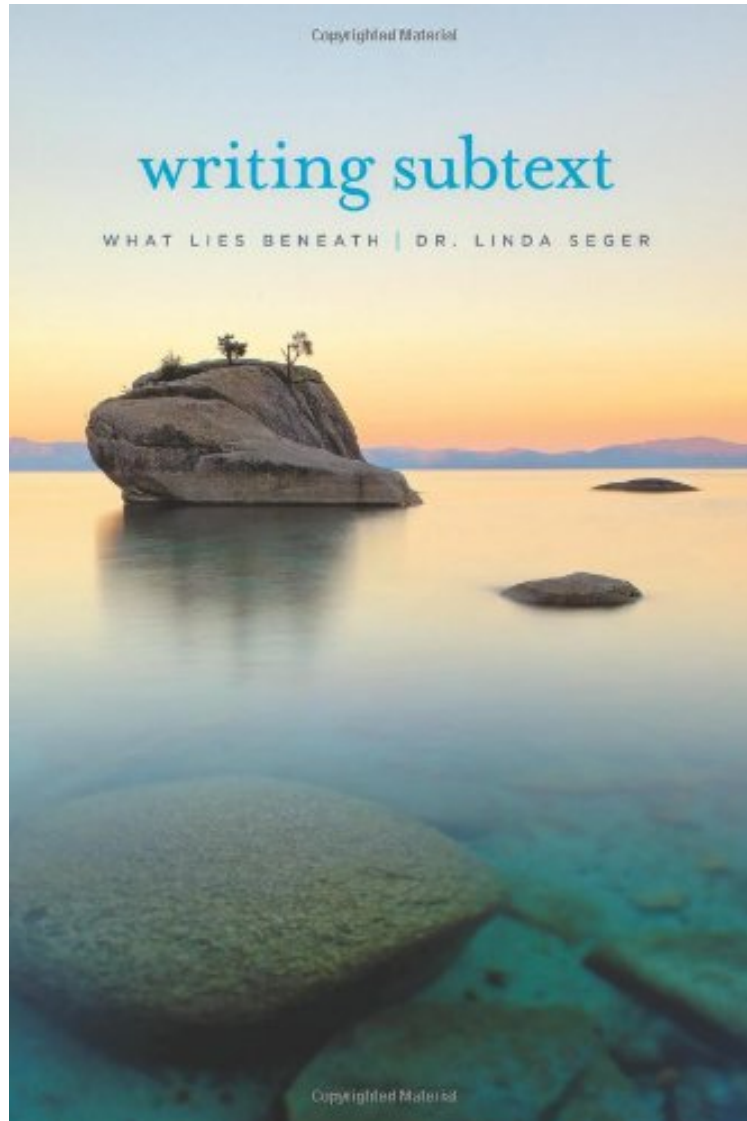


[Free download] Writing Subtext: What Lies Beneath

Writing Subtext: What Lies Beneath

Linda Seger

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Linda Seger : Writing Subtext: What Lies Beneath before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writing Subtext: What Lies Beneath:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Not just for screenwriters, and an excellent resource By Jeffery Cotton This is a book, like Will Dunne's "The Dramatic Writer's Companion", that is inexplicably directed (marketed) at screenwriters and playwrights. The exercises in Dunne's book are fantastic, and powerful because he has you directing them at your own writing, rather than abstract situations provided by the author. I feel very much the same way about this book, "Writing Subtext: What Lies Beneath". I also read Charles Baxter's "The Art of Subtext," which

is directed at fiction writers. It was interesting, but I don't recall much of it. In this book, Linda Seger has delved so deeply into the psychology of subtext, pulling as many examples from real life as from screenplays, that anyone who creates fictional worlds will benefit from reading it. I suppose one could say that the fact I find these books more useful means I am probably more of an aspiring screenwriter than a novelist, but I am not. The novel I am currently working on is far too quiet and internal to be of interest to any producer, and that's just fine with me. This book has brought me to a place where I am now listening for subtext in my everyday life, my own as well as that of others. Congratulations to Ms. Seger for producing a clearly stated text on the not-clearly stated.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good read

