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What should you consider when co-authoring a book?



Co-authoring a book can be a great way to capitalize on the knowledge base of each person involved and decrease the amount of work needed from each contributor. It can also be a delicate mix of ego and emotions. Consider writing up an agreement with your writing partner that outlines who is to do what. Will one of you focus more on the writing while the other puts their efforts into marketing? How will the start up cost be treated? How will royalties be divided? Will one person (or an editor) be in charge of project management? Some authors find it helpful for one person to keep track of deadlines and control the documents' movement.

A co-author relationship is like any other relationship: it thrives when all members communicate. Clearly outlining your expectations and responsibilities early on can reduce the stress when deadlines approach and can help you to create the best possible product.

Happy writing!

Writing erotic fiction

This is a part of a series on writing genre fiction. [Click here](#) to read about writing horror stories.

As with any other kind of genre fiction—and yes, sex writing is as much a genre as the murder mystery—a successful writer needs to know the conventions of the genre and then work out some new twists. So, the first thing to do if you want to write good erotica is to read a lot of it. Everything from the dubious pleasures of *Fifty Shades* to the more conventional but equally hot musings of Erica Jong via Anne Rice’s *Beauty* series: Make yourself familiar with successful work and think about why it’s so appealing.

Perhaps surprisingly, what makes good “porn” writing is also what makes good writing in general: characters with whom the reader can identify, exciting plots, detailed settings, and dialogue that can be read without groaning—although in the case of erotic writing, sometimes groaning can count as dialogue....

Readers want to enter a fantasy world of sexual activity that they probably won’t experience in their own lives, so feel free to allow your characters to do things that you might never actually do. You needn’t reproduce every activity in the *Kama Sutra*, but be inventive. The erotic novel is no place to keep your socks on in bed, unless you are exploring a footwear fetish, and in that case, you’d better describe those socks in loving detail.

Just as foreplay is half the fun of sex, build your scenario slowly: tease your reader with some false starts before moving into the bedroom. Nobody wants to read, “They met, they had sex, the end.” Readers want to be able to imagine themselves in the scene, and the more of the reader’s senses you engage, the better the experience will be for them.

And finally, as with any really hot lover: Don’t hold back from making the reader laugh in the right places. Breaking the sexual tension only to build it back up again is definitely allowed.



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