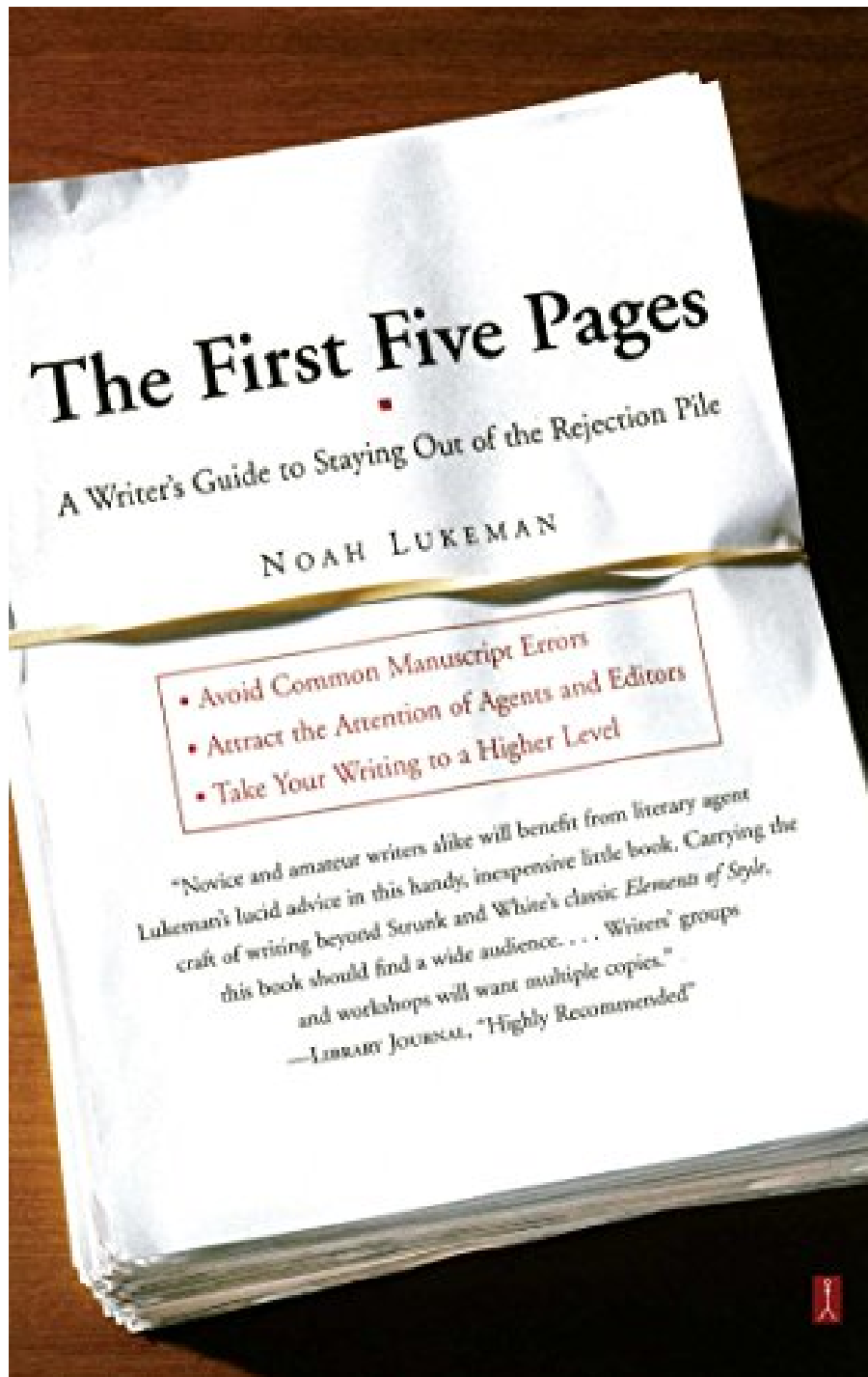


THE FIRST FIVE PAGES: A WRITER'S GUIDE TO STAYING OUT OF THE REJECTION PILE BY NOAH LUKEMAN



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Amazon.com Review

The difference between The First Five Pages and most books on writing is that the others are written by teachers and writers. This one comes from a literary agent--one whose clients include Pulitzer Prize nominees, New York Times bestselling authors, Pushcart Prize recipients, and American Book Award winners. Noah Lukeman is not trying to impart the finer points of writing well. He wants to teach you "how to identify and avoid bad writing," so that your manuscript doesn't come boomeranging back to you in that self-addressed, stamped envelope. Surprise: Agents and editors don't read manuscripts for fun; they are looking for reasons to reject them. Lukeman has arranged his book "in the order of what I look for when trying to dismiss a manuscript," starting with presentation and concluding with pacing and progression. Each chapter addresses a pitfall of poor writing--overabundance of adjectives and adverbs, tedious or unrealistic dialogue, and lack of subtlety to name just a few--by identifying the problem, presenting solutions, giving examples (one wishes these weren't quite so obvious), and offering writing exercises. It's a little bizarre to think about approaching your work as would an agent, but if you are serious about getting published, you may as well get used to it. Plus, Lukeman has plenty of solid advice worth listening to. Particularly fine are his exercises for removing and spicing up modifiers and his remedies for all kinds of faulty dialogue. --Jane Steinberg

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Novice and amateur writers alike will benefit from literary agent Lukeman's lucid advice in this handy, inexpensive little book. Lukeman draws on his years of editorial experience to present an inside look at manuscript submission. He provides suggestions, examples, and practice exercises designed to lift ordinary prose to a higher level. Covering writing fundamentals, including viewpoint, tone, pacing, character development, grammar, and more, Lukeman sprinkles examples of common writing problems and simple solutions throughout the text. Carrying the craft of writing beyond Strunk and White's classic *Elements of Style*, this book should find a wide audience; public libraries sponsoring writers' groups and workshops will want multiple copies. Academic libraries will want several copies to share with writing labs. Highly

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Review