By Paula Cappa Reviews While there is quite a lot in this book in helping writers to understand the mechanics of subtext (not just the meanings beneath the words but what informs the text i.e. the implicit meaning), most of this book focuses on subtext from films: *Double Indemnity*, *The Big Short*, *Cheers*, *Ordinary People*, etc. So if you are a screen writer or playwright, I think you'll be happy to learn about the uses and methods on how subtext motivates, communicates, and can present scene conflict and tension. I'm a writer of novels and short stories so I was disappointed, expecting this book to also address novel writing. It doesn't. But there is a lot here to get you thinking and examining about character motivation and plot driven stories. Seger says, subtext makes us ask why. I did like how she explains the psychology beneath subtext, what's true, what's evasive, certainty vs. uncertainty, conscious and subconscious subtext. Very helpful.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great resource for writers

By James Pitter With so many books available covering the basics of writing, e.g. structure, plot, characterisation, etc, I was surprised to learn how few authoritative publications there were on the use of subtext as a means to create emotional impact. In fact, at the time of writing this review, I noticed just four dedicated books on attributed to the subject. After a long and exhaustive search and having read some positive reviews, I eventually settled on *Writing Subtext: What Lies Beneath*, by Linda Seger. It was worth the wait (and the frustration). One of the things which quickly became apparent to me when I began reading the book was the many different forms of subtext, some of which I never knew existed. Or, perhaps I did, but had simply not thought of them as being subtext. Dialogue sure, description and gestures maybe, but subtext in images, metaphors and genre? Okay, maybe that explains my sales figures. But, seriously, next time you watch a great movie or TV show and try to analyse the source of those layers of meaning, chances are they have been created using some form of subtext. I realise many writers are probably already well-versed on the value of this subject, but, for the uninitiated like me, the contents of this book were a big deal. Chapter one begins with a definition and exploration of subtext, with subsequent chapters discussing the many techniques of expression highlighted earlier. There are helpful excerpts of successful scripts the author uses to emphasise a point as well as exercises and tips for discussion at the end of each chapter, just in case the reader hadn't been paying attention. This is a genuinely good book, packed full with helpful advice and tips for writers of every discipline. It's perfect for anyone looking for guidance on ways to create more insight and depth to their work.

Partly a how-to book, partly an exploration of this important topic, *Writing Subtext* explores all the underlying meanings that lie beneath the words, images, and actions in film, which are also applicable to any kind of fiction writing. Replete with examples from films, as well as examples from real life, *Writing Subtext* helps the writer figure out how to find and write subtext.

Didn't even know I was subtexting so often until I read your book. Your examples are teachers. Should be required reading. You've done it again... and again... --Alvin Sargent, Academy award-winning screenwriter *Ordinary People*; screenwriter *Paper Moon*, *Spiderman-2*, *Spiderman-3*

Linda Seger explores the previously unexplored landscape of subtext in screenwriting in a masterful, intriguing, and insightful way. This book will benefit everyone professional, aspiring, inquiring, and just plain interested writers. It's a thoroughly good read. --Syd Field, internationally acclaimed writer and teacher; author of *Screenplay*, *The Screenwriter's Workbook*, *The Screenwriter's Problem Solver*

In book after book, Linda Seger gives writers both the tools and the inspiration to transform their work into something truly wonderful. I love this book! Linda brilliantly examines this topic, and has taken it to whole new areas and levels, showing the innumerable ways that carefully chosen dialogue, description, gestures, and images can convey untold layers of meaning and emotion. --Michael Hauge, script consultant; author of *Writing Screenplays That Sell* and *Selling Your Story in 60 Seconds*

About the Author Dr. Linda Seger is an internationally known story analyst with clients throughout the world. Her best-selling list of books include *Making a Good Script Great* (9781935247012), *From Script to Screen* (9781580650540), and *Creating Unforgettable Characters* (9780805011715).