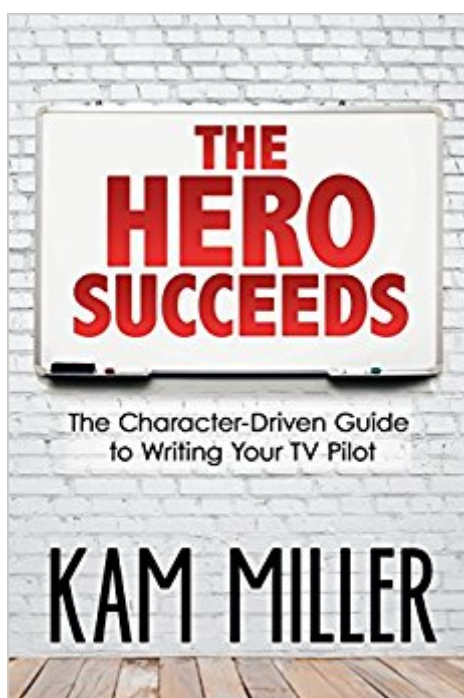


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# The Hero Succeeds: The Character-Driven Guide To Writing Your TV Pilot



## Synopsis

In "The Hero Succeeds," veteran TV writer Kam Miller shows you exactly how to create your own TV series--from concept to writing a professional pilot script. Drawing from her career as a successful TV pilot writer, Miller shares her hard-earned knowledge about creating TV series that sell to Hollywood. She covers essential elements such as character, world of the show, story engine, tone, and themes for dramas and sitcoms. In this book, Miller introduces the groundbreaking character-driven structure that will help you solve even the most difficult script problems and create structurally sound, emotionally satisfying stories. Miller illustrates the practical application of her character-driven script structure in current successful TV shows, including Cinemax's The Knick, NBC's Hannibal, 's Transparent, BBC America's Orphan Black, ABC's Modern Family, FOX's Empire, FXX's It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, AMC's The Walking Dead, FOX's Brooklyn Nine-Nine, ABC's How To Get Away With Murder, Starz's Outlander, CBS's The Good Wife, Showtime's Episodes, and many others. "The Hero Succeeds" shares professional screenwriting expertise, tools, and techniques previously available only to Miller's students at USC's School of Cinematic Arts and Boston University's Film & Television program. Whether you write drama or comedy for broadcast, cable, or digital distribution, "The Hero Succeeds" is the guide you need to build or expand your TV career.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The first time I developed a show with Kam Miller, I was stunned by her insight into character, form,

and story. She had all the elements down perfectly. Then we pitched it--she is indeed the best pitcher I have ever worked with, bar none. Kam's expertise is reflected in her book. "The Hero Succeeds" is the absolute best bible for anyone who wants to succeed in the TV series business!

Jeffrey Kramer Executive Producer CBS Television Studios  
As a development executive, I've heard more than 3,000 pitches and developed hundreds of TV pilot scripts. Kam Miller's "The Hero Succeeds" delivers everything it takes to write a killer pilot script. It's knowledge that only someone who's been doing it successfully for years can provide. "The Hero Succeeds" is modern, relevant, and entertaining. I recommend Kam's book to every new--and experienced--writer I work with. "The Hero Succeeds" is a must-read for anyone who aspires to write a professional-level TV pilot that can sell.

Carole Kirschner WGA Showrunner Training Program Director  
CBS Diversity Writers Mentoring Program Director  
Entertainment Career Consultant  
"The Hero Succeeds" is fantastic! This book has been needed for a long time--so glad it finally exists.

Scott Weinger Writer/Producer  
ABC's "black-ish," "Galavant," "The Muppets"  
In "The Hero Succeeds," Kam Miller gives you an inside glimpse of what it is like to write a TV pilot that sells. Because Kam has staffed and sold pilots, she has had the opportunity to develop her craft at a very high level. Her experience adds a tremendous value to the writer. She has an original and thought-provoking voice when it comes to writing the character-driven pilot. Kam has created a unique story system that will help you elevate your game and find success. I highly recommend this book.

Jen Grisanti Jen Grisanti Consultancy  
NBC Writers on the Verge  
Story Consultant, Writing Instructor, International Speaker, Author  
"The Hero Succeeds" is a must for your writer's quiver--it's the inside track to writing your TV pilot.

Beau Smith SyFy's "Wynonna Earp"  
"The Hero Succeeds" delivers smart, engaging tools all writers can use. In great tech-industry fashion, Kam Miller has "open-sourced" pilot writing in a way that is not only practical but also lasting. She has laid out simply the complex trail of television development while paying attention to the unconscious biases that slip into the process. You'll notice her clever use of both female and male pronouns throughout implying that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

Deconstructing long-standing gender and racial tropes from the very beginning of a writer's journey may be the most powerful and lasting impact of this great how-to guide.

Julie Ann Crommett  
Entertainment Industry Educator in Chief  
Google  
"The Hero Succeeds" is a must-have book for any development executive. It's become my greatest go-to resource when giving notes to writers.

