

Writing the Standalone Series

3D Fiction Fundamentals Collection, Volume 3

BONUS COMPANION BOOKLET

by Karen S. Wiesner

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3D Fiction Fundamentals Collection, Volume 3: *Writing the Standalone Series Bonus Companion Booklet*

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3D Fiction Fundamentals Collection

About the Author

Note from the Author

Dear Reader,

Frequently I'm asked whether the worksheets, checklists, charts, examples, exercises, and/or other aids from my writing reference titles are available in a usable download format. While the original publisher of the main book did offer free copies of some of these in PDF format on their website, naturally these were only "usable" if they were printed out and written on by hand.

My publisher and I wanted to offer a download of all of these that were in a usable format, which allows for cross-platform document exchange that most word processors are able to read or write to. In other words, the file allows you to type right into the document and use it over and over as needed.

Writing the Standalone Series Bonus Companion Booklet contains all the blank worksheets from the main book. These are free to download from the Writers Exchange E-Publishing website. Follow the link to the collection in the back of this booklet. Please be aware that this file is provided as a supplemental to *Writing the Standalone Series*. The assumption is that you purchased a copy of that book and therefore have a working knowledge of the methods discussed in that book. For those who prefer print, a paperback equivalent is available for purchase.

Remember that this material is copyrighted. It is illegal to distribute, share, or put it on your website for any reason. The material is strictly for individual use by the purchaser.

Happy writing!

Karen S. Wiesner

Series Organization Worksheets

Series and Story Blurb Development

Series Breakdown

Series Bible Information: Characters

Series Bible Worksheet: Character Sketch

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Series and Story Blurb Development

Series Blurb

Step 1: Define your series tie(s):

- Recurring Character Series
- Central Group of Characters
- Premise/Plot Series
- Setting Series
- Combination of These (list)

Your series tie(s) will frequently help you figure out what needs to be included in the series blurb.

Step 2: In one to four sentences, define your series arc by putting it into the story arc equation. Try to do this in a single sentence if possible, following the “leads to” logic. *Remember, resolutions are not always needed in the series blurb, since you don’t want to defuse the intrigue or tension, but sometimes a resolution works in the overall series blurb. Play with it.*

Introduction → Change → Conflicts → Choices → Crisis → Resolutions

Example: *Men and women (**Introduction**) who have sacrificed their personal identities (**Choices**) to live in the shadows (**Change**) and uphold justice for all (**Conflicts**)—no matter the cost. (**Crisis**)*

Step 3: Keep tweaking your series blurb (possibly by making the sentence into a question or an exclamation, or ending with ellipses) until it’s intriguing.

Story Blurb

Step 1: Your story blurb should contain a high concept blurb, i.e.:

A character (**who**) wants a goal (**what**) because he’s motivated (**why**), but he faces conflict (**why not**). Your premise/plot or

setting might also appear in this sentence. Come up with a simple sentence that defines your story in this way.

Step 2: Flesh out your story blurb by filling in the blanks for each of the main characters in your story (unless you find it more effective to use just one main character):

_____ (**name of character**) wants _____ (**goal to be achieved**) because _____ (**motivation for acting**), but faces _____ (**conflict standing in the way**).

Step 3: Keep tweaking your story blurb until it's intriguing (again, making the last sentence a question or exclamation, or ending it with ellipses). *Remember, your story blurb should fit the genre and tone of the story, and be short enough to be memorable but detailed enough to capture interest.*

Example: *An unsuspecting nurse is lured to an ancient family mansion said to hold both ghosts and horrifying secrets in order to care for three orphaned children. (high concept blurb)*

Amberlyn Lyons (**name of character**) has recently suffered a devastating miscarriage that has torn her marriage apart and shaken her faith (**motivation for acting**). She quietly takes a nanny position at an isolated mansion in Bloodmoon Cove without electricity, telephone, or ease of passage. The moment she walks into Bloodmoon Manor, Amberlyn deduces that things aren't as they seem. The eerily similar owners distrust doctors who, in thirty years, have been unable to cure their severely deformed daughter Katerina. Katerina both idolizes and despises Amberlyn for her beauty. Childishly cruel, Katerina enjoys tormenting the orphans by telling them tales of the malicious ghost that haunts the decaying mansion.

