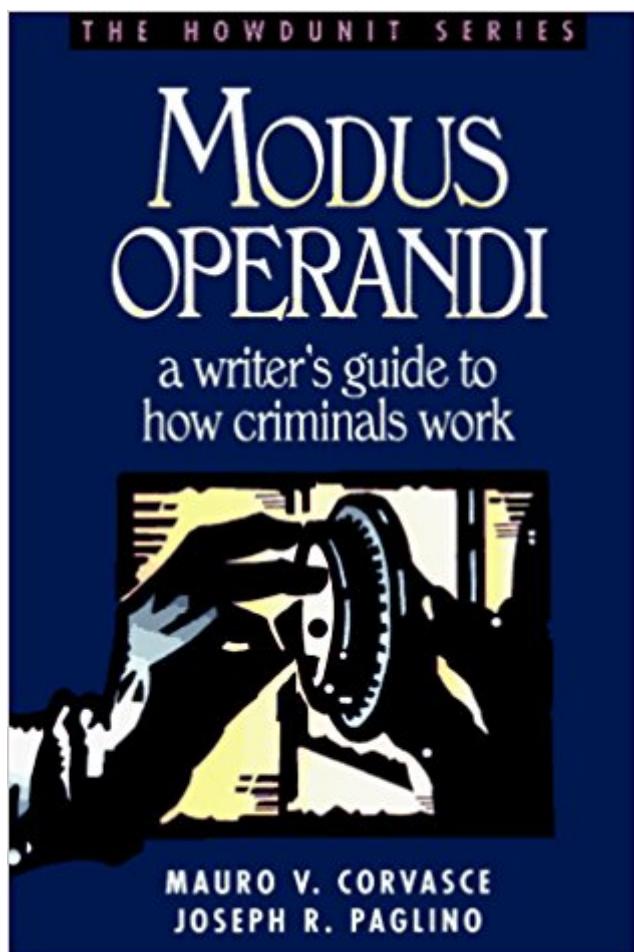


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# Modus Operandi: A Writer's Guide To How Criminals Work (Howdunit)



## Synopsis

Writers will see how to create cunning criminals who still leave clues protagonists can follow. The authors explain how law-breakers perform the dirty deeds of murder--from contract killers to seemingly ordinary people--armed robbery, arson, smