

Riverbed Press

Letting the Creative Flow

Home

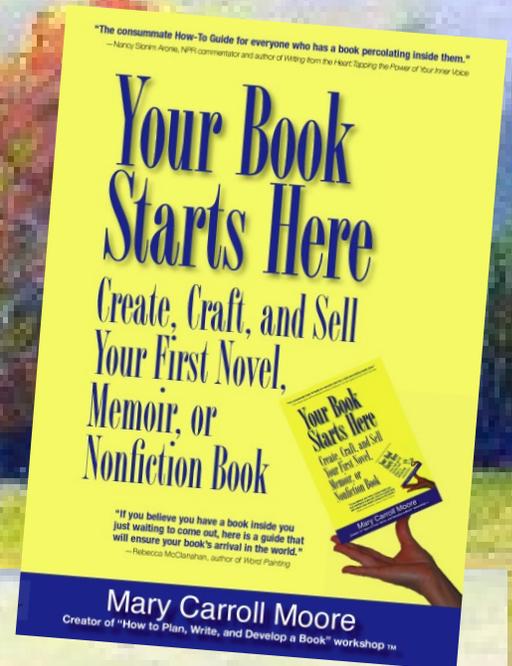
Reviews & Comments

How to Order

About Mary

Help! I want to write a book—how do I begin?

Take your novel, memoir, or nonfiction book from idea to print! Finally, sound, easy-to-follow advice on the ins and outs of book writing: everything from writing practice to pacing your prose. Dozens of specific book-writing exercises to generate ideas, flow chapters, and keep you writing, plus expert up-to-date advice on today's publishing industry.



Find out...

- Why it's essential to know your reader—before you write your book!
- How a storyboard designs your book's flow of chapters and ideas
- Which book form is best for each genre
- How to handle your book's creative tension—and avoid writer's block
- Why you can throw away your outline—random writing leads to perfectly linked chapters
- Secrets of inner and outer story to create strong conflict, characters, plot
- What agents and publishers look for in a book manuscript today



If you believe you have a book inside you just waiting to come out, here is a guide that will ensure your book's arrival in the world.

—Rebecca McClanahan, author of *Word Painting* (mclanmuse.com)

Praise for *Your Book Starts Here*

The consummate How-To Guide for everyone who has a book percolating inside them.

—Nancy Slonim Aronie, NPR commentator



A first-time book-writer's best companion.

—Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew, author of *Writing the Sacred Journey: The Art and Practice of Spiritual Memoir* (spiritualmemoir.com)



I'm writing a book. I sure wish I had a dime for every time I told someone that. Thanks to Mary's book-writing class, I have something even better: royalties. What I learned in her class—from exploring my book idea with a

reader in mind, to structuring it via storyboarding, to revision with heart—helped me complete two books, one of which has been translated into five languages.

What's more, Mary gave me the skills to complete many more.

—Beverly Bachel, author of *What Do You Really Want? How to Set a Goal and Go for It*

Mary Carroll Moore offers the most practical book development process I have ever seen. As a first-time author, I found her easy-to-follow guide exactly what I needed to take my idea from a dream to a completed manuscript. More than simply sharing a writing process, she laid out the ground rules, provided a clear step-by-step process, and showed me how to move forward with confidence.

--Michael Lane, author of *The Wisdom of Yawdy Rum*

Mary's suggestions enabled me to take material I'd been struggling with and look at it with new eyes.

—Annie Kelleher, author of *The Shadowlands Trilogy*



With specific advice, focused writing exercises and generous encouragement, her clear, personal voice guides developing writers through the process, from first steps to final launch. They—and their future readers—will be grateful.

—Catherine Watson, author of *Home on the Road*, 2008 Minnesota Book Award finalist

(catherinewatsontravel.com)



I had a contract but not the first clue how to transact a book. Every morning I tried to move walls with my forehead. I wanted answers and I wanted them yesterday. Mary showed me I wasn't yet ready to ask the

questions. More importantly, her method provided an invaluable blueprint that, I suspect, will be useful for every book I write.

