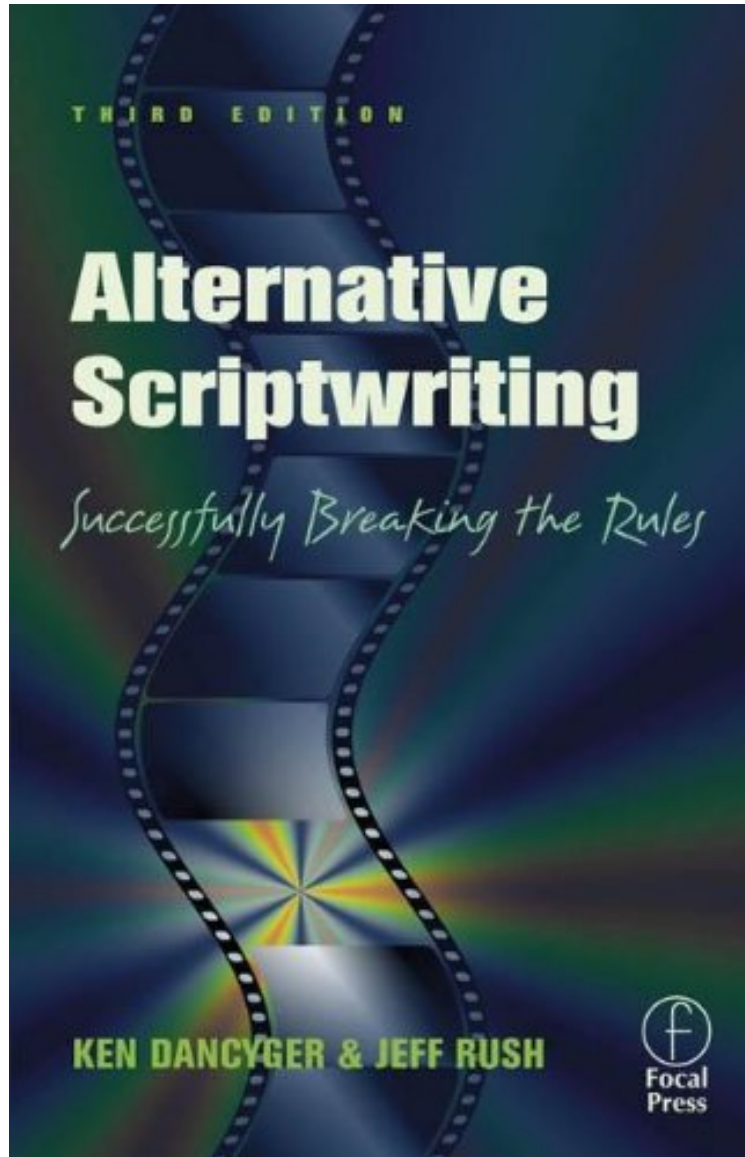


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## Alternative Scriptwriting: Successfully Breaking the Rules

*Ken Dancyger, Jeff Rush*

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**Ken Dancyger, Jeff Rush : Alternative Scriptwriting: Successfully Breaking the Rules** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alternative Scriptwriting: Successfully Breaking the Rules:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Joseph La Mortegreat!1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Sometimes Useful, Always DryBy J. ThelenI agree with most of the reviews here that the

book contains some useful approaches to screenwriting beyond the three-act orthodoxy. The writing, however, often distracts from the content. The structure of the book is disorganized and ad hoc to the extent that it encourages skimming rather than close study. Worse, however, is that the writing is often academic, sometimes theoretical, and always soul-less. The authors appear to want to curry favor with their peers in the teachers lounge than educate students. Occasionally the writing is downright atrocious. The authors employ, for instance, the frightful alternating of "he" and "she" -- a surrender to politically correct pieties that permeate the work as a whole. Ironic for a book devoted to the spirit of independent writing. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I like it By Motrin It is an excellent book. It is very easy to read and comprehensive. I like it, I recommend this book.

