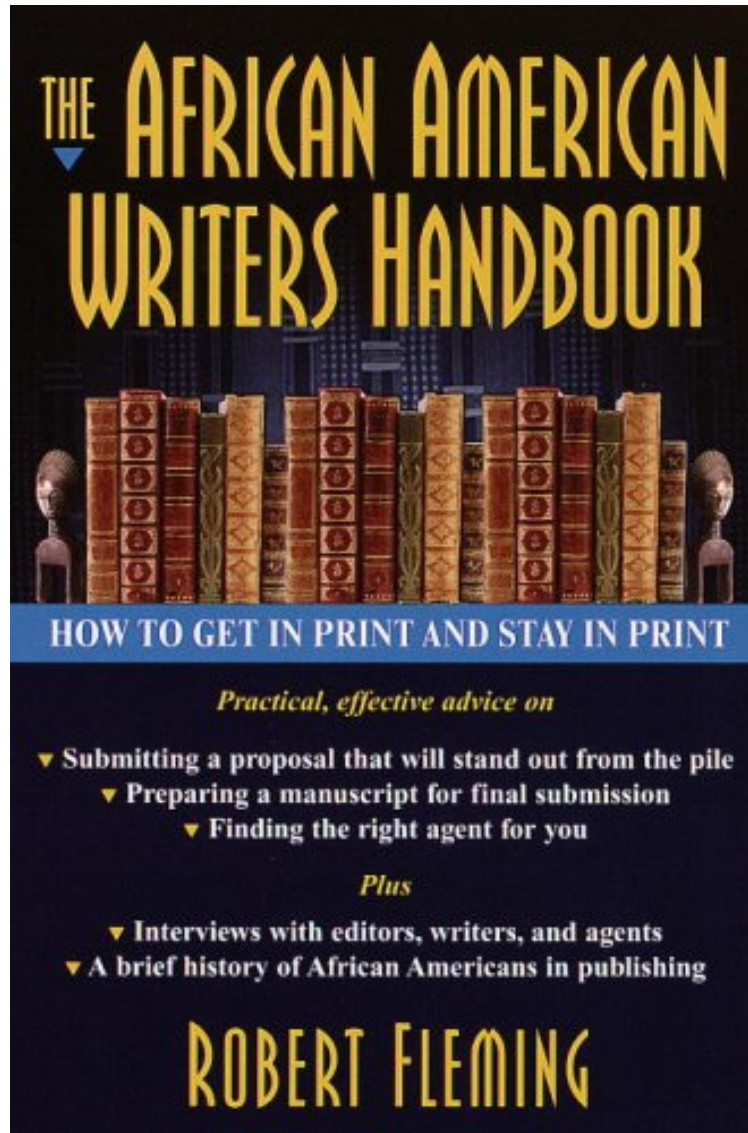


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## The African American Writer's Handbook: How to Get in Print and Stay in Print

Robert Fleming

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A MUST HAVE FOR EVERY WRITER By A Customer The wealth of information contained in the African American Writers Handbook is indispensable, not only as a tool, but as a resource of tidbits and anecdotes never found in books of this sort. Handbooks are not generally meant to be

entertaining, but merely informative and instructional. This book masters all. I truly ENJOYED reading it and discovering the fascinating stories behind the lives of many legendary black writers. Do not be fooled by the name. This handbook is for any writer with a desire to enhance their craft and gain insight into the lives of writers who have brightened the literary world. Mr. Fleming did a marvelous job. I would recommend this book to anyone who is serious about writing or simply wants a great read! A definite keeper. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **INVALUABLE TOOL** By Bonita L. Davis Aspiring African-American writers will find this book an invaluable resource in breaking into the world of publishing. Written with a no nonsense approach, Robert Fleming gives the reader fundamental information concerning the publishing business that every writer should know. He insists that you do your research and homework about the publishing field and your market before an article or perspective novel is sent out. You must know the rules of the game before you can play. Yes, the book is for serious writers who want to get published. Follow his guidelines and you will make it happen. Included in the text are profiles regarding African-American writers in the past who made a comfortable living in their field. You receive from them their thoughts regarding the industry and just being a writer. Fleming also tells you what fields and genres Blacks have written in which they have been promoted by the mainstream publishing houses. All fictional genres and poetry are open wide for Black talent. This book is highly informative, entertaining and realistic in presenting to the reader the obstacles that they must overcome in order to become published. Its mood is very optimistic and there isn't any doubt that you can get in print if you do your homework, work hard, have a hard skin and keep on perservering. The only fault that I find with the book is its failure to deal with non-fiction opportunities and the absence of Black writers in the horror and action fiction genres. Other than those absent fields I would say this book is great. It is a must to have as a resource in your library. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. **A MUST-HAVE for any aspiring AFRICAN AMERICAN writer!** By ChickLitGurr! This book is a definite must for any aspiring African American writer! For the reader, it's as if you're a fly on the wall taking part of some top-secret information. The handbook is chock full of information regarding: 1. Tips on submitting proposals, query letters, and preparing manuscripts for submission; 2. Advice on finding an agent and negotiating contracts that launch careers; 3. Interviews with top editors, agents, publishing executives, and bookstore owners; 4. Updated information on copyrights, subsidiary rights, and sales and marketing; 5. The trials and tribulations of self-publishing; and 6. The art of promoting your work and yourself to a wider audience Not only does this book provide a comprehensive guide to the OTHER side of writing (the okay, now I got a book, what do I need to know now?), but it provides inspiration as well to the number of aspiring writers out there who might feel they will never understand anything beyond the writing-a-book stage... now you have a great beginning lesson to read on the entire publishing process. If you're a true writer, and want to know about all the facets of the publishing world, this is a book you NEED to have on your shelf. Shonell Bacon, author

With African Americans writing and buying books in record numbers, the time is ripe for a comprehensive publishing guide tailored expressly to the needs of this vibrant, creative community. The African American Writers Handbook meets this challenge perfectly. Written by veteran journalist and published author Robert Fleming, this book gives writers the heart, the determination, and above all the crucial information to publish successfully in this highly competitive field. Knowing the inner workings of the publishing industry provides any writer, novice or veteran, with a much needed advantage in the quest to get into print. Inside you'll find- A complete, step-by-step guide to every aspect of the publishing process, from the germination of a winning idea to the nuts and bolts of book production- Tips on submitting proposals, query letters, and preparing manuscripts for submission- Advice on negotiating contracts that extend careers- How to use on-line resources for research and profit- Interviews with top editors, agents, publishing executives, and bookstore owners- Updated information on copyrights, subsidiary rights, sales and marketing- The trials and triumphs of self-publishing- The art of promoting your work and yourself to a wider audience- An insider's look at the economic realities of the book business- And much more! Here, too, are scores of inspiring interviews and capsule biographies of leading African American writers both past and present. How did Richard Wright become America's first bestselling black writer? How did Zora Neale Hurston break through the artistic boundaries of the Harlem Renaissance long after her death? What was Toni Cade Bambara doing before she sold her first book? Why should Ann Petry, William Gardner Smith, Nella Larson, and William Melvin Kelley be revered wherever African American literature is read? Blending practical information and fascinating anecdotes with a mini literary history of African American writing, this upbeat, savvy, essential guide is a publishing primer with soul. From the Trade Paperback edition.