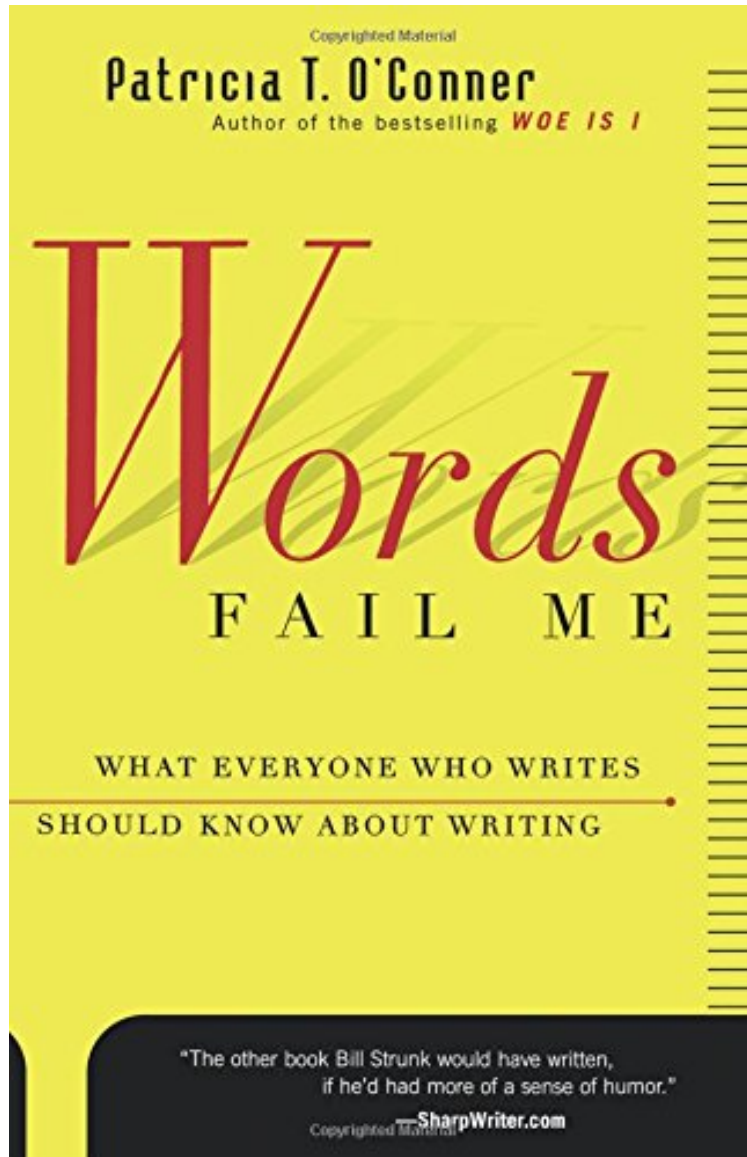


Words Fail Me: What Everyone Who Writes Should Know about Writing

Patricia T. O'Conner
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Patricia T. O'Conner : Words Fail Me: What Everyone Who Writes Should Know about Writing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Words Fail Me: What Everyone Who Writes Should Know about Writing:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great guide to help you write yourself out of that cornerBy J.

FuhrmanI picked this book up after finishing O'Conner's other book, *Woe is I*, which I highly recommend. As the subtitle states, this book is less about hard rules and more about strategies to attack problems you're having with writing. There is a wealth of information here, all presented with her readable wit, but I did find myself skimming a few parts, only because this isn't the first book on craft I've read. I'm sure beginners will find a lot of great material here, and even though it treads over familiar territory, it was worth revisiting.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Good ResourceBy Edward J. BartonThe book is a wonderfully written, humorous view of how to write and a great reminder of the tips and tricks for writing fiction and non-fiction. O'Conner provides the reader a concise view of the writer's art. The chapters are short, direct, and the information the book conveys are great lessons for the novice writer and solid reminders for the experienced one.Covering the landscape from word selection, grammar, structure and subject - the book is a great reminder of what good writing is and how to integrate best practice into your writing approach.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Vartuli PatGreat and eye-opening

A fun, focused guide to making words work for you

.com Patricia T. O'Conner's *Words Fail Me* is written in the same lighthearted tone as her snappy grammar guide, *Woe Is I*. This time out, O'Conner tackles the writer's art. "Good writing," she says, "is writing that works." This book is the perfect text for the novice writer who tends to gravitate toward comedic instructors. "Crummy spelling," says O'Conner, "is more noticeable than crummy anything else." Organizing your material "may be a pain in the butt, but it's thankless, too!" "Write as though you were addressing someone whose opinion you value, even if the reader is ... a stingy insurance company that won't pay for your tummy tuck." O'Conner's material isn't new--like many such books, *Words Fail Me* advocates the use of small words, fresh verbs, and only well-chosen modifiers--but rarely is a primer so amusing. And the clever titles strewn throughout--"Taking Leave of Your Tenses," "The It Parade"--provide added pleasure, particularly for anyone who knows how hard it can be to put a headline on a piece of writing. --Jane SteinbergFrom BooklistThis book is for beginning writers--those who want to write or need to write but find that the words get in the way. Those words may include misplaced modifiers, passive verbs, and split infinitives, among others. Students writing papers, employees preparing reports, and those who just want to be understood in print may benefit from this fun-to-use answer to Strunk and White. O'Connor uses humor as she takes apart sentences and their parts and shows how each element is used effectively. She does get into the heavy-duty writing tools and even the pitfalls, including point of view, jargon, and rhythm. Marlene Chamberlain "O'Conner uses her playful sense of humor to help us swallow with a laugh the rules that schoolmarms once forced down students' throats.-The New York Times Book "O'Conner is one of those sneaky-good writers: You don't see the effort behind her smoothness."-Salon.com "Read this one from end to end....Imagine what the Congressional Record would be like if bureaucrats wrote that way."-The Cleveland Plain Dealer "Will delight the word lovers on your shopping list...Sassy." -Detroit News Free Press "Remember *Woe Is I*? Well, Ms. O'Conner is back and she hasn't lost her touch. This book is worth the price just to read her chapter titles and headings."-Writers' Exchange "Patricia T. O'Conner's *Woe Is I* and *Words Fail Me* are readable, sympathetic to the struggling writer and often just plain funny."-the Seattle Times