



The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out of the Rejection Pile

By Noah Lukeman

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IF YOU'RE TIRED OF REJECTION, THIS IS THE BOOK FOR YOU.

Whether you are a novice writer or a veteran who has already had your work published, rejection is often a frustrating reality. Literary agents and editors receive and reject hundreds of manuscripts each month. While it's the job of these publishing professionals to be discriminating, it's the job of the writer to produce a manuscript that immediately stands out among the vast competition. And those outstanding qualities, says New York literary agent Noah Lukeman, have to be apparent from the first five pages.

The First Five Pages reveals the necessary elements of good writing, whether it be fiction, nonfiction, journalism, or poetry, and points out errors to be avoided, such as

- * A weak opening hook
- * Overuse of adjectives and adverbs
- * Flat or forced metaphors or similes
- * Melodramatic, commonplace or confusing dialogue
- * Undeveloped characterizations and lifeless settings
- * Uneven pacing and lack of progression

With exercises at the end of each chapter, this invaluable reference will allow novelists, journalists, poets and screenwriters alike to improve their technique as they learn to eliminate even the most subtle mistakes that are cause for rejection.

The First Five Pages will help writers at every stage take their art to a higher -- and more successful -- level.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The difference between *The First Five Pages* and most books on writing is that the others are written by teachers and writers. This one comes from a literary agent--one whose clients include Pulitzer Prize nominees, *New York Times* bestselling authors, Pushcart Prize recipients, and American Book Award winners. Noah Lukeman is not trying to impart the finer points of writing well. He wants to teach you "how to identify and avoid bad writing," so that your manuscript doesn't come boomeranging back to you in that self-addressed, stamped envelope. Surprise: Agents and editors don't read manuscripts for fun; they are looking for reasons to reject them. Lukeman has arranged his book "in the order of what I look for when trying to dismiss a manuscript," starting with presentation and concluding with pacing and progression. Each chapter addresses a pitfall of poor writing--overabundance of adjectives and adverbs, tedious or unrealistic dialogue, and lack of subtlety to name just a few--by identifying the problem, presenting solutions, giving examples (one wishes these weren't quite so obvious), and offering writing exercises. It's a little bizarre to think about approaching your work as would an agent, but if you are serious about getting published, you may as well get used to it. Plus, Lukeman has plenty of solid advice worth listening to. Particularly fine are his exercises for removing and spicing up modifiers and his remedies for all kinds of faulty dialogue. --*Jane Steinberg*

From Library Journal

Novice and amateur writers alike will benefit from literary agent Lukeman's lucid advice in this handy, inexpensive little book. Lukeman draws on his years of editorial experience to present an inside look at manuscript submission. He provides suggestions, examples, and practice exercises designed to lift ordinary prose to a higher level. Covering writing fundamentals, including viewpoint, tone, pacing, character development, grammar, and more, Lukeman sprinkles examples of common writing problems and simple solutions throughout the text. Carrying the craft of writing beyond Strunk and White's classic *Elements of Style*, this book should find a wide audience; public libraries sponsoring writers' groups and workshops will want multiple copies. Academic libraries will want several copies to share with writing labs. Highly recommended.

--*Denise S. Sticha, Seton Hill Coll., Greensburg, PA*

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Review

Richard Marek Editorial Director of *Kirkus Reviews* and former book publisher Intelligent and entertaining instruction...it should be read by all novice writers -- and by those books are already published but who intend to write more.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Boehme:

The book *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out of the Rejection Pile* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave a good thing like a book *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out of the Rejection Pile*? A number of you have a

different opinion about book. But one aim that book can give many data for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you are able to give for each other; you could share all of these. Book *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out of the Rejection Pile* has simple shape however you know: it has great and big function for you. You can look the enormous world by wide open and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

Mohammed Thomas:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write with their book. One of them is this *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out of the Rejection Pile*.

Shelly Gomes:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book *The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide To Staying Out of the Rejection Pile* it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

Rose Hilton:

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