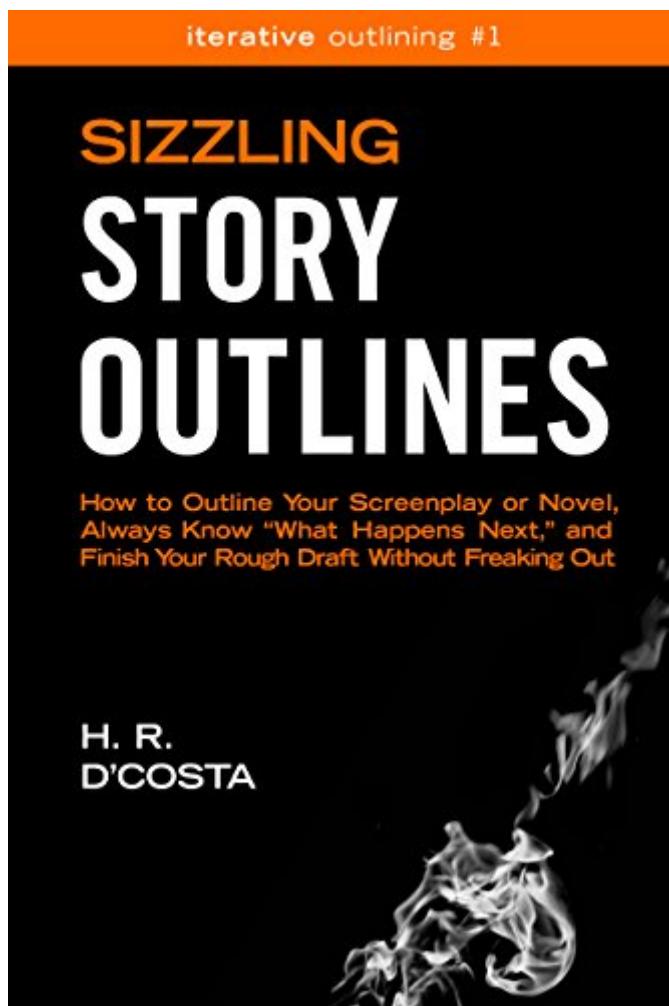


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Sizzling Story Outlines: How To Outline Your Screenplay Or Novel, Always Know "What Happens Next," And Finish Your Rough Draft Without Freaking Out (Iterative Outlining Book 1)





Synopsis

Go from Idea to Outline • And Finish Your Draft Without Freaking OutWhen writing, going well, it can be immensely satisfying, not to mention lucrative. But, all too often, this isn't the case. In the beginning, sure. Enthralled by your story idea, you write tons of material. Your word count grows in leaps and bounds. But the deeper you get into your screenplay or novel, the more difficult writing it becomes. The words no longer flow freely; they trickle out. Panicked, you stare at your computer screen, wondering, What happens next? You have no idea. You've run out of steam. You're stuck. You end up with a half-finished draft. Thousands of words that go nowhere. After a few cycles of this, you may question whether you're even cut out for this writing gig, after all. Don't lose faith! The problem isn't with you. It's with your method. Here's one solution: outline your screenplay or novel before writing it. With such an outline in hand, you won't get stranded. You'll know where your story is headed; you won't have to decide where to take it. You can navigate blank pages without panicking. With this writing skills guide, you'll learn how to quickly produce such an outline. A 3-part process, it looks like this:

- Make Sure Your Story Idea Isn't a Time-SinkWhen you get a seemingly great story idea, you probably like to "run with it." Here's the thing: not all ideas are worth the time it takes to outline them, let alone write a first draft based on them. No matter whether you're a "plotter" or a "pantser," you should develop your story idea first, so it has the 6 components all compelling stories share. This way, you can maximize its potential, making sure it has enough substance to sustain a full-length film or novel—and enough appeal to attract an audience to read (or watch) it.
- Build Your Story StructureEven a great idea can collapse if it doesn't have solid structure to support it. Basically, when well executed, story structure ensures your screenplay or novel becomes progressively more interesting as it goes along. In addition, because you've figured out structural signposts in advance, you won't be traversing "in the dark" for very long. You'll always have a bearing to head toward, a destination just around the corner. Hence, you're unlikely to become so discouraged that you abandon your project altogether. But if you want to boost your confidence and enhance your efficiency, then you'll want to:
- Outline Your Story with a Method Backed by Scientific Research (Sort Of)Here, you'll learn about a radical new outlining method that will help you plot out your entire story in as little as 2 hours. It incorporates a simple technique Stanford researchers have concluded can make you 60% more creative (on average). A Sampling of What You Will Accomplish with This Step-By-Step Writing Guide

your

protagonist's goal will have the attributes necessary to prevent audience attention from drifting away you'll make your story idea more ironic, and hence, more commercial using a simple template, you'll produce a one-sentence summary of your story (which will help you write and market it) you'll figure out your first-act break and inciting incident in 10 minutes (probably less) you'll crack the middle of your story (including the midpoint and the end of Act Two), so that writing it will be less of a stress-fest you'll take measures to prevent your screenplay or novel from wimping out during the climax you will have a list of all the plot points in your story, ultimately enabling you to write a better story, faster (no fancy software required) Buy this writing guide today, learn how to outline your story effectively, and say good-bye to panic!

