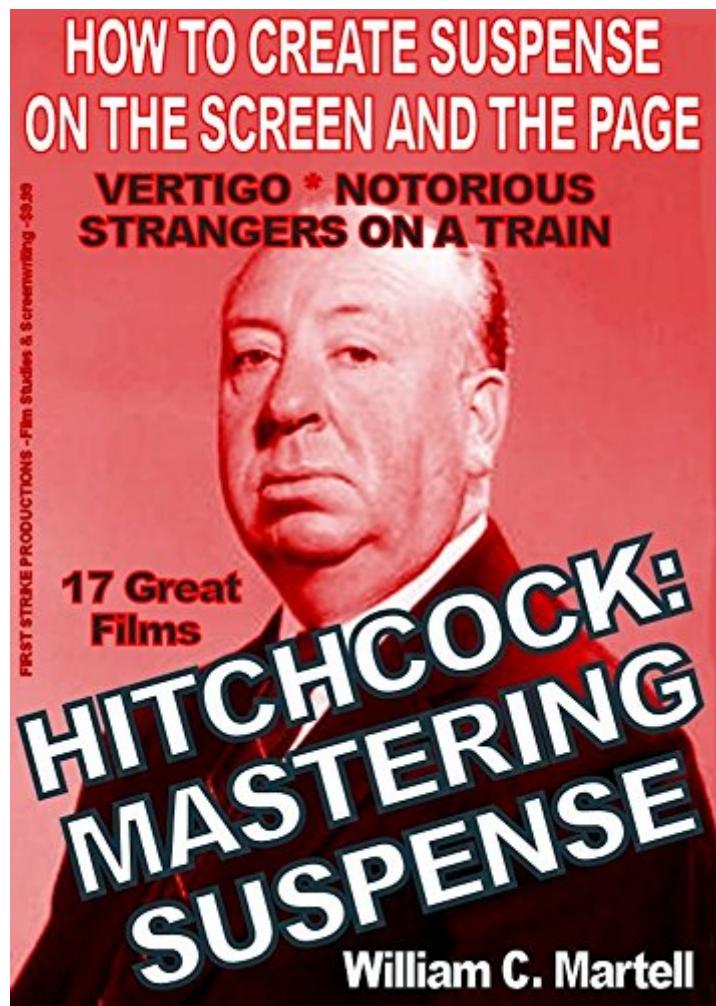


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# Hitchcock: Mastering Suspense (Hitch For Writers Book 2)



## **Synopsis**

Writing a thriller? Directing a suspense film? Just love Hitchcock? Alfred Hitchcock, who directed 52 movies, was known as the "Master Of Suspense"; but what exactly is suspense and how can \*we\* master it? How does suspense work? How can \*we\* create "Hitchcockian" suspense scenes in our screenplays, novels, stories and films? This epic book uses seventeen of Hitchcock's films to show the difference between suspense and surprise, how to use a "focus objects" to create suspense, the 20 iconic suspense scenes and situations, how plot twists work, using secrets for suspense, how to use Dread (the cousin of suspense) in horror stories, and dozens of other amazing storytelling lessons. From classics like "Strangers On A Train" and "The Birds" and "Vertigo" and "To Catch A Thief" to older films from the British period like "The 39 Steps" and "The Man Who Knew Too Much" to his hits from the silent era like "The Lodger" (about Jack The Ripper), we'll look at all of the techniques to create suspense! A detailed look at 17 of Hitchcock's films! William C. Martell is a working professional screenwriter and the author of **HITCHCOCK: EXPERIMENTS IN TERROR** and **THE SECRETS OF ACTION SCREENWRITING**, and is one of the "Hitchcock experts" who contributes to the **HITCH 20** series on YouTube.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Having written short stories and screenplays since I was 20, and studied Hitchcock in college and beyond, I don't believe anyone else has broken down Hitchcock as well as William Martell has in his 2nd book about the Master. The first book, *Hitchcock: Experiments in Terror*, Martell illustrates how Hitch was an experimental filmmaker. In this one, Martell covers 17 of Hitchcock's classics and lesser known pictures, breaking them down with an eye towards how a thriller works, what Hitch employs to increase suspense and how to use these tricks pull the audience into the picture. Hitchcock used multiple techniques to generate suspense in his movies, and in this book, Martell explores all the various ways Hitchcock has utilized thriller techniques to create memorable pictures, like "The Birds" and "Vertigo". We also get to study lesser celebrated pictures, such as *Number 17* and the original "The Man Who Knew Too Much" (plus contrast it with its remake with Jimmy Stewart). A well done movie starts with the written word. It must be on the page. As a writer crafting a thriller, this book is a must read. The best way to master the craft is to study a master, and through this book you can come to know the Master himself.

Excellent tour through Hitchcock's tour de force of suspense films. Martell's storytelling format and structure easily leads the reader deeper into what makes each film special, and why. Even those few films that were not judged as his best have features worth exploring, and appreciating.

*Hitchcock: Mastering suspense* is one of the most extensive teaching books on writing thrilling screenplays. William C. Martell takes 17 of Mr. Hitchcock's films and reveals step by step how suspense works. And it is true, that even if a screenwriter doesn't write a thriller, the technique can be used for other genres as well. While reading I got caught up in the stories and it was some kind of sitting on the edge of the seat material. William Martell writes sharp and funny and keeps the reader's attention. It is easy to understand. I got several ideas how to better my screenplay. This book would be a great study tool for a screenwriting group discussing one chapter each week. I'm sure by reading the book a second or third time one could find more nuggets each time.

What an exciting way to learn about suspense techniques as well as a deeper appreciation of

Hitchcock's movies. Movie directors, novelists and script writers will benefit from the insights of this book. After reading it, I rewatched 'Vertigo' and 'Strangers on a Train' so see the subtle techniques that were pointed out in great detail. I plan on seeing more of them as well. Great movies and a great book about those movies.

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