

# **WHY AUTHORS GO WRONG AND OTHER EXPLANATIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649133536

Why authors go wrong and other explanations by Grant M. Overton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GRANT M. OVERTON**

**WHY AUTHORS GO  
WRONG AND OTHER  
EXPLANATIONS**



# WHY AUTHORS GO WRONG

AND OTHER EXPLANATIONS

BY

GRANT M. OVERTON

AUTHOR OF "THE WOMEN WHO MAKE OUR NOVELS"



NEW YORK  
MOFFAT, YARD & COMPANY

1919

11118

12

COPYRIGHT, 1919,  
BY  
MOFFAT, YARD & COMPANY

## CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. WHY AUTHORS GO WRONG . . . . .	I
II. A BARBARIC YAWP . . . . .	25
III. IN THE CRITICAL COURT . . . . .	39
IV. BOOK "REVIEWING" . . . . .	51
V. LITERARY EDITORS, BY ONE OF THEM . . . . .	103
VI. WHAT EVERY PUBLISHER KNOWS . . . . .	119
VII. THE SECRET OF THE BEST SELLER . . . . .	145
VIII. WRITING A NOVEL . . . . .	173





WHY AUTHORS GO WRONG  
AND  
OTHER EXPLANATIONS



# WHY AUTHORS GO WRONG

## AND OTHER EXPLANATIONS

### I

#### WHY AUTHORS GO WRONG

THE subject of *Why Authors Go Wrong* is one to answering which a book might adequately be devoted and perhaps we shall write a book about it one of these days, but not now. When, as and if written the book dealing with the question will necessarily show the misleading nature of Mr. Arnold Bennett's title, *The Truth About an Author*—a readable little volume which does not tell the truth about an author in general, but only what we are politely requested to accept as the truth about Arnold Bennett. Mr. Bennett may or may not be telling the truth about himself in that book; his regard for the truth in respect of the characters of his fiction has been variable. Perhaps he is more scrupulous when it comes to himself, but we are at liberty to doubt it. For a man who will