—Tom Swift, author of *Chief Bender's Burden* (tom-swift.com)

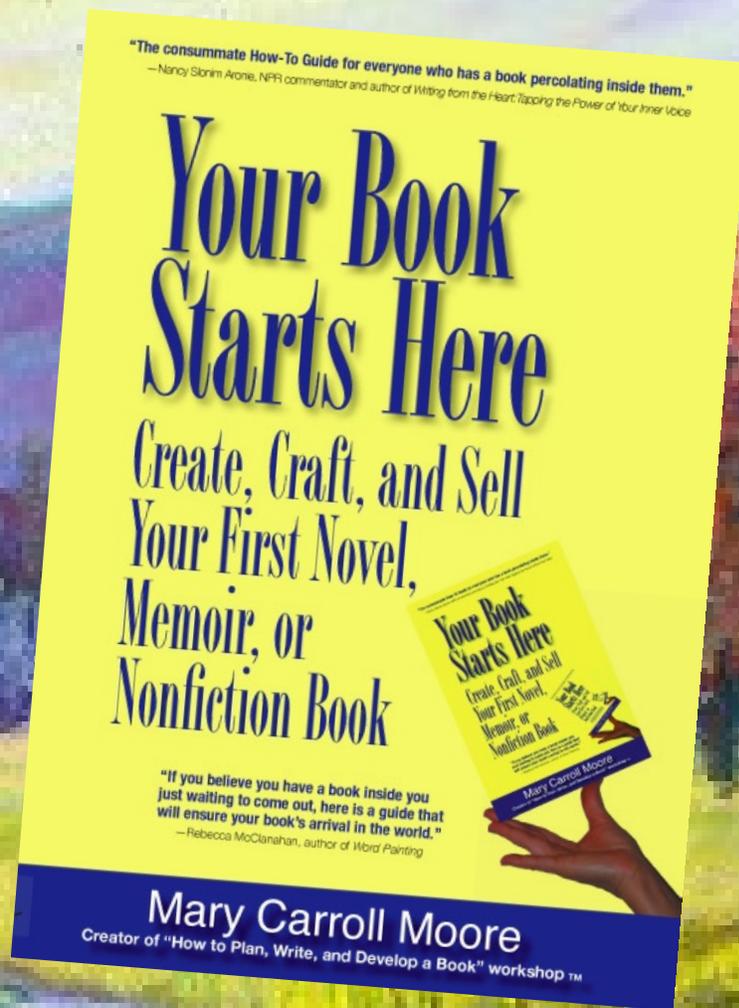


I'd already published a successful nonfiction book when I began using Mary's book-structuring method to approach my first novel. I was having fun with it, writing at least a page of material (often much more)

every single day, but then I hit a wall. My manuscript felt like a hodgepodge, and I started losing heart. Using Mary's storyboarding technique, I went through each of my sections and consolidated and labeled them, much as one would label a scene in screenwriting. Then I gave each "scene" its own Post-it note. Next, I arranged the Post-its on presentation paper—using one page of presentation paper per "act" of my 3-act novel. I discovered I had an entire novel, complete with two related sub-plots and some interesting twists.

—Prill Boyle, author of *Defying Gravity*

How to Order *Your Book Starts Here*



Take a look inside:

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About Mary Carroll Moore



Mary Carroll Moore writes books.

She has published thirteen of her own, in three genres, over twenty years.

She's also worked as an editor for several U.S. publishers, a ghostwriter and book doctor, a writing coach and college instructor.

A former nationally syndicated columnist with the *Los Angeles Times*, she teaches book-writing workshops at The Loft Literary Center (Minneapolis), Hudson Valley Writers' Center (NY), and The Studios at Key West (FL).

She has helped over 2,000 writers in every genre plan, write, and develop their books. She knows how to guide you toward publication!