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When you are hurried of work due date as well as have no concept to obtain inspiration, **The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out Of The Rejection Pile By Noah Lukeman** publication is among your remedies to take. Schedule *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out Of The Rejection Pile By Noah Lukeman* will certainly give you the right source and also thing to get motivations. It is not just regarding the tasks for politic company, management, economics, as well as other. Some got jobs making some fiction jobs additionally need inspirations to overcome the task. As exactly what you need, this *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out Of The Rejection Pile By Noah Lukeman* will most likely be your selection.

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THE FIRST FIVE PAGES: A WRITER'S GUIDE TO STAYING OUT OF THE REJECTION PILE BY NOAH LUKEMAN PDF

IF YOU'RE TIRED OF REJECTION, THIS IS THE BOOK FOR YOU.

Whether you are a novice writer or a veteran who has already had your work published, rejection is often a frustrating reality. Literary agents and editors receive and reject hundreds of manuscripts each month. While it's the job of these publishing professionals to be discriminating, it's the job of the writer to produce a manuscript that immediately stands out among the vast competition. And those outstanding qualities, says New York literary agent Noah Lukeman, have to be apparent from the first five pages.

The First Five Pages reveals the necessary elements of good writing, whether it be fiction, nonfiction, journalism, or poetry, and points out errors to be avoided, such as

- * A weak opening hook
- * Overuse of adjectives and adverbs
- * Flat or forced metaphors or similes
- * Melodramatic, commonplace or confusing dialogue
- * Undeveloped characterizations and lifeless settings
- * Uneven pacing and lack of progression

With exercises at the end of each chapter, this invaluable reference will allow novelists, journalists, poets and screenwriters alike to improve their technique as they learn to eliminate even the most subtle mistakes that are cause for rejection. The First Five Pages will help writers at every stage take their art to a higher -- and more successful -- level.

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- Original language: English
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Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

Amazon.com Review

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Review

Richard Marek Editorial Director of Kirkus Reviews and former book publisher Intelligent and entertaining instruction...it should be read by all novice writers -- and by those books are already published but who intend to write more.

Most helpful customer reviews

43 of 45 people found the following review helpful.