Going beyond the conventional three act structure and exploring more inventive approaches, *Alternative Scriptwriting* challenges readers to take creative risks with genre, tone, character, and structure. It explores mainstream, personal, and experimental narrative forms, surveying both American and international films. In a field where novelty often equals commercial success, scriptwriters frequently strive to create screenplays that are innovative and exceptional. *Alternative Scriptwriting* links scriptwriting to other forms of storytelling, and discusses issues including the three act structure, working with and against genre, character identification, and the implications of screenplay form. Key issues, examples, and case studies demonstrate what works, what doesn't, and why. Exercises encourage writers to explore new ways of viewing their work and to test the limits of their skills. Additions to the third edition include: \* a comparative study of how two very different filmmakers handle different types of film. \* a look at ways in which narrative tension, story structure, and perspective can be used when writing for the digital film \* a study of adapting contemporary literature for film

Praise for the fifth edition: "Screenwriting is about making choices. What Dancyger and Rush reveal so effectively in *Alternative Screenwriting* is just how many options are possible, how the various available choices work and how different decisions will impact screen storytelling. This book substantially broadens every screenwriters' -creative horizons." -David Howard, USC screenwriting professor and author of *The Tools of Screenwriting and How to Build a Great Screenplay*. "Alternative Scriptwriting is invaluable to anyone interested in screenwriting or in directing fiction. Using plain language it demystifies storytelling for the screen, and opens up myriad possibilities for using the cinema with invention, freshness, and imagination." - Michael Rabiger, Professor Emeritus, Film/Video Department, Columbia College Chicago. "Just as Aristotle's "Poetics and Andr Bazin's "What is Cinema are an inseparable part of a Screenwriting reading list, Ken Dancyger and Jeff Rush's "Alternative Scriptwriting is an absolute must read for a deeper understanding of the structure of Screenwriting. -Dr. John Bernstein, Director, Graduate Program in Screenwriting, Department of Film and Television, Boston University" "Alternative Scriptwriting," by Ken Dancyger and Jeff Rush, is one of the few books on the subject that doesn't make you feel stupid while you're reading it. Instead of the usual boring list of "tricks of the trade" that replaces a real table of content in so many "How To Write A Screenplay And Sell It For A Lot Of Money To An Even Bigger Lot Of Talentless Hopeful People" Dancyger Rush offer real insight for those who take their screenwriting seriously and are not afraid to venture a little bit "beyond the rules". Both as a filmmaker and as a teacher I have found this volume very precious because what the authors do best is mix American craftsmanship with European sensibility. An excellent cocktail, if you ask me. And you did." -Marc Didden - Head Of Screenwriting at St. Lukas Hogeschool, Brussels , Writer/Director ( "Brussels By Night", "Istanbul", "Sailors Don't Cry" ) Praise for the third edition: "An insightful alternative to mainstream narrative and character analysis that presents the reader with a clear dissection of the mainstream before revealing the alternatives." -- Script Factory "[Alternative Scriptwriting] aims to challenge its readers to create writing that is exceptional. While no book can possibly replace your own creative vision, as a resource it's thorough and is a good way to help yourself consider alternative ideas." -- Plugin Cinema From the Publisher Additions to the third edition include: \* a comparative study of how two very different filmmakers handle different types of film. \* a look at ways in which narrative tension, story structure, and perspective can be used when writing for the digital film \* a study of adapting contemporary literature for film About the Author Ken Dancyger is the author of numerous books on screenwriting, editing, and production. He conducts screenwriting forums and workshops in North America, Europe, and Asia. A past chair of Undergraduate studies in the Department of Film and Television at NYU, he is currently Professor of Film and Television at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Jeff Rush is an associate professor at Temple University's Department of Film Media Arts. He has served as director of the MFA program and as Department Chair in Film Media Arts. He received an MFA in Screenwriting and Directing from the American Film Institute and an MFA in Fiction Writing from the University of Iowa's Writer's Workshop. In addition to teaching, Jeff has worked as a freelance screenwriter and has published numerous articles and books. Ken Dancyger is the author of numerous books on screenwriting, editing, and production. He conducts screenwriting forums and workshops in North America, Europe, and Asia. A past chair of Undergraduate studies in the Department of Film and Television at NYU, he is currently Professor of Film and Television at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Jeff Rush is an associate professor at Temple University's Department of Film Media Arts. He has served

as director of the MFA program and as Department Chair in Film Media Arts. He received an MFA in Screenwriting and Directing from the American Film Institute and an MFA in Fiction Writing from the University of Iowa's Writer's Workshop. In addition to teaching, Jeff has worked as a freelance screenwriter and has published numerous articles and books.