



Write A Killer Mystery

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Bonus Two - Resources

# Resources for Writers

*Nobody reads a mystery to get to the middle. They read it to get to the end. If it's a letdown, they won't buy anymore. The first page sells that book. The last page sells your next book.*

Mickey Spillane

## Resources for Now and Next Steps to Become an Author

Writing a mystery novel is work. Tools help you focus on creating and editing your work. Every tool that allows you to focus on writing to be more productive during your writing time will help you accomplish more.

Once you have written your mystery, use the editing tools to check for flow, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and those inadvertent typos.

## Tools

Develop your writer toolkit.

- ❖ [Hemingway Editor](#) - Free Enhance the readability of your prose.
- ❖ [ProWritingAid](#) - Free and Premium Editing tool to check over 20 different aspects of prose. The tool to use before you send your manuscript to an editor.
- ❖ [Grammarly](#) - Free and Premium. Use with caution. You need to know grammar to use Grammarly well. Great for the odd comma or misspelling.
- ❖ [Scrivener](#) Writing software for writers. Great for getting organized with a corkboard for scenes and chapter by chapter writing. You can also format (compile) your writing to produce ebooks in .mobi and .epub. Export in Word and other formats.
- ❖ [StoryShop](#) In-depth writing software to outline and write stories. Create all your characters. Save research.
- ❖ [Manuscript Formatting Template](#). Reedsy manuscript format for Word and Google Docs.
- ❖ [Vellum](#) Formatting software to create ebooks and print. Worth the onetime purchase. You'll save hours of frustration compiling in Scrivener. If you use Scrivener to write just export as a Word document and bring into Vellum.

## Continuing Education

Always keep learning. By enrolling in Write A Killer Mystery, you've demonstrated your learning readiness. Now expand your knowledge with continuing education. Listen to podcasts and watch videos to be inspired and stay informed.

- ❖ [Best Podcasts for Writers](#)
- ❖ [Jane Friedman](#)
- ❖ [Joanna Penn - The Creative Penn](#)
- ❖ [Chris Fox Writes](#)
- ❖ [Self Publishing Formula Podcast](#) Weekly video and podcast on all aspects of writing, publishing, and marketing.

## Find Help to Turn Your Mystery into A Book

- ❖ [Reedsy](#) Find editors, book cover designers, and marketers for your mystery. There's even a free book formatting tool.

## Study Forensics

- ❖ [Introduction to Forensic Science](#) University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland. Free and paid versions. Learn systematic investigation techniques in a model case, A Murder by a Lake.

## Cops as Resources

Real cops that help writers get it right.

B. Adam Richardson a police detective actively supports writers in getting their facts right from cop lingo to procedures and jurisdiction. Find him at [Writer's Detective Bureau](#) a podcast with the same name, an email newsletter [Writer's Detective APB](#), and a very active FaceBook group [Writer's Detective Q&A community](#) where you can join with other writers to answer questions.

[Lee Lofland](#) conducts the [Writers' Police Academy](#) as well as his website [The Graveyard Shift](#). And, a group to ask specific questions [Crimescenewriter2@groups.io](mailto:Crimescenewriter2@groups.io).

Retired homicide detective [Derek Pacifico](#) taught interview and interrogation techniques to law enforcement personnel worldwide. He offers a course for writers on how to do the same. [Writing Fictional Police Interrogations](#). His book [Writers' Guide to Homicide](#) gives

background and provides insights into what cops do when faced with legal parameters. If you have resources he holds two-day workshops [Writers Homicide School](#).

## Options for Next Steps

I've spent countless hours and several thousand dollars on a number of courses for authors. Many were worthless. These two resources will help you go from book to professional author with sales.

- ❖ [Mark Dawson's Self Publishing Formula](#) | Save yourself time and money. His courses are the best out there. SPF 101 focuses on what to do to set up your author platform and get your book noticed to make more sales.
- ❖ [Nick Stephenson - First 10k Readers](#) Focus on marketing. A great introduction to marketing for authors.



As you grow your writing career you will discover the tools and resources that work best for you.

Share your finds in the [Killer Writer Group](#) with other writers. A community of fellow dedicated writers is one of the most powerful ways to gain knowledge.

What tool interests you the most? Share your thoughts in the Killer Writer Group.

Keep writing!