Amberlyn discounts the paranormal legends as made-up stories until she hears the shuffling of footsteps in the cold, dark halls and feels that she's being watched at every turn. She knows the ghost is real and she must protect the children. But when she discovers a graveyard behind the mansion filled with babies who

died at birth or shortly thereafter, she realizes the ghost of Bloodmoon Manor is really a family curse and she was brought there to uphold the family legacy of that curse. **(conflict standing in the way)** Either she finds a way to escape with the children... or she becomes the next bloodmoon bride. **(goal to be achieved)**

Series Breakdown

Series Blurb

Series title:

Series genre:

Series tie:

If Recurring or Cast of Characters Series, list:

Main series character(s):

If Premise/Plot Series, list:

Main premise/plot:

If Setting Series, list:

Main setting(s):

Series blurb:

Individual Story Blurbs

Title of book:

Book number in the series:

Story genre (if different from the series):

If Recurring or Cast of Characters Series, list:

Main series character(s):

Secondary character(s):

If Premise/Plot Series, list:

Main premise/plot: (if different from the series)

If Setting Series, list:

Main setting(s): (if different from the series)

Story blurb:

Title of book:

Book number in the series:

Story genre (if different from the series):

If Recurring or Cast of Characters Series, list:

Main series character(s):

Secondary character(s):

If Premise/Plot Series, list:

Main premise/plot: (if different from the series)

If Setting Series, list:

Main setting(s): (if different from the series)

Story blurb:

Title of book:

Book number in the series:

Story genre (if different from the series):

If Recurring or Cast of Characters Series, list:

Main series character(s):

Secondary character(s):

If Premise/Plot Series, list:

Main premise/plot: (if different from the series)

If Setting Series, list:

Main setting(s): (if different from the series)

Story blurb:

Title of book:

Book number in the series:

Story genre (if different from the series):

If Recurring or Cast of Characters Series, list:

Main series character(s):

Secondary character(s):

If Premise/Plot Series, list:

Main premise/plot: (if different from the series)

If Setting Series, list:

Main setting(s): (if different from the series)

Story blurb:

Fill out individual story blurbs for every book in your series.

Series Bible Information: Characters

You can use separate worksheets, tablets, index cards, or word processing files for each subject in your series bible.

In free form essays, detail:

Characters

Character Descriptions:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Other Important Character Information:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Series Bible Worksheet: Character Sketch

General Character Sketch

Character Name:

Nickname:

Birth Date/Place:

Character Role: (hero, heroine, secondary character, villain)

Physical Descriptions:

Age:

Race:

Eye Color:

Hair Color/Style:

Build (Height/Weight):

Skin Tone:

Style of Dress:

Characteristics or mannerisms:

Personality Traits:

Background:

Internal Conflicts:

External Conflicts:

Occupation/Education:

Miscellaneous Notes:

Character Dialogue Sheet

1. Character:

Dialogue specifics:

Other mannerisms or character tags:

2. Character:

Dialogue specifics:

Other mannerisms or character tags:

Series Bible Information: Settings

You can use separate worksheets, tablets, index cards, or word processing files for each subject in your series bible.

In free form essays, detail:

Settings

Name of Setting:

Description:

Other Important Setting Information:

Series Bible Worksheet: Setting Sketches

General Setting Sketch

Story Title:

Name of Setting:

Characters Living in This Time Period and Region:

Year or Time Period:

Season:

State:

City or Town:

Miscellaneous Notes:

Character Setting Sketch

Story Title:

Character Name:

General Settings for This Character:

Character's Home:

City or Town:

Neighborhood Character Lives In:

Street Character Lives On:

Character's Neighbors:

Character's Home (Apartment, House, Mansion, Trailer, Ranch, etc.):

Home Interior:

Character's Workplace:

City or Town:

Business Name:

Type of Business:

Neighborhood:

Street:

Individual Workspace:

Co-workers:

Miscellaneous Notes:

