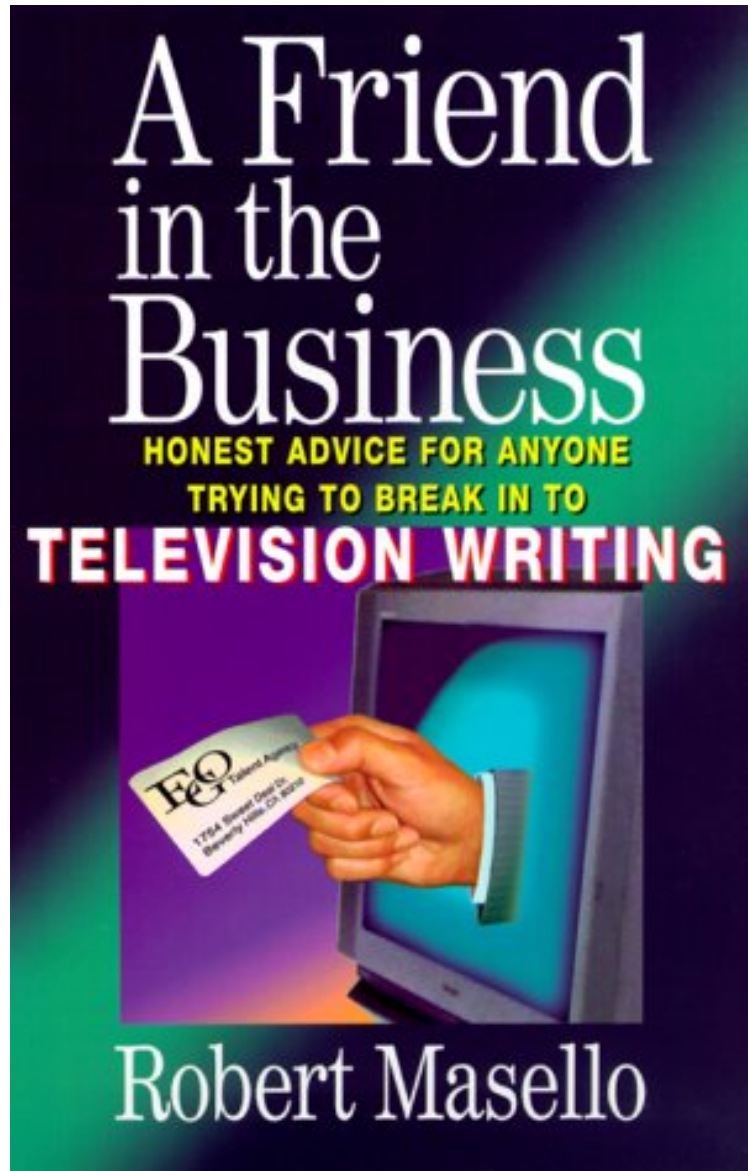


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## A Friend in the Business: Honest Advice for Anyone Trying to Break into Television Writing

Robert Masello

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**Robert Masello : A Friend in the Business: Honest Advice for Anyone Trying to Break into Television Writing** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Friend in the Business: Honest Advice for Anyone Trying to Break into Television Writing:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Single-best book about TV writing By Jennifer Godwin I collect

books about TV writing, from way back in the '50s (Paddy Chayefsky, et al.) through today, and Masello's is the funniest, most informative, most well-written, most encouraging and most useful of them all. I hope he continues to revise and update A FRIEND IN THE BUSINESS as the years pass, in order to keep it current, because it really is an invaluable reference. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. TV is a Byzantine and Paramoid Business...By Victor Infante..and this book creates a brilliant, candid portrait of this madness. "Friend in the Business" was recommended to me by someone when I told them I was thinking about breaking into TV, and this book has told me everything I need to know to hold onto both my sanity and my soul while doing so. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A pleasant read, but something was slightly "off" By A Customer I enjoyed reading this book, and found it interesting to hear the trench stories of one man's journey into Hollywood. However, there is something about the book that I didn't like, and I can't quite pinpoint it....there is a feel that the author was not as successful in Hollywood as he wanted to be, and decided to at least leverage his limited experiences by writing a book about them (versus some books out there that seem to be driven by a true desire to impart hard-earned wisdom), while settling some scores in the process. Kind of like, "I'll show them...." (more subtle, but still there). I'll give one example, and perhaps it's not the best one. He mentions that he was always hip-pocketed by the agencies, not signed, and tells us that info as if that is a good thing, like phew, he beat the system. OK, yes, being hip-pocketed is better than nothing at all, especially at the beginning, but let's face it, if an agent never wants to sign you, you did not pull one over on them. It just felt like he was trying to justify a lot of this kind of stuff. There are so many books out there that after reading, I am dying to have lunch with the author to meet him in person....whereas here, I found myself not having that experience at all. But, the book was funny and had some good intro-to-the-business info.

Professional TV writer tells all: Insider secrets for getting in the door and coming out a success! Everyone who wants to write for television could use a friend in the business. Robert Masello can be that friend. He's an award-winning journalist, author, and successful TV writer. Now he's sharing the insider secrets he learned the hard way... Finding someone to read your spec script Protecting your ideas Bagging a good agent Landing a staff job--and keeping it Keeping full credit for your work--in the office and on the screen Choosing the right collaborator Collecting residuals and script fees Joining the Writers Guild of America and more. Funny, smart, empathetic, anecdotal, and most of all, helpful. This is an essential book for anyone who wants to write for the small screen.

About the Author Robert Masello is the author of Fallen Angels and several novels of supernatural suspense. He is currently writing for the show "Poltergeist," and teaches a course on "The Pleasure of Terror" at UCLA extension. Robert has written articles and essays which have appeared in publications including The Washington Post, Newsday, The Los Angeles Times, and People.