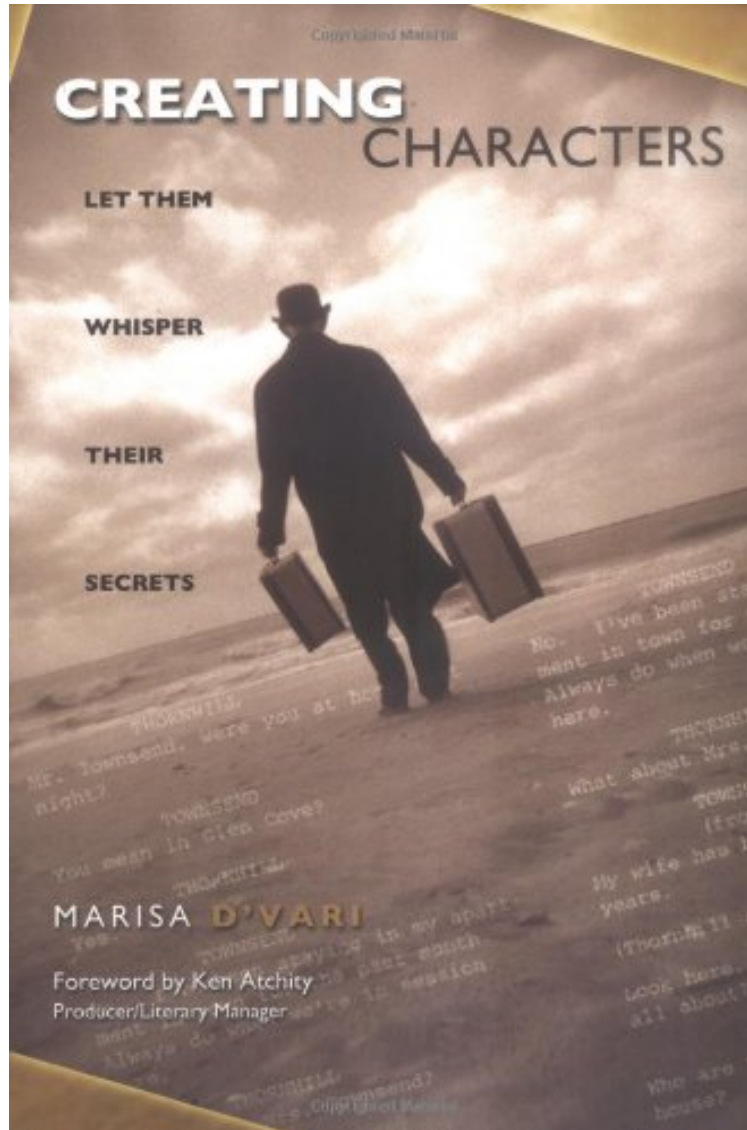


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Creating Characters: Let Them Whisper Their Secrets

Marisa D'vari

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Marisa D'vari : Creating Characters: Let Them Whisper Their Secrets before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating Characters: Let Them Whisper Their Secrets:

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Not such a big deal. By Pat C. Ames While this book may be useful to the novice writer or one unfamiliar with personality assessment tools, I found it more irritating than helpful and not particularly original. Ms. D'vari has adapted the Myers-Briggs, Enneagram and the DISC to create her own, very simplistic, MORE system which she uses to help the writer develop the personality traits of the imagined

characters. My biggest complaint with this book was that all of the question marks were upside down and backwards! This, along with numerous typos and/or misspelled words, indicates a lack of care in either the writer, the publisher or the editor. If you can overlook these, which I found to be more grating than nails on a chalkboard, perhaps you will discover more of interest than I did. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. More Formulas From Hollywood! By F. Gomez This book would appear to have potential from the first couple of pages (in which the author goes into length explaining the sources for her MORE theory). However, the more you read, the more you feel you've read this before, written by people with better insight into character development, and who might've actually penned a screenplay or two. As she herself explains, her job capacity in the movie "business" is as an executive. Therefore, this book has an executive's values. Superficiality, one dimensionality and complete contempt for the characters we should in fact respect. Can humanity REALLY be divided into four categories? Even as I read it I found myself clustered into all four of them. True characters; human characters will never always be or show one aspect of their personality. We all want to at times be the center of attention (energizer), or care for others (relater), or think clearly before making a decision (observer) or move relentlessly forward (mover), sometimes simultaneously! But don't tell the author that! Humans have been divided into four types of people and that's that! Quite honestly, you should really re-evaluate acquiring a book endorsed by Christopher "one story fits-all" Vogler. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A new approach to character work for a writer By Sable Jak Of all the types of writing books to read, my favorites are those that deal with characters. Marisa D'Vari does not disappoint the reader/writer with *Creating Characters: Let Them Whisper Their Secrets*. The first chapter provides a quick, but thorough, examination of Personality Types using the author's own More Personality System(tm), the ancient Enneagram system of personality typecasting, Hippocrates' humorous philosophy, and Carl Jung's theory. If you've ever met someone and felt you'd met his type before (as is mentioned in the book), Chapter One might give you the answer as to why you felt that way. Chapter Three: How to Summon Characters from Their Magical Spheres is something to be experienced. Obviously, it's of interest to me as I'm fully into fantasy stories and movies, but this chapter is not a dance through the spring fairy rings. It's serious business. All writers experience that moment when a character comes to them, fully-fleshed, ready to fill the blank pages with his story. Chapter Three touches all too briefly on the subject of the collective unconscious, but makes up for it with a lesson on how to nurture your ability to let your characters come to you. Though Chapter Three is good, Chapter Four: Techniques to Discover Your Character's Inner World, is even better. Many writers prefer to allow a character to develop while his story is being written, and often this creates problems when characters act in ways that don't work. Chapter Four helps you get past this. It also helps you with the backstory so that you not only have enough to work on, but there's enough there for others involved--i.e., actors and directors--to carry the character's personality further. Another nice thing about this book is that it doesn't have to be read cover to cover; you can pick and choose the chapters. But once you start reading, it's hard to put down. D'Vari has an easy style that reads well. Some of the information included you already know, not because you've read it elsewhere, but because it's so logical that it falls into the category of Collective Memory. For instance, Chapter Six: Coloring Dialogue Via Personality Type is so very accurate. Yet, it offers ideas authors don't always pay attention to. One little trick she mentions is to think of an everyday question, such as "How are you?" and then have a character/personality type answer it. Not everyone is going to mutter the usual "uh, fine ..." There are, of course, summaries and assignments at the end of chapters. Even if you're someone who doesn't like to do the exercises or assignments in a writing book, don't skim over these pages. Be sure to read them. D'Vari has worded her assignments in such a way that they get you thinking about your characters. Even when you've put the book down, the questions prick at you until you have to give them more time. Just when you think you've read all you can read about coming up with characters to people your stories, a book comes out to let you know there actually is more information out there.

Fresh, invigorating, and jam-packed with solid how to advice this amazing desktop resource reveals the secrets highly paid screenwriters and best-selling novelists furiously fight to keep under wraps.

About the Author D'Vari has 20 years of hands-on experience working in Hollywood as a studio story analyst, consultant, and executive. She currently lives in Boston, MA and is the producer/host of the nationally-syndicated cable TV show *Scene Here*. She conducts seminars on screenwriting all over the country.