Series Bible Information: Premise/Plot Specifics

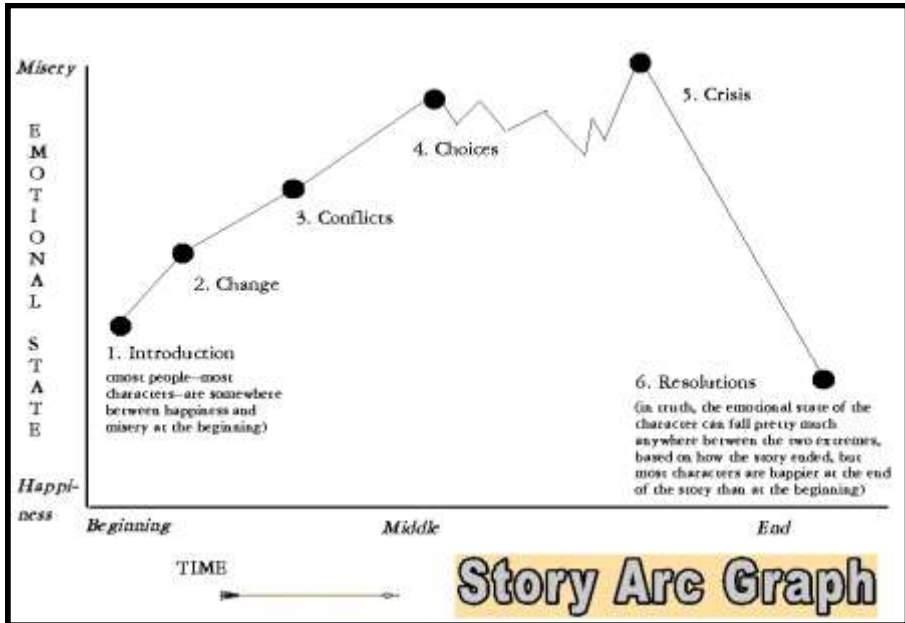
You can use separate worksheets, tablets, index cards, or word processing files for each subject in your series bible.

In free form essays, detail:

Premise/Plot Specifics:

Series Bible Worksheet: Plot Sketch (Simple)

Story Title, Series Name, and Book Number:



Where you see the arrows, insert the words “leads to”.

Introduction → Change → Conflicts → Choices → Crisis → Resolutions

In free form essays, detail:

Character Introduction:

Character Change:

Character Conflicts:

Define/discuss Series Arc:

Define/discuss Story Arc:

Define/discuss Subplot #1:

Define/discuss Subplot #2:

Character Choices:

Define/discuss final Downtime (or crisis point):

Character Crisis:

Define/discuss the Black Moment (or epiphany):

Define/discuss the Showdown:

Character Resolutions:

Series Bible Worksheet: Plot Sketch (Detailed)

Story Title, Series Name, and Book Number:

Working Genre(s):

Working POV Specification:

Estimated Length of Book:

High Concept Blurb:

Beginning Story Conflict:

Identifying the Main Character(s):

Character Overviews

First Character:

Second Character:

Description (Outside POV)

First Character:

Second Character:

Description (Self POV)

First Character:

Second Character:

Occupational Skills

First Character:

Second Character:

Setting Descriptions

First Character:

Second Character:

Character Internal Conflicts

First Character:

Second Character:

Evolving Goals and Motivations

First Character:

Second Character:

External Plot Conflicts

Middle Evolving Story Conflict:

Character Internal Conflicts

First Character:

Second Character:

Evolving Goals and Motivations

First Character:

Second Character:

External Plot Conflicts

End Resolving Story Conflict:

Character Internal Conflicts

First Character:

Second Character:

Evolving Goals and Motivations

First Character:

Second Character:

External Plot Conflicts

Series Bible Worksheet: Plot Sketch (In-depth)

Story Title, Series Name, and Book Number:

PART I: THE BEGINNING

1. Conflict is introduced

Detail the major conflict:

2. Story Goal is introduced

Detail the story goal:

3. Characters are outfitted for their tasks

List and briefly describe the characters who will be involved in reaching the story goal and defeating the conflict. Detail each character's strengths and weaknesses:

1.

2.

