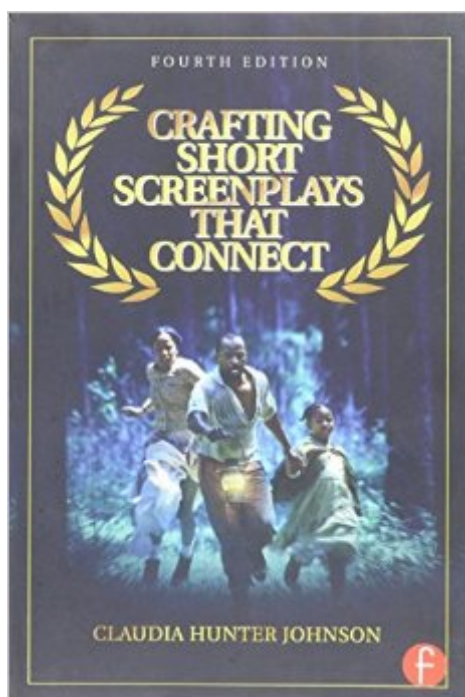


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# Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect



## Synopsis

Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect, Fourth Edition stands alone among screenwriting books by emphasizing that human connection, though often overlooked, is as essential to writing effective screenplays as conflict. This groundbreaking book will show you how to advance and deepen your screenwriting skills, increasing your ability to write richer, more resonant short screenplays that will connect with your audience. With her candid, conversational style, award-winning writer and director Claudia Hunter Johnson teaches you the all-important basics of dramatic technique and guides you through the challenging craft of writing short screenplays with carefully focused exercises of increasing length and complexity. In completing these exercises and applying Claudia's techniques and insights to your own work, you will learn how to think more deeply about the screenwriter's purpose, craft effective patterns of human change, and strengthen your storytelling skills. This new edition has been expanded and updated to include:

- A companion website ([www.focalpress.com/cw/johnson](http://www.focalpress.com/cw/johnson)) with ten award-winning short films featured in the book, including two outstanding, all-new short films • Intercambios and the Student-Emmy-Award-winning Underground
- A new chapter on scene and structure that will help you find the right structure for your short screenplay
- A new chapter on crafting effective dialogue and subtext that will teach you to make the most of every word and add further depth to your script

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect: A Closer Look. Reviewed by C J Singh (Berkeley, CA). Claudia H Johnson's insight of the connect-disconnect pattern in storytelling came first to my

attention in the early editions of Janet Burroway's classic textbooks *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* and the more recent *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft* (See my detailed reviews of the current editions of both books on .) In "Writing Fiction," 1994 edition, Burroway wrote: "I'm indebted to dramatist Claudia Johnson's crucial insight...whereas the hierarchical or vertical nature of narrative, the power struggle, has long been acknowledged, there also appears in all narrative a horizontal pattern of connection and disconnection between characters, which is the main source of its emotional effect." As organizer of our writing group CreativeWritersBerkeley (now a meetup), I have long been using the earlier editions of Claudia Johnson's screenwriting as well as Burroway's fiction-craft books as the major texts. Introducing *CRAFTING SHORT SCREENPLAYS THAT CONNECT*, fourth edition, Johnson describes Burroway's immediate appreciation of her insight when she went to see her: "This is big - the other half of Aristotle" (p xxiv). Both are professors at Florida State University. Johnson's book was first published in 2000. It received considerable acclaim.

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