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Customer Reviews

I think I have at least a dozen books on my Writing shelf exclusively on story structure, including such gems as the books by K.M. Weiland, Larry Brooks and James Scott Bell. Between the three of them, they tell you just about everything a writer needs to know about story structure. There's only one thing they don't tell you: how to actually plan a story around it. Knowing what should go into a

well-plotted novel is one thing, but using this knowledge to **shape your own story** into publishable material is a totally different skill. And this is exactly what H.R. D'Costa teaches you to do. The book targets novelists and script writers alike. If ever you felt stuck with writing a logline, this book walks you through the process, making it a breeze. If ever you asked yourself where exactly your Act 1 break should go - your answer is in this book (and it's not where you thought it should be!). It's packed with small but immensely important discoveries like these - and D'Costa doesn't just tell you what they are and how to use them, but actually guides you through the process of applying them to your story! Another important thing, this book really motivates you to dig into your story deeper and deeper. As of writing this review, I've only read it once - all the while applying its principles to my current WIP which resulted in turning its admittedly messy "plot" into a convincing and coherent story. Still, I'm under the impression that I haven't even scratched the surface yet. This book is a true mine of hands-on information on exactly how to plot out a story. An incredibly valuable resource, I just can't recommend it enough.

There are many books on outlining, but this is one of the better ones. There are clear explanations of what to do, how it can help you, and why it matters. The explanations of why are very useful in being able to understand how to properly use (or adapt for use) the methods in this book. Outlining seems a simple idea on the surface, but executing it well is very difficult, at least for me. Even though I've read many other outlining guides, this was still worth the price of admission. Unfortunately, you won't get the full value out of this book unless you buy the other books in the series from the same author, particularly "Solid Story Compass". At times, the way the author puffs up his other books (or his website) can be a bit intrusive, and he does tend to waste space telling you how awesome what he's about to tell you is - really, I could have done without that. It would be better if he let people decide for themselves instead of putting on the hard-sell. If you were to buy only one book from the series, buy "Solid Story Compass", and not this one. There are many other good books on outlining, but the story compass book offers an unconventional perspective, and is useful no matter how you write, and no matter how long or short your story. In my opinion, the author has material for one really good book; it would have been great as a whole. But instead it's split into three for marketing and commercial purposes. This isn't a terrible thing, it's a sensible compromise, but from the reader's perspective it's not the ideal. On the plus side, it means you can buy one and try. On the downside, it leads to information being split up in a way that isn't always natural or convenient.

This book had some good information on how to build an outline in the first two parts, but the last part of the book wandered off into how to take walks and sleep better to improve your writing. Unfortunately, while interesting, I would have rather had more direct instruction on outline building. I can strongly recommend two of the authors other books, Story Climax and Trough of Hell. They are both excellent writing guides with detailed how to information.

This is the best story outlining/structuring book I've ever read! D'Costa makes story outlining extremely simple as he clarifies story structure concepts and points out connections between structural elements. The hands-on approach of this book (action steps) enabled me to plot my next book as I read this one, and I felt as if I were taking an actual class in story development. I plan on reading every one of D'Costa's writing guides.

Best book on story structure and outlining that I've read. As good as some other books were, none translated into DOING as well as this one did. It's one thing to know all the parts of a story but where do you start? Which part do you build first? Which one next? This book gave me a sequence that works for me. Since reading this book (about a month ago) my ability to put stories together has really improved. In fact, plotting out a story now is fun whereas before it was mostly just frustrating. Highly recommended!

I've read tons and tons of scriptwriting books. This one actually gave birth to a system that I've used with great effect and have introduced to the rest of my writer friends. He doesn't say anything new. No. The principles of writing have always been the same. And he respects them. But what I truly admire is D'Costa's respect for a systematic, deliberate, controlled approach to things. If that aligns with your personality, then this book will probably find a permanent place in your process.

The info is of value and should help most people looking for help writing a solid outline. My big beef is WHO IS H. R. D'Costa? After searching the internet I only found one small blurb on kobowritinglife.com in which we learn, and I quote, "Robert Redford once called H.R. D'Costa a 'bionic woman.' (Not in a writing capacity, but still pretty cool.)" So we can assume H. R. is a woman and she's handy—at least around Robert Redford. What I want before I purchase another book from her is her credentials. Is that too much to ask from someone who is an authority on the subject?

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