Additional:

PART II: THE MIDDLE

1. Characters design short-term goals to reach the Story Goal

Character 1:

Briefly describe first short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe first short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe first short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

2. Quest to reach the Story Goal begins

Briefly detail the events that take place:

3. First short-term goals are thwarted

Briefly detail the events that take place:

4. Characters react with disappointment

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

5. Stakes of the conflict are raised

Detail new stakes of the conflict and how they affect all subplots:

6. Characters react to the conflict

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

7. Characters revise old or design new short-term goals

Character 1:

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

8. Quest to reach the Story Goal is continued

Briefly detail the events that take place:

9. Short-term goals are again thwarted

Briefly detail the events that take place:

10. Characters react with disappointment

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

11. Stakes of the Conflict are raised

Detail new stakes and how they affect all subplots:

12. Characters react to the conflict

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

**Items 7 through 10 can repeat here, depending on the length and complexity of your story. This section of the cycle may repeat several times throughout the course of your story as your characters readjust their short-term goals in order to meet their objectives.*

13. Downtime begins

Detail the events that lead to downtime:

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

14. Characters revise old or design new short-term goals

Character 1:

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe new short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

15. Quest to reach the Story Goal continues, but instability abounds

Briefly detail the events that take place:

16. The Black Moment Begins

Briefly detail the events and how they affect all subplots:

17. Characters react to the Black Moment

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

PART III: THE END

1. A pivotal, life-changing event occurs

Detail this event and how it affects all subplots:

2. Characters modify short-term goals one last time

Character 1:

Briefly describe the final short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe the final short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe the final short-term goal and how the character will reach it:

3. The Showdown Begins

Showdown details (including all main characters who are involved):

4. The opposition is vanquished and the conflict ends

Details:

5. The Story Goal is achieved

Detail resolution plot and all subplots:

A.

B.

C.

Additional:

6. Characters react to the resolution of the plot and subplots

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction to the end of the conflict:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the end of the conflict:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe reaction to the end of the conflict:

7. The *Relationship* Black Moment is addressed (romance stories only)

Character 1:

Briefly describe reaction:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe reaction:

8. Characters revise their life goals

Character 1:

Briefly describe life goal:

Character 2 (optional):

Briefly describe life goal:

Additional character (optional):

Briefly describe life goal:

9. Possible reemergence of the conflict or opposition (optional)

Describe:

Series Bible Information: Miscellaneous/Research

You can use separate worksheets, tablets, index cards, or word processing files for each subject in your series bible.

In free form essays, detail:

Miscellaneous Information:

Research Specifics:

Series Bible Worksheet: Miscellaneous/Research Fact Sheet

Story Title, Series Name, and Book Number:

Page or Chapter	Character	Location	Fact
Example: page 7	<i>Police Department staff</i>	<i>Police Department</i>	<i>Police department employs: 12 full-time patrol officers; 6 reserves; patrol sergeant; administrative assistant; 2 investigators.</i>

Series Bible Worksheet: Miscellaneous/Research Background Timeline

Story Title, Series Name, and Book Number:

Page or Chapter	Character	Age/Year(s)	Background Facts
Example: page 105	<i>Zeke and Violet</i>	<i>Zeke is 19; Violet 16. 1987.</i>	<i>She gets pregnant. At the time, Zeke is working part-time at handmade furniture factory. They marry; he takes a full-time job.</i>

Series Bible Worksheet: Miscellaneous Timeline

Story Title, Series Name, and Book Number:

Page or Chapter	Character	Location	Timeline Fact
Example: page 85	Terry	Nightclub and Witmer Park	<i>It takes 12 minutes to get from the nightclub to Witmer Park, so if Terry left the nightclub at 3:15, she'd reach the park by 3:30 at the latest.</i>

Series Bible Worksheet: Crime Timeline

Story Title, Series Name, and Book Number:

First/Second/Third/Additional Murder (Actual Witness Account)

Victim:

Details on His/Her Death:

Page or Chapter	Character/Suspect	Location at the Time of the Crime	Day and Time	Specific Information
Example: <i>page 12</i>	<i>Killer</i>	<i>Nightclub/dressing rooms 2 and 3</i>	<i>Thursday, 2:15 A.M.</i>	<i>During first dance break, the killer sneaks into dressing room 3 and gets Lori's ipecac, then sneaks into dressing room 2 and poisons Terry's snack.</i>

Series Bible Worksheet: Motives and Alibis Sheet

Story Title, Series Name, and Book Number:

Victim:
Details:

Suspect	Motive	Alibi
Example: <i>Blaine</i>	<i>Terry thought he would run away with her, so she put him under pressure.</i>	<i>Around midnight at the club, when Lori sprained her ankle, he was there; still, she could have sneaked out, drove home, and killed Crystal, all in less than twenty minutes.</i>

Series, Story, and Plant Arc Breakdown

Fill out a table for every book in your series, but keep in mind that it's unlikely that the final book in your series will have any new series or plant arcs, since the last story is the one where you'll provide resolutions to all of these. You'll focus almost entirely on providing closure, so you'll be dealing with story arcs. You can set up your table either of two ways, as you'll see presented below.

