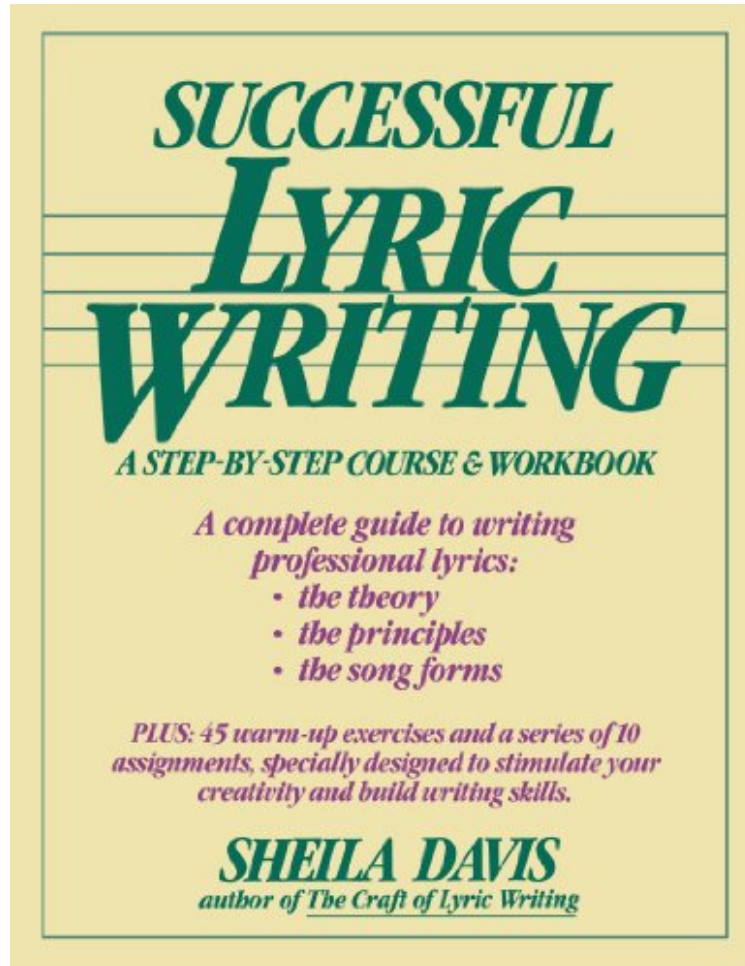


Successful Lyric Writing: A Step-By-Step Course Workbook

Sheila Davis

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Sheila Davis : Successful Lyric Writing: A Step-By-Step Course Workbook before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Successful Lyric Writing: A Step-By-Step Course Workbook:

58 of 59 people found the following review helpful. Buy Davis' other book instead.By A Customer"Successful Lyric Writing" is in workbook format, and inherently weaker than Davis' classic "The Craft of Lyric Writing" (see review).The problem with "Workbook" is the exercises, which are the heart of the book and what distinguish it from "Craft". In most every case, Davis either 1) gives the reader/student a scenario about which to write a few lines or 2) asks the student to fill in the blank of a lyric she's already written. Unfortunately, most of Davis' scenarios and exercise verses are unbearably cheesy. From this reader's point of view at least, it's hard to finish writing a lyric you can't bear to read. Thus the exercises are more discouraging than helpful, and it's tough for the reader/student to feel like he's actually learned something.Which is not to say that I disagree with Davis' basic argument that the fundamentals of the

craft are undervalued and understudied. Davis correctly argues that inspiration, naively presumed by amateurs to be 90% of songwriting, is in fact only 5%. And yet that 5% is vital. All persons need to feel the occasional sense of accomplishment to continue their pursuit of learning. This workbook robs students of much of their chance to feel that sense of accomplishment. Therefore "Workbook" will more likely help untalented writers to become mediocre than it will help talented ones to be great. Still, "Workbook" is not without merit. The section on "Writing With The Whole Brain" is excellent. Also, the charting exercises accompanying that chapter are great for finding titles and for seeing idea connections that one might not grasp in a linear exploration. This section alone gives "Workbook" an extra star, though one wonders why the section hasn't been included in a fresh addition of "Craft". It's unlikely that any talented, honest, aspiring songwriter will be hurt by this book. But with the notable exception of the "Whole Brain" section, he's unlikely to be helped much, either. Get "Craft" and read it cover to cover as many times as feasible. Borrow a friend's copy of "Workbook". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must-Have Book for Lyric-Writers! By Lisa Dewey Great book! Now required reading as part of a songwriting program! Book was in a beautiful shape. Terrific price--and speedy shipping! Thanks. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book to learn By Monk24 Very clear, many exercises. Good book to learn.

Covers structure, viewpoint, voice, rhythm, rhyme, and setting, identifies common song writing problems, and provides writing assignments

"It is absolutely super! I have never seen a more analytical and practical approach to developing the craft of writing lyrics. SUCCESSFUL LYRIC WRITING is a wonderful companion to THE CRAFT OF LYRIC WRITING. Both books should be required reading for all aspiring Ira Gershwins." -- Bernice Cohen, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers From the author of THE CRAFT OF LYRIC WRITING, you might expect the world, and happily, in this case, you get it. This is a highly focused look at the theory, principles and song forms behind today's successful lyrics. From her very first thoughts on "a genuine idea," this book is a captivating and, most of all, involving study that takes you where you want to go. Outside of an extended classroom situation, you won't find a course or a book that is as comprehensive and complete. A must. -- National Academy of Songwriters SUCCESSFUL LYRIC WRITING [is]...everything songwriters need to take their talent to the limit and become first-rate professionals. -- SOUNDBOARD, Phoenix, Arizona This is the first published book in workbook format on the art and craft of writing words to and for music and a sequel to Davis's popular book THE CRAFT OF LYRIC WRITING. SUCCESSFUL LYRIC WRITING presents a series of "student-tested" exercises, practice critiques, and quizzes that reinforces songwriting theory and prepares songwriters for the main feature of the book -- ten specially-designed lyric-writing assignments. Davis concludes the course by teaching songwriters to expand their songwriting abilities on their own and realize their growth potential within the music industry. She provides them with guidelines to conduct a professional critique session, to analyze their work and the work of others, steps on organizing a workshop, ideas for starting a local songwriting group -- in short, everything songwriters need to take their talent to the limit and become first-rate professionals. -- SOUNDBOARD, Phoenix, Arizona