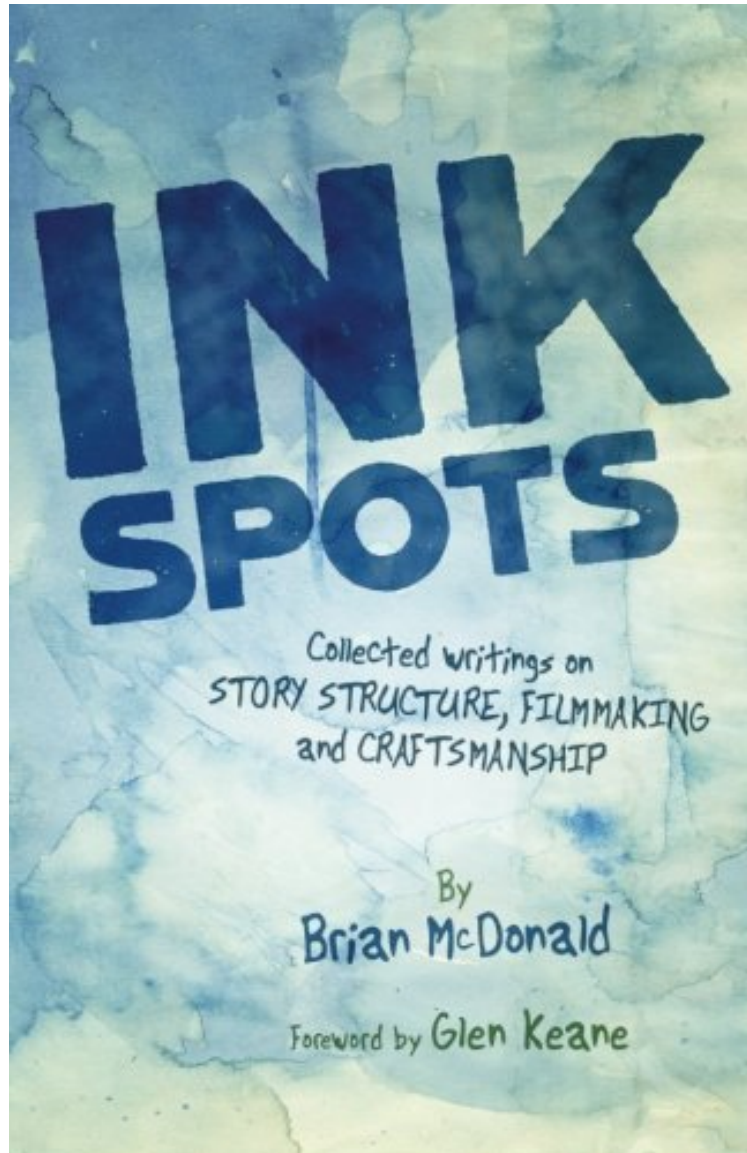


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Ink Spots

Brian McDonald

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Brian McDonald : Ink Spots before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ink Spots:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. THE BEST OF THE BESTBy MI never review my purchases but Brian Mc Donald deserves it. Ive read tons of books on screenwriting and writing over the past 10 years and this guy is one of the rare few who knows what he's talking about.His other books, The Golden Theme and Invisible Ink are

stellar and this is right up there. Brian's focus is "storytelling" not just writing and that's what separates him from the rest. The book is a collection of blog posts about the craft of storytelling and is meant to be used as more of a guide rather than a dogmatic formula that the other guru's teach. In fact there is no formula at all, just the substance of story and how to make one. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Usual Brian McDonald Insight and Brilliance By J. Sexton Just about anything Brian McDonald writes is worth reading and this book is no exception. If you've already read *Invisible Ink* and *The Golden Theme* and you're hungry for more, this is the perfect follow-up. If you haven't read those books, yet, I'd recommend starting there and moving onto this volume. Of course, to be fair and to be clear, these essays are a compilation of posts from Brian's *Invisible Ink* blog, so there's a chance you may have already read some of this material if you've been following him for a while. Keep that in mind if it's something that'll bother you. Then again, most of Brian's stuff stands up to repeated readings and there's plenty of good stuff here that you may have missed the first time around, so it really shouldn't bother you. Bottom Line: If you're a fan of Brian McDonald, this is a book worth getting. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating, and not just for film buffs By The Bionic Stan This was my first exposure to McDonald's work, but I really liked what he has to say. He really puts his finger on what's wrong with today's movies: too many of them don't bother to tell a story. Again and again, he makes the case for STORY, but somehow he never gets strident or preachy. In short essays (excuse me, blog posts), he shows what we get with the great films and don't get with the CGI-heavy blockbusters: a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end. I never understood the three-act structure before, but he makes it crystal clear. There's also a terrific life lesson in stories he tells: if you want to be good at something, learn everything you can from the people who came before you. That's not just screenwriting, obviously. My own rating system assigns 4 stars to a book that I'll want to read again, and this one qualifies. McDonald's style is clear and engaging, he says what he has to say without wasting words, and what he has to say is worth hearing.

Ink Spots is a collection of brief but powerful essays on writing, story structure and filmmaking by award winning writer/director/producer Brian McDonald. With inspiring wit and wisdom he will not only teach you how to be a better writer, but a more observant person and a better student in any field. You'll find yourself uncontrollably thinking deep thoughts about writing, film or anything else you are passionate about in life. Foreword by Glen Keane. "Listen to Brian, he has the unique ability to articulate what makes good writing." Al Higgins, Writer "News Radio", "Malcolm in the Middle" and "Mike Molly" If you don't already have a mentor, here's one you'll love, in portable form. -- Steve Englehart novelist and writer of classic versions of dozen of comics series such as Batman and The Avengers "Brian's book is filled with insightful and useful gems for writers of any experience level. The only reason you'll want to put it down is to go start writing yourself." -- J. Elvis Weinstein writer/producer "Freaks and Geeks", "Mystery Science Theater 3000", "Cinematic Titanic" "Brian writes in clear, readily usable ways to improve your screenwriting. Like time-release story capsules they ignite and helped me over many movies and countless story bends. Give him a read, take a couple and repeat as needed." -- Ronnie del Carmen, story supervisor on UP and Finding Nemo, director and writer at Pixar Animation Studios. "I use Brian McDonald's books in my classes because I'm a student of his work. All teachers are students all the time. Brian hasn't forgotten that he occupies both a seat in the classroom and the spot in front of the classroom." -- Shawn Wong Professor, Department of English University of Washington

About the Author Brian McDonald is one of the world's wisest teachers of the elements that create great storytelling. On this subject, you can trust everything he says -- Charles Johnson (National Book Award-Winner of *The Middle Passage*) Brian McDonald is an award-winning writer/director/producer who has worked in film, television and comic books for more than 25 years. He has worked as a story consultant for both Pixar and Disney Feature Animation Studios. McDonald is also a teacher of story construction for various institutions and the author of several books: *Invisible Ink*, *The Golden Theme* and *Freeman*. His books are considered required reading for Pixar story interns. McDonald has worked on the Red Badge project for the US Army a program designed to help returning vets suffering from PTSD learn to write stories in order to help them in their healing.