Title of Story
Book 1 in the Name of the Series

Version 1:

Overall Series Arcs	Individual Story Arcs	Series Plant Arcs

Version 2:

Overall Series Arcs
Individual Story Arcs
Series Plant Arcs

Title of Story
Book 2 in the Name of the Series

Version 1:

Overall Series Arcs	Individual Story Arcs	Series Plant Arcs

Version 2:

Overall Series Arcs
Individual Story Arcs
Series Plant Arcs

Title of Story

Book 3 in the Name of the Series

Version 1:

Overall Series Arcs	Individual Story Arcs	Series Plant Arcs

Version 2:

Overall Series Arcs
Individual Story Arcs
Series Plant Arcs

Series Organization Fact-Checker Checklist: Consistency Issues

__Oversights

Plot, character, or setting details that are illogical, unexplainable, or unrealistic, including coincidence contrivance (writer needs a certain plot point or detail to work and so creates the groundwork “on the spot”) and convenience justifications (it was the only way to get it to work, so I had to do it, didn’t I?)

Example: Your hero is mortally afraid of snakes, starting in Book 1. In Book 5, you need him to get kill a snake so he can pass into the cave. He does so without blinking an eye.

__Changed Premises

Anything concerning character, plot, or setting that conflicts with something that was previous established.

Example: In Book 1, you set up that all off-world humans can’t breathe the air of the planet, but in Book 3, a human character breathes the air easily, with no explanation of how he does so.

__Technical Problems

Anything dealing with equipment and technical oddities; inadvertently or indiscriminately jumping into alternate viewpoints, descriptions, dialogue, names, or jobs of characters; setting details that change from what was previously mentioned.

Example: A character’s eye color was green in Book 1 of the series. In Book 4, her eyes are blue.

__Timeline and Production Issues

Production errors that creep up as a direct result of not checking information in previous books in the series or the series bible; timelines can are uncertain or overlap or become erroneous in the course of a series.

Example: In Book 2, it’s established that the hero was attending college three years ago. In Book 6, he says that he took a trip to Italy for a year and skipped out on school during that time period.

__Unanswered Questions

While each book in the series must have satisfactory individual story arcs, all series arc questions must be answered at the end of a series.

Example: At the beginning or middle of your series, your heroine is bitten by a werewolf, and in all subsequent books she's waiting in horror for something to happen ... but by the final book in the series, nothing happens and no resolution is ever given for whether or not she escaped her fate or how she did.



Collection

by award-winning author Karen S. Wiesner

covers the A to Z's of crafting the highest quality fiction including how to:

- Brainstorm and work productively to ensure that each stage in the writing process from prewriting to polishing produces masterful results the first time around.
- Create an outline so complete it actually qualifies as the first draft of your book, allowing your first written draft to be final-draft quality.
- Develop realistically three-dimensional and cohesive characters, plots, settings, relationships, and scenes so life-like and memorable your readers will be diehard fans.
- Effectively prepare for a series in advance to prevent painted-in-a-corner scenarios in order to keep fans coming back eagerly for each and every installment.
- Learn innovative techniques to write a complex sequence of stories that require overarching series arcs and immense world- and character-building.
- Craft sizzling back cover, series, and high-concept blurbs for describing, promoting, and selling your books.
- Maximize your potential and momentum for becoming a career author indefinitely.

With step-by-step guidelines, instructions, and tips throughout that are flexible and clearly written, imparting a layman's ease of understanding and can-do motivation, this collection may be the only writing craft books you'll ever need. Each volume has a bonus companion booklet presented in editable digital format that includes all the aids from the main book you can use in your own writing--and extras! A print edition is also available.