Jennifer Stempel Director of Development  
Juniper Place Productions  
This is a great read and a very useful tool for anyone looking to put together a television series. It provides a thorough and understandable roadmap to take you from initial concept to a pitch-ready series package. I always read "The Hero Succeeds" again before I begin a new series project.

Andy Wehrspann Creative

## ProducerFacts & Fuel

This book finally pushed me to finally get an idea on paper into a script. From speaking on the importance of - and HOW to - research, working on grids, and putting everything on your script using her "Hero Succeeds" strategy, Miller knows how to speak on your level, understand how the writing world works, and makes it fun to read. This book isn't a "here's a formula and stick it into this script". She actually makes you think as a writer, emphasizing in every step you're not writing a story, you're writing about a CHARACTER who has a story. I became an instantly better writer because of this book, and finally finished a spec script because of this book. Personally, I think this book works best if you having a basic understanding of script writing (e.g. reading a book similar to "Save the Cat" first will get you the most of out this book). This book is great on its own, but I think knowing the basics while adding this to your arsenal would make you into a knock-out writer. High accolades to Ms. Kam Miller, I'm so thankful. Get this book if you want to be a better writer.

This is a terrific book, which I heartily recommend to anyone who wants to write (better) TV pilots. The author's voice is supportive, engaging and informal. It's as if your kindly, intelligent friend were guiding you through the process. And what a helpful process it is, as Kam Miller shares her approach to developing a pilot concept and breaking a story. The latter she grounds in character events -- or story events stemming from your primary character -- which I find super valuable. They help to refine a clear and compelling pilot story and keep the most important element of any story, its protagonist, front and centre as an interesting character whose story we'll want to watch (and write). If you're looking for help with writing a TV pilot, simply buy this book.

There are a lot of books on writing for television. A few of those books stand out as 'better than most'. Still, fewer books rise far above the others, but none reach the level of this one for writing a pilot. Creating a television pilot is one of the most challenging forms of writing. It is one of the most difficult forms of writing to do well. It differs from writing an episode for an ongoing series that has established characters, sets, etc. Writing a pilot is akin to taking a plunge from the high dive. One false move and things are going to end badly (and it's not the kind of thing that they can fix in post). For learning about writing a pilot the only thing better than this book is to find a mentor who has done it successfully. Even if you aren't writing a pilot the author shares tips on writing for television that every writer needs in their toolbelt. If you want to know how to write a pilot and you don't buy this book, then find yourself a mentor.

Kam Miller's book is the definitive text on how to write a TV Pilot and arc your series. This isn't a quick book of shortcuts. This is an in-depth guide that leads you through the steps of LEARNING how to write a relevant, character driven television series. Ms. Miller has no doubt spent countless hours breaking down current shows and laying them out in a way that makes them accessible to writers creating their own series. Each chapter has a very clear exercise at the end. These exercises help you build your world and create your arcs for the story you want to tell. The format of this book is about giving you the tools that you need as a writer to make your show. Along the way, exercises are EXACTLY THE SAME as what would be asked of you as a professional writer in a writer's room or developing a show for producers or a network. It's hard work, but if you really want to write a show that has a shot of getting made or have a writing sample that will be noticed, use this book.

This book has become my go-to bible for writing pilots, creating a series overall, and for putting together that all important treatment (the sample treatments alone are worth the price of the book). By using numerous set-by-step examples of successful pilots, Kam walks you through these shows scene by scene, demonstrating what they did right, and how they followed the "hero succeeds," character landmarks. But "The Hero Succeeds" is not just for pilots - there are examples of how to apply the character landmarks to features as well. With so much of the biz looking for something different than the plot driven Syd Field, Save the Cat, or the Hero's Journey formulaic story, "The Hero Succeeds" offers a unique, detailed, character-driven map to follow. This is definitely NOT a rehashing of already existing books on TV writing. I do wish there had been a detailed index in the back as I refer back to the book often. Maybe an updated version of the book will have one?

I've never reviewed a book on before but for 'The Hero Succeeds' I'm happy to take the time to do so. This is a great read and a very useful tool for anyone looking to put together a television series. It provides a thorough and understandable roadmap to take you from initial concept to a pitch ready series package.

Best book on pilot script writing I've read! I wish I would have read The Hero Succeeds before I wrote my first pilot script, which I pitched to agents and production companies. The feedback I got was that my pilot script was good, but not great and a network is only interested in great. After reading The Hero Succeeds, I understand what they mean. I am about to pen my second pilot script

for another show I created. After reading *The Hero Succeeds* and applying what I learned, I can already tell it will be better than my first pilot. Mastering how to write a pilot script is an art. I've spent plenty of time researching pilot scripts and *The Hero Succeeds* is by far the most informative piece I've found - everything you need to know about how to master writing a great pilot script is in it.

Insightful, well-thought-out book that really helps breaking your TV pilot. Excellent examples to draw from to guide you through the process. Of the many pilot-writing books I've read, this is among my very favorites.

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