

**The New Writer's Handbook,  
Vol. 2, ed. by Philip Martin  
(Scarletta Press, \$16.95)**

The first *New Writer's Handbook*, published in 2007 by Scarletta, was a thorough and wide-ranging anthology of essays for any writer looking to improve on her craft. In fact, it was so thorough and wide-ranging that I was a little surprised when Scarletta published a second volume this year.

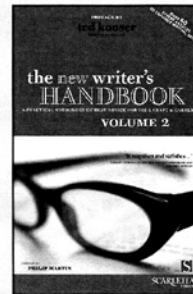
This 2008 edition presents different voices and fresh perspectives on the perennial issues that writers face, timely advice on using Web sites and blogs, and practical tips on marketing your work.

The essays are short, usually three to five pages, and arranged in topical chapters, facilitating quick browsing. Lisa Firke's "Three Creative Exercises" would be especially helpful should I hit a creative slump. Ira Glass's "Storytelling

Techniques" offer excellent guidelines for making any writing more engaging. And Leo Babauta's "Five-Minute Decluttering Tips" are just what I need to turn my home office from an impediment into a nurturing well-organized space.

Definitely not just for "new" writers, this handbook is worth returning to for ideas, advice, and inspiration throughout the year. ☐

—SP



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