The seven volumes and bonus companion booklets in this collection are:



1. ***First Draft Outline*** and ***First Draft Outline Bonus Companion Booklet***

Publisher: <http://www.writers-exchange.com/first-draft-outline/>

Amazon: <http://mybook.to/FirstDraftOutline>



2. ***Cohesive Story Building*** and ***Cohesive Story Building Bonus Companion Booklet***

Publisher: <http://www.writers-exchange.com/cohesive-story-building/>

Amazon: <http://mybook.to/CohesiveStoryBuilding>



3. ***Writing the Standalone Series*** and ***Writing the Standalone Series Bonus Companion Booklet***

Publisher: <http://www.writers-exchange.com/writing-the-standalone-series/>

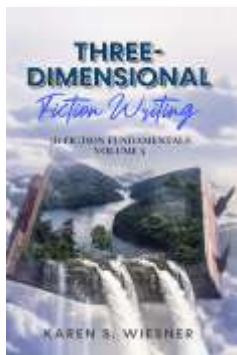
Amazon: <http://mybook.to/WritingtheStandalone>



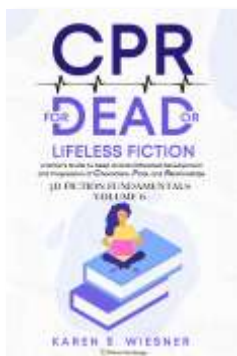
4. ***Writing the Overarching Series*** {or How I Sent a Clumsy Girl into Outer Space} and ***Writing the Overarching Series Bonus Companion Booklet***

Publisher: <http://www.writers-exchange.com/writing-the-overarching-series/>

Amazon: <http://mybook.to/WritingOverarching>



5. ***Three-Dimensional Fiction Writing*** and
Three-Dimensional Fiction Writing Bonus Companion Booklet
Publisher: <http://www.writers-exchange.com/three-dimensional-fiction-writing/>
Amazon: <http://mybook.to/3DWriting>



6. ***CPR for Dead or Lifeless Fiction*** {A Writer's
Guide to Deep and Multifaceted Development and Progression of
Characters, Plots, and Relationships} and ***CPR for Dead or Lifeless
Fiction Bonus Companion Booklet***
Publisher: <http://www.writers-exchange.com/cpr/>
Amazon: <http://mybook.to/CPR>



7. Writing Blurbs That Sizzle--And Sell! And

Writing Blurbs That Sizzle--And Sell! Bonus Companion Booklet

Publisher: <http://www.writers-exchange.com/writing-blurbs-that-sizzle-and-sell/>

Amazon: <http://mybook.to/WritingBlurbsThatSizzle>

3D Fiction Fundamentals Complete Series Collection (7 books in 1 volume)

Amazon series page:

<http://mybook.to/3dFictionFundamentals>

Find out more here:

<http://www.writers-exchange.com/3d-fiction-fundamentals-series/>

You can find ALL our books on our website at:

<http://www.writers-exchange.com>

All Karen's Books at Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/author/karenwiesner>

On our website: <http://www.writers-exchange.com/karen-wiesner/>

If you enjoyed this author's book, then please place a review up at the site of purchase and any social media sites you frequent!

About the Author

In addition to having been a popular writing reference instructor and writer, professional blurbologist and freelance editor, Karen S. Wiesner is the accomplished author of 156 titles published, which have been nominated/won for over a hundred and thirty awards. The books Karen has edited have won multiple awards, and she's judged numerous writing contests.

Her nonfiction has included more than a half-dozen writing reference manuals that teach writers story crafting techniques as well specific facets of the book industry, such as author promotional techniques and the ins-and-outs of electronic publishing.

Karen is the author of sixteen fiction series which cover such genres as women's fiction, romance, mystery/police procedural/cozy, suspense/thriller, paranormal/supernatural, futuristic, fantasy, science fiction, gothic, inspirational/Christian, thriller, horror, chick-lit, and action/adventure. She also writes children's books and poetry. Karen will begin illustrating children's books starting in 2026.

Visit Karen's website and blog at <https://karenwiesner.weebly.com/>. Visit her Writers Exchange E-Publishing author page at <http://www.writers-exchange.com/karen-wiesner/>.