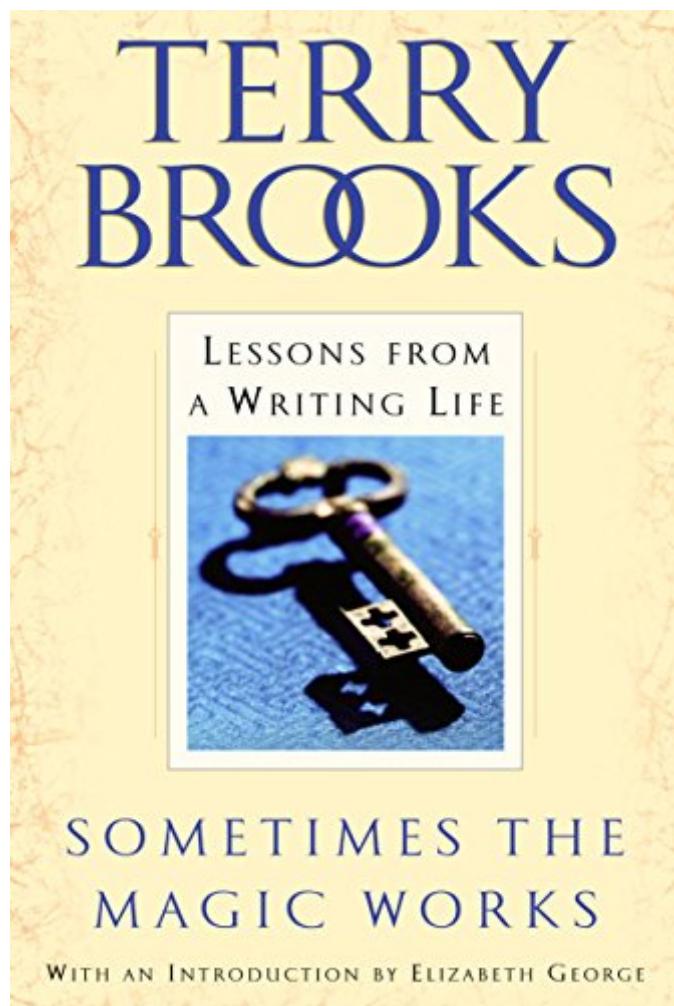


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# Sometimes The Magic Works: Lessons From A Writing Life



## Synopsis

In 1977, the New York Times Trade Paperback Bestseller listâ "back then the exclusive province of self-help guides, cartoon collections, and any number of cat booksâ "played host to its very first work of fiction: *The Sword of Shannara*, an epic quest through a mythical land, by first-time author Terry Brooks. Nineteen New York Times bestselling novels later, it would be easy enough to just say: â œ. . . and the rest is history.â • But when it comes to quests, everyone knows that getting there is half the fun. Now, Terry Brooks tells the story of how he got thereâ "from beginner to bestselling authorâ "and shares his secrets for creating unusual, memorable fiction. Writing is writing, whether oneâ ™s setting is a magical universe or a suburban backyard. Spanning topics from the importance of daydreaming to the necessity of writing an outline, from the fine art of showing instead of merely telling to creating believable characters who make readers care what happens to them, Brooks draws upon his own experiences, hard lessons learned, and delightful discoveries made in creating the beloved Shannara and Magic Kingdom of Landover series, *The Word and The Void* trilogy, and the bestselling *Star Wars* novel *The Phantom Menace*. In addition to being a writing guide, *Sometimes the Magic Works* is Terry Brooksâ ™s self-portrait of the artist. Here are sketches of his midwestern boyhood, when comic books, radio serials, and a vivid imagination launched a life long passion for weaving tales of wonder; recollections of the fateful collaboration with legendary editor Lester del Rey that changed not only the authorâ ™s life but the course of publishing history; and an eye-opening look at the ups and downs of dealing with Hollywood, as a writer of official novels based on major movies by both Steven Spielberg and George Lucas.â œIf you donâ ™t think there is magic in writing, you probably wonâ ™t write anything magical,â • says Terry Brooks. This book offers a rare and wonderful opportunity to peer into the mind of (and learn a trick or two from) one of fantasy fictionâ ™s preeminent magicians.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is not an instruction manual on how to write. Think of this as sort of a comic con panel by a guy who loves to write for people who love to write. A really fun little read. One thing, I bought this for kindle on sale for \$2, but the ebook price is back up to \$13 as of now. That's a lot of money for something this short. I do not blame the author. The publisher sets the price. I'm not saying it's not worth \$13. I'm just saying it's really short. Know what you're going to get after you pay for it.

Although I am a published writer I'm well aware that inspiration can be found in another writer's work. Terry Brooks writes in an easy, natural style. I feel as if we are having a conversation. He offers advice with examples to make his points. Even though we write very different kinds of books, the rules of writing are the same. I'm already familiar with those rules but it helps me to rethink them. In my opinion, *Sometimes the Magic Works* is a fine manual for writers on every level. Love the title too. We all need to believe in a bit of magic!

Whether you're an aspiring writer or an avid reader, you will find this book will bring clarity to the art of writing and the immense possibilities that true storytelling brings. Yes, sometimes the magic works, as in that one extraordinary day when the writer comes to the realization that the tools he needs are in the magic.

I have read several of Terry Brooks stories, for him to layout the magic of writing was enlightening and informative. I would recommend this book to any and all who asked how I learned to write. The

rules for writing are concise and really straight forward. Mr. Brooks, well done and thank you.

I have read a lot of books by good authors about writing. This one is the best. Most of the authors of books on writing have one or two gems of inspiration that can get you writing a few pages, but Brooks' book is loaded with inspirational and concrete information that actually walks you through the process of writing a book.

I have loved much of what Terry has written in the realm of fantasy. So this is a bit of a divergence, as he is writing about breaking into the publishing world. His stories are insightful and humorous. A good short read for anyone interested in what it takes to become a writer.

Sometimes the Magic Works: Lessons From a Writing Life is a blunt look at the business of writing. Terry Brooks is a prolific genius with an amazing body of his work. He discusses the work; the passion; and the luck involved in getting his first publishing contract. He speaks of writing as only one who loves the craft can - with humility. It is a wonderful read for anyone who loves to write, or contemplating a writing life.

If you write or want to write, especially in scifi or fantasy, I recommend you read this book. It will deepen your hunger for the craft and offer more than one or two ideas that could affect your approach to your own work. My age is just a few years younger than the author's and his anecdotes about growing up touched a number of memories. What a delight.

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