Stop reading after Chapter 6

By A Customer

Noah Lukeman's book starts out strong with a new slant on much of the writing advice already out there: less is more, and most is even less than that. The exercises in the adjective and adverbs chapter are so helpful that they completely transformed the first chapter of my manuscript. Thanks, Mr. Lukeman.

However, once beyond his excellent treatments on modifiers, sound, comparison, and style, one becomes acutely aware that like writing, editing is a highly subjective field. Many of the techniques that he advocates for sentence construction and dialogue directly contradicts the advice of other well-credentialed editors. This is where a strong sense of the strengths of your own writing, the conventions of your genre, and the preferences of your agent or editor is going to help you, and where "The First Five Pages" will fall short.

Rather than strictly being a "how not to get rejected off the bat" guide as the cover blurb claims, "The First Five Pages" also endeavors to show you how to write the best novel you can. That's fine. But if you take Lukeman too seriously, you might come to the conclusion that he would rather you not write at all than have a single word out of place. It comes as no surprise, then, that towards the end of the book (and prominent on his literary agency's webpage), we find Lukeman's particular bias: "Ovid, the Roman poet, said one should wait nine years after finishing one's work before seeking publication. Here lies the difference between someone writing for money and a writer."

If it's your goal to win a Pulitzer Prize, that's an admirable sentiment. For the rest of us making our livings as writers, who want to write great stories that make people think or feel, you are well advised to pick and choose from Lukeman's advice.

If you can only buy one book on writing, I instead recommend Donald Maass's excellent book "How to Write the Breakout Novel" which not only focuses on good writing, but the themes and techniques which can make a novel a best-seller. Additionally, "Self-Editing for Fiction Writers" by Renni Browne and Dave King gives some excellent tips, though they disagree with Lukeman on some key points.

My best advice is to read as many of these books as you can: take to heart those points on which everyone agrees, internalize the rest, and just write.

41 of 43 people found the following review helpful.

A swing and a miss

By Daniel L. Edelen

Noah Lukeman offers what every beginning writer needs: insider information. As a literary agent with a stable of award-winning authors, Lukeman offers to dish the publishing dirt that will ensure anyone's manuscript rises to the top of any agent or publisher's stack.

But does the book live up to the marketing?

Lukeman covers the basics that are currently in vogue:

- * Delivering a professional-looking manuscript
- * Limiting the number of adjectives and adverbs, making certain the few that are used are punchy and unusual
- * Verbalizing a manuscript to screen for its overall sound
- * Choosing original metaphors and similes
- * Avoiding a precious or contrived style
- * Balancing realistic dialogue with narration
- * Punching up ho-hum dialogue
- * Driving the story through dialogue
- * Cutting out melodrama
- * Simplifying complex character interaction
- * Showing, not telling
- * Perfecting narrative and POV
- * Creating realistic characters
- * Crafting hooks without being manipulative
- * Learning subtlety

- * Maintaining a consistent tone
- * Keeping the manuscript's focus
- * Devising believable settings that involves all five senses
- * Pacing the work through a natural progression

While this is an excellent list of issues to address in a writing book, the problem comes from the trade size and the under-200 page length. For Lukeman to cover these topics to any depth beyond absolute beginner stage, he needs at least fifty percent more content per issue.

There are other problems that limit the usefulness of this book. The examples of bad writing are so blatant that their usefulness is questionable. The advice on how to fix writing problems is okay, but never transcends beginning-level wisdom. Any writer hoping to do the very thing Lukeman promises--get that manuscript published--could do worse, but with so many other outstanding writing books out there, why stick with one that's merely fair? Considering the author's pedigree, his book is a letdown.

For any writer who has never picked up a book on writing, this one's acceptable. For the rest of us, though, consider looking for something more weighty (such as "Stein on Writing.")

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent resource for any writer

By DMReader

This was a great book and essential if you're a writer hoping to put out a book. Whether you want to go with an agent, publisher, or want to publish on your own, you need to read this book. It has concise examples of common problems that cause books to be rejected with a good explanation and clear examples. It highlights problems that many writers have and should be aware of going forward in their careers. Regardless of what path you take, you should learn these lessons and make your writing more readable for editors, publishers, and readers.

See all 294 customer reviews...

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