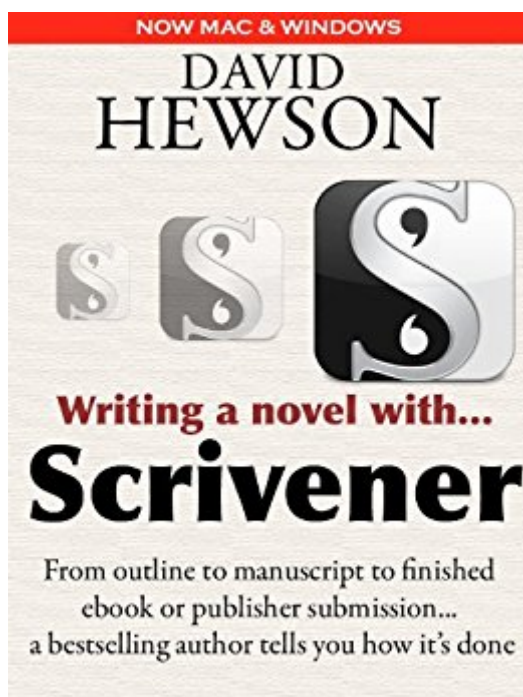


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# Writing A Novel With Scrivener



## Synopsis

The writing and story development program Scrivener is taking the world by storm. Here the bestselling author David Hewson, creator of the successful Nic Costa series, offers a personal, highly-focussed guide to using this powerful application to create a novel, now newly-updated to cover the brand new release version for Windows. Hewson, a Scrivener user for years who's written five of his popular novels in the app, takes users through the basic processes of structuring a full-length novel, writing and developing the story, then delivering it either as a manuscript for an agent or publisher or as an ebook direct to Kindle or iBook. Alongside the practical advice, he offers a working novelist's insight into the process of writing popular fiction. And this book is, of course, created entirely within Scrivener itself, from development through to publication on Kindle, a process followed in detail in the book. Please read the reviews to see what users think of this unique book, produced entirely from within Scrivener itself.

**PRAISE FOR DAVID HEWSON'S NOVELS**

The *Fallen Angel*, book nine in the Costa series The *Washington Post* says, "perhaps his finest novel. It's hard to see how the author could have made his dark tale more fascinating, entertaining and yet entirely serious than he has." The *New York Times*, "Mr. Hewson's crime novel, the ninth in a series, is like a satisfying *Law & Order* episode set in modern-day Rome | the ending is the rich tiramisu we've waited for." Bookreporter, "I cannot imagine anyone picking up a book authored by David Hewson and not falling in love with the subject matter within the first 50 pages or so. The *Fallen Angel*, his latest and arguably best work, continues the practice while upping his own ante by a notch or three." Jeffery Deaver...Hewson is a daunting talent " a writer who is a master stylist. Steve Berry...David Hewson is one of the finest thriller writers working today. A born stylist. Lee Child...(Dante's Numbers)...is easily the best yet in a really terrific series. Peter James...Hewson is one of our finest crime writers. Absorbing, intelligent, and with a staggeringly vivid sense of place.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Anyone who wants to jump-start their Scrivener skills to get past the software and start writing their novel-utilizing the program to its full potential to plan, write, revise, and even publish-should consider getting this book. First of all, don't expect this to be "the missing manual." The author is clear in his introduction that there is a lot more to Scrivener than what he manages to cover-for instance, tools for researchers and screenwriters-but he's just covering what the novelist needs to know, after all. Another caveat to mention is that the book is aimed primarily at Mac, Scrivener 2.0 users, so us Windows kiddies will need to translate some of the commands\*, improvise, and resign ourselves to the fact that it is still in Beta, and though it's come a long way, it still has a ways to go before it's ready for prime time. (\*But we're PC people, so we don't need to be spoon-fed everything anyway.) He quickly goes over the basic parts of the program, the Binder, the Editor, and Inspector, covering just as much ground in four or so "pages" (a loose term, given the fluidity of Kindle displays) than what takes the tutorial over a thousand words. I don't need the Header and Footer described at length. I've used word processors before, after all. And there's the manual for everything I want elaboration on. Next Hewson talks about the Corkboard and Outliner views in terms of their usefulness to novelists, again touching on them just enough to make the writer familiar without having to list every single capability available. As a Windows user, I noticed that the Unplaced Scenes folder he talks about doesn't yet appear in the Beta, but I've gone ahead and added my own folder by the name. It doesn't have the cute little thought cloud icon next to it, but it'll still serve the purpose of a general reservoir of ideas, and a springboard for those times when I'm hitting against a blockage of some sort. In the next section he shows you how to minimize distractions and maximize ease of access to other parts at the same time. Want to reference

another document? Would you like split-screen or a pop-up window? How about a hyperlink inserted right into the text? Hop back to the last document you viewed? Hewson covers it all, and quickly. Most useful, perhaps, out of the entire book, was the section on Keywords. It would have taken me a while to figure out the applications otherwise, but he suggests using these customizable tags to track POV or Time to ensure continuity—a huge issue for complex novels with multiple narrators and time streams, like the one I'm writing. Meanwhile, the official tutorial makes only a passing reference to the Search/Keywords capability, while elaborating on things obvious to any intermediate computer user. Essential to any discussion of writing are backups: that is to say, those pesky little things that allow you to not lose your project—and your mind. Did you know that Scrivener can automatically schedule backups of your work? Did you ever think to incorporate Dropbox, so that you'd have an automatic web backup without the hassle of syncs? Yeah, pretty useful, that. If it means saving your work from a hard-drive failure or virus attack, then that \$6 just saved you hours and hours of work. Which can be fair valuable, when you're writing for publication. Once you've written a first draft, it's time to get down to the real work—revision. Writing a Novel with Scrivener compares the advantages of re-reading on your iPad, eReader, or good ol' paper, and discusses the options you have for commenting on each. Moreover, it talks about ways your initial readers and critters can comment, whether it be through Word or another program, and warns against some common pitfalls of formatting and syncing them together. After you know what you need to rewrite, this book shows you how to save multiple versions of your draft quickly, and how to compare each revision (using colors, or not), so you can track what's changed and even go back to a prior "snapshot" if need be. Finally, Hewson provides a step-by-step guide not only to compiling your manuscript for agents and editors, but to publishing as a Kindle .mobi or .epub file! Though I'm not there yet, I may use it for future projects if I go the self-publishing route. I'll admit, if it were the standard price of a book about writing, I wouldn't have gotten it. But it's considerably cheaper than the Writer's Digest books you'll find at your Barnes & Noble. A \$6 asking price is quite reasonable given the breadth, depth, and practicality of the tips he provides. If you're a novelist and you've ever thought about jumping on the Scrivener bandwagon, but didn't know where to start, this book will take you through the same steps as the tutorial, only faster, and give you a lot more to use besides.

Excellent, practical usage of Scrivener for novel writing. Hewson skips all the tens of dozens of features that don't apply to the novel format. He also gets right to the point, so you won't get bogged down in fluff. I learned a lot about how to set up the Binder (Parts, Chapters, Text), and how these

function, more about how Group Mode and View Mode work, and the use of Collections (just enough to see the power of using them). I wish there had been more about the Compile/Formatting settings, specifically the different Levels. In all the documentation and books, there seems to be an assumed level of knowledge about these, and I feel I'm missing some basic understanding. Also, many of the screenshots seem to be from Scrivener version 1. This isn't a major problem, but often statements in the book don't match up with what I see onscreen in Scrivener 2. Overall, this little ebook boosted my understanding of the application (and I've been using Scrivener for over two years), helping me get to the next level of usage.

A nice little book that gives a summary of how to use Scrivener, but at 3 years old, it's a bit out of date. Upgrades for the Windows version have nearly caught up to Mac now. However, this tome still paints a pretty easy overview of the program and how to use its basic features. Hewson's meanderings about writing are also interesting, and I found it a useful read on both accounts. As someone already familiar with Scrivener, I still found enough useful info to make it a worthwhile read, although I kept wondering why Hewson would write such a book in the first place, since it's so far from his seeming ken. In any case, I'm glad he did, but it's time for an update.

I've tried other sources to find out what makes Scrivener a good tool for writers, but there was little indication why this program was better than an ordinary word processor. I gave up on one book after about 50 pages of descriptions about how to change format, menu options, text color...get the picture? There was a lot of information but no context. I've decided this book must have been written by an educator, because the first order of business was to get the basic concept out there about why Scrivener is different from an ordinary word processor. Case in point: In Scrivener you can link text you have written directly to a reference file about a particular character, place, etc. so that the next time you want to write about that character, etc., you don't have to scroll back through all your work to find out whether your main character's mother had blue eyes or brown. Just check the character's file. I would like to offer a large THANK YOU to Mr. Hewson for writing this book.

This isn't so much a book on how to write a novel with Scrivener, or even so much a tutorial on getting the most out of Scrivener, but it is a book on how David Hewson writes his books. He doesn't hit on all the tools available, but only the tools that appeals to him. Don't get me wrong, I learned a few things about Scrivener, but I was hoping for a little more. I learned enough to feel okay about giving four stars, just don't let the title mislead you into thinking this will present several

options and tools that you may consider. It is a pretty short read, though a lot of it focuses on exporting a novel. I found the exporting of a document very interesting because there are a lot of options to consider and this book does give suggestions on how to best do this. I do wish there was a book out there on getting the most out of Scrivener. I didn't think this book was it, but it is currently (as of this review) the best book available. Otherwise, the website gives a lot of instruction via videos.

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