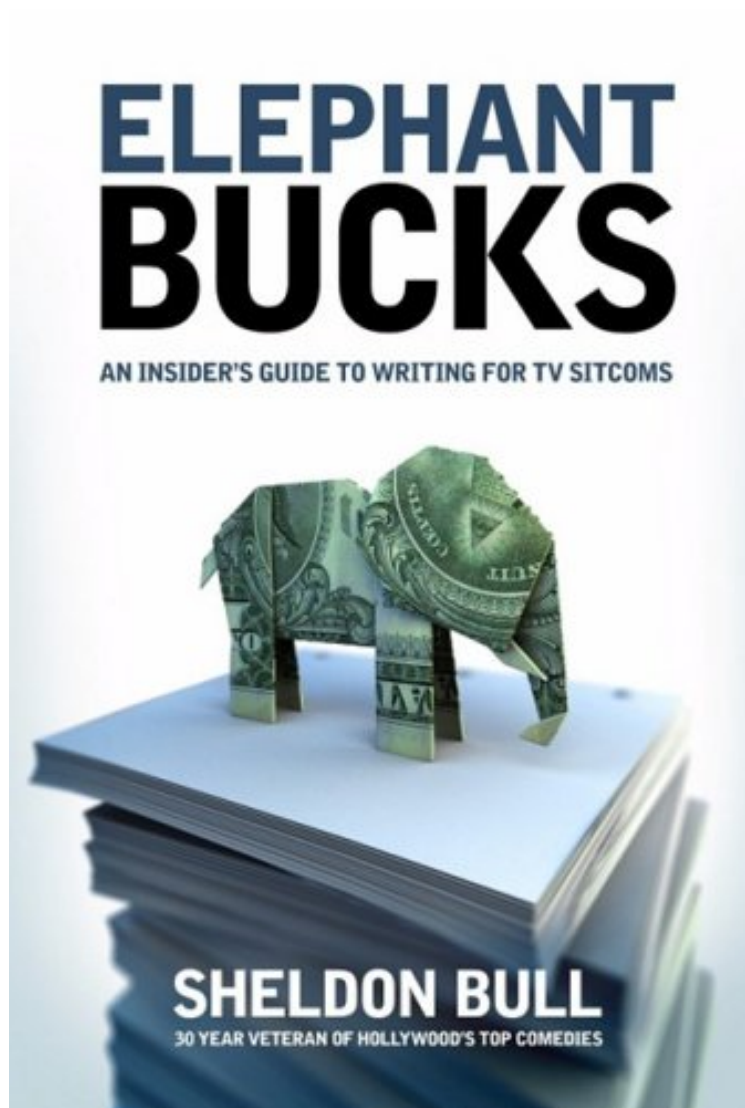


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Elephant Bucks: An Inside Guide to Writing for TV Sitcoms

Sheldon Bull

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Sheldon Bull : Elephant Bucks: An Inside Guide to Writing for TV Sitcoms before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elephant Bucks: An Inside Guide to Writing for TV Sitcoms:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I Shouldn't be Telling You this, but it's Really Good.By DmulOk. So Sheldon Bull kind of sounds like a made-up name. And, if you're anything like me, at first you'll be unsure as to what exactly is being implied by the book's title. Don't be discouraged; this is the most powerful TV writing resource I've come across.The book's stated mission is to guide you through the process of specing an existing TV show, and it's

arranged roughly as follows: selecting a show to spec (first ~20% of the book); the brass tacks of actually composing a quality script (~60%); and, finally, how to unload that script on the right person, and what your life is going to look like if said transaction goes smoothly (the last ~20%). Keep in mind that the meat of the book applies to more than just specing, though. It helped me finish a Seinfeld script I was working on for fun at the time, yes, but this is also an invaluable resource for someone trying to write an original pilot (I hear those are all the rage at the moment). Why is this such a good resource? Because it's the most logical, digestible, non-mystical breakdown of good television writing out of everything I've read, watched, or listened-to on the subject. And I'm saying that with a Kindle and bookshelf stocked with similar works, some of them bearing names like McKee and Goldman down the spine. As far as what that digestible, logical, non-magical stuff is, I'll be brief, but basically Sheldon breaks down the way a sitcom's Premise combines with the traits of its Main Character(s) to create a Formula that generates stories week after week. Furthermore, he gives us Seven Story Points on which to hang those wretched, underdeveloped story ideas of ours. This all may sound simplistic or anti-art or whatever, but as Sheldon points out toward the end, a good deal of our most celebrated sitcoms both in a critical and commercial sense adhere to these principles much more often than they stray. I don't really know why I'm telling you this, by the way. You, the prospective consumer, will probably be my competition as we both lay siege to the world of sitcom writing in the near future. But hey this book delivered pretty hard, and I felt obligated to do this as a means of facilitating sales. So have a nice day. Or night. Friday night, more specifically, according to my calendar as I finish typing this. Which means I'm going to put on a collared shirt and drink 3-7 Heinekens. Danny 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was published in 2007 so I recommend supplementing this book with some of his YouTube interviews ...By Nancy Brennan Sheldon Bull's Elephant Bucks is an outstanding guide to writing for sitcoms. It was published in 2007 so I recommend supplementing this book with some of his YouTube interviews and lectures for his updates on the field. Bull's Chapter 6 section on writing your comedy scenes as drama first will have you writing everything faster and funnier. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Ultimate Guide By LBB Company I've read a lot of books on writing and TV writing, but I have to say, after reading ELEPHANT BUCKS, it clicked. I've written sitcom specs, thinking I understood, but after reading this book, I felt like I needed to rewrite the scripts I'd written. I wish I'd had this book before I entered the ABC/Disney and WB fellowships.

Publisher Marketing: A comprehensive guide to writing a highly commercial and saleable spec sitcom script and launching your career as a TV sitcom writer. Includes detailed inside information on how to choose the right series to spec, how to pick the right story, and detailed, step by step instruction on how to write the scripts that will get you work.

Sheldon Bull is not only the funniest man on two feet, but one of the most brilliant when it comes to explaining how to be funny, and how to organize your creative ideas into the sitcom form. It is the clearest, best, and to my knowledge the only how to that tells writers step by step how to write for and break into the fabulous world of TV sitcoms-- Blake Snyder, Author of Save the Cat: The Last Book on Screenwriting You'll Ever Need