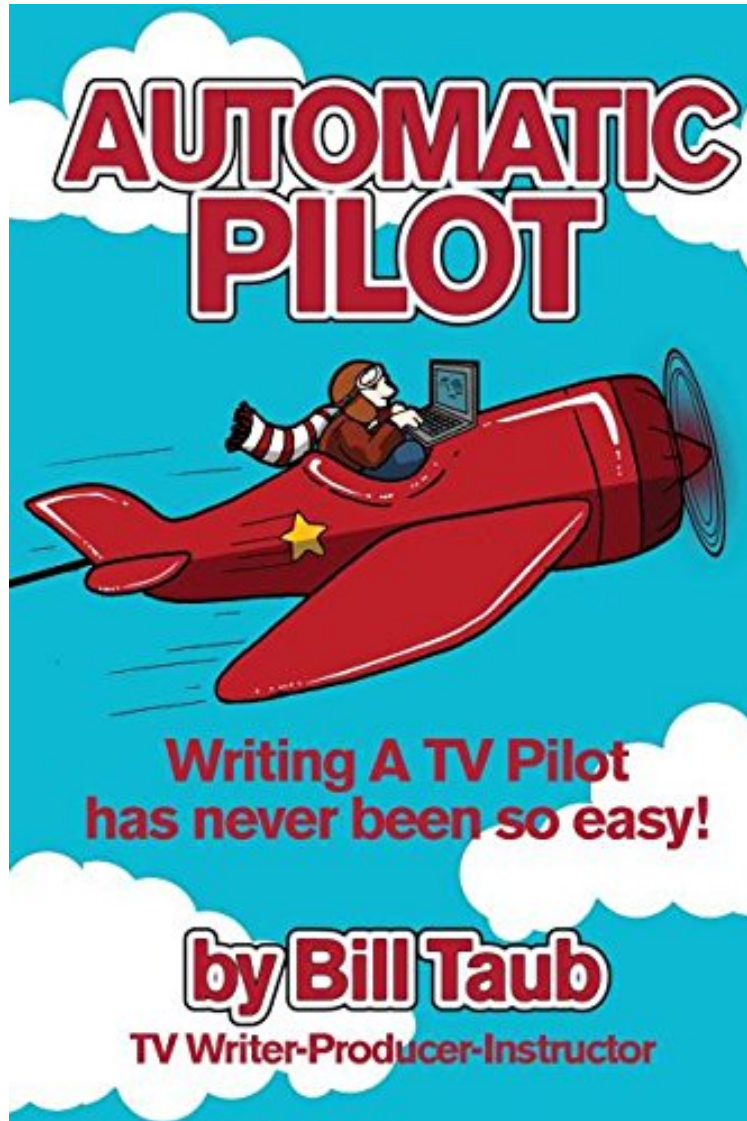


(Download) Automatic Pilot: Writing A TV Pilot Has Never Been So Easy!

Automatic Pilot: Writing A TV Pilot Has Never Been So Easy!

Bill Taub

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Bill Taub : Automatic Pilot: Writing A TV Pilot Has Never Been So Easy! before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Automatic Pilot: Writing A TV Pilot Has Never Been So Easy!:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Cost-effective and EncouragingBy Petre PanNext to Sid Meier's Screenwriting textbook, I'd say Bill Taub's Automatic Pilot ranks as one of the best beginning screenwriting resources

I've yet encountered. Well, stranger, what have you encountered? What does that even mean? Good question. I'm not an expert screenwriter, but I am an expert screenwriter-resources purveyor, if such a pitiful occupation exists. From college classes to online classes to online resources to books to at least three or four different screenwriting resource companies--eh, I've actually spent a few hundred bucks studying screenwriting. (Shivers in shame) A number of those resources tend to repeat the same basics over again, so I really liked that while *Automatic Pilot* included the most important fundamentals of screenwriting for beginners, it also delved into TV-industry-niche specifics, a wide variety of structure techniques and suggestions, and Taub's own positive writing philosophy. The strong motivational tone of the book makes you feel like you've got people on your side because when you're writing for yourself you've got you on your side, Taub might say and as someone who used to write for a living I found that incredibly empowering. In med school you don't get a lot of time to read, so I bought the audiobook to play while I ate or whatever. Taub's encouragement was, for me, the writerly equivalent of blasting rap music on the highway, or rocking out when you're pumping iron: I got pumped up! There's something to be said for that. For those of you who prefer more concrete definitions of value, we should probably talk about \$\$\$.

Automatic Pilot is actually a compilation of all the resources and reading material from a University class Taub taught/teaches on writing good pilot episodes for television. As you may know, it usually costs more than twenty bucks to access a University-level screenwriting class. Even cheap professional classes online bill as much as \$90. I got a discount on a decent Third Act class for \$45 once, but generally comparable screenwriting classes enter the ring weighing in nearer the hundreds mark. To give you a more detailed cost-analysis, Hal Croasmun from ScreenwritingU charges \$90 for a class that involves about thirty pages of reading material and no feedback from the professor. I'm not downing on Croasmun apparently he's pumping out writers who make deals left and right but pointing out, to you, that for \$20 or less I can get nearly 200 pages from Taub, all new and unique information pertaining specifically to the TV industry. That's pretty good math. *Automatic Pilot* is heavy with repetition, though. That's probably less of an issue in the hardcopy (which I also bought to keep as a skim-able resource), and for some folks repetition's essential to enhance learning, so it's not necessarily a drawback. I found it a bit much sometimes, but on the other hand a lot of the repetition was also a lot of the motivational cheerleading I enjoyed. If you're looking for new plotting tricks and tools to amp up your game; if you're unfamiliar with a lot of TV-writing terminology and structural customs; and if you'd like to tap the brains of multiple TV-writing experts before you start writing yourself into a crash-and-burn, a little repetition and two Red Robin meals is a fair price to pay. I think, anyway. [twitter @petr3panbyjenfinelli.com](https://twitter.com/petr3panbyjenfinelli.com) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Television served up by a master of the game. By Michael Janover. You want to know why you should buy this book? Because Bill Taub knows what he's talking about. I've known Bill for a long, long time, and I respect him as a writer and a human being. Spoiler alert: I'm also a writer and human being, so I'm speaking as an insider. Here's the thing: For anything television-related, Bill Taub is an encyclopedia, a complete expert in the craft-and-trade of writing, story editing and producing for television. Additionally, because he also teaches TV for the UCLA Extension Writers Program and is undeniably one of their best instructors, he has honed his ability to communicate those experiences into tips, suggestions, and insights that will benefit you the most. Just yesterday, Bill taught me how to take a photo with my smart phone. I instantly understood. He made it that simple for me. When you purchase this book and I did (so bonus points for me!) you are also buying the benefit of Bill's tremendous experience in the business. He was even a contestant on *The Dating Game*. And won! That alone makes me jealous of Bill more than I care to admit. I mean, he even understands the inside-outs of game shows! Check out Bill's list of credits, many with classic shows, such as *Dallas*, *Barney Miller*, *Kung Fu*, *Newhart*, *Magnum P.I.*, and *Friday the 13th*. Bill Taub even worked with Phyllis Diller once. I think he brought her a Coke or something. Let me put it this way. There's only one thing Bill might not know about TV, and that's how to fix my remote. Then again, he's so smart and enterprising, that he'd probably learn how just to prove me wrong. Truth is, Bill has been successful, remains successful, and wants you to be successful, in this case, learning *How to Write Television Pilots*. And more. What you get with this dynamite little book, aside from the picture of an airplane pilot on the cover that is totally misleading, even though it's a metaphor, which I get, but come on, seriously? A TV pilot does not fly airplanes, unless we're talking about the pilot of a plane that's part of a TV show, like the airplane where William Shatner looks out the window mid-flight and sees a goblin monster ripping off chunks of the wing and eating them, and he freaks out so badly, that the pilot has to come back restrain him, because nobody else sees what Shatner sees. We're not talking about that kind of pilot. The TV pilot that the title of this book refers to is a trial or sample episode, written to entice the viewer (i.e. reader) by demonstrating what a typical episode (from the series that the writer is really trying to sell) will look like. Who reads a pilot script? Producers, networks, actors, agents -- anyone who might be interested in boarding this plane (i.e. TV show) before it takes off. The pilot script demonstrates that the writer knows what he or she is doing, knows characters, knows the "franchise" and "home" of these characters, knows story and how to tell story in proper script form and even can provide log lines for other likely scripts to be written once the television series is sold. In short, it's a tremendous way to sell yourself as well as your skills. Writing the pilot for a television series is a great and lucrative way for anyone's career to take off, because you're not just selling one wagon -- but the entire wagon train. The series creator, the person who writes that successful pilot script, will have his or her name attached to each and every episode that is written henceforth. It can even turn into a

doorway to the World of Hyphenate, such as writer-producer or writer-producer-director. If you want to dream, why not dream big? So why not get it from one of the best? Who better to teach you the ropes than someone who has been doing and teaching it for years? I LOVE THIS BOOK! And I fully intend to read it, as soon as possible. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fly Express to Selling on TV with Automatic Pilot By MJ Anderson Great book on how to write a pilot. As a TV writer myself I know how difficult it is to craft a well written script. So many people get it wrong. But with Bill Taub's book, they get the advice of master. It's good for seasoned writers as well, to reinforce things they know - or learn new tricks and the latest innovations. A must-have book for anyone breaking into the TV biz.. or already in it.

"Bill's book is the best no frills, no b.s. primer on writing for television that I've read. Consciously or not, over the years I've followed every one of his how to's, to apparently good effect. This book is as close to the truth as you get in this business." -- Rene Balcer, Emmy and Peabody award-winning Showrunner for Law Order and Creator of Law Order: Criminal Intent

About the Author Veteran TV and pilot writer, Bill Taub has a long list of credits. He's written for many popular -- and highly acclaimed -- TV series, such as: Barney Miller, Hill Street Blues, Magnum P.I., Newhart, Cagney and Lacey, In The Heat Of The Night, Kung-Fu: TLC, Friday the 13th: The Series, and Relic Hunter among others. He's written pilots for NBC, Columbia, Warner Brothers, Paramount, syndication and co-wrote the pilot for the prime time Dark Shadows. His spec pilot, Raffle Guy, won first place in the Scriptapalooza competition. He was recently honored by the Writers Guild of America for his work on Barney Miller and Hill Street Blues. He teaches TV Pilot Writing and Writing for New Media through UCLA's Extension Program.