

HOW TO WRITE FOR THE "MOVIES"

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How to Write for the "Movies" by Louella O. Parsons

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LOUELLA O. PARSONS

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FOR THE "MOVIES"**

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BY
LOUELLA O. PARSONS



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A. C. McCLURG & CO.
1916

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1915

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PREFACE

DEAR FELLOW PLAYWRIGHTS:

My four years in the editorial chair of the Essanay Company brought me in the neighborhood of twenty thousand letters from ambitious photoplaywrights, begging me to help them write a scenario. During my connection with the *Chicago Herald* my mail has also contained hundreds of requests for help. In answer to this insistent plea I have prepared this textbook, which I trust will help the photoplaywright in his upward climb to success. It comes to you with my good wishes and with the hope that it may help you to become one of the world's most famous photoplaywrights.

Sincerely,

LOUELLA O. PARSONS.

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CHAPTER I

THE BIRTH OF THE MOTION PICTURE STORY

A FEW years ago we watched dim, uncertain figures staggering drunkenly about on a screen, and were thrilled that such seemingly inanimate film folk could smile at us, weep for us, move about and do everything that live people do, with the exception of actually speaking for us.

The stories that were unfolded for our vision were extremely crude; for the most part lurid melodramas, spineless dramas, and near-humorous comedies. The talented writer did not then consider motion picture literature a field for the exercise of his genius, so photoplays were mostly the work of amateur writers.

From a struggling new-born industry, this most spectacular achievement of the twentieth century has sprung up and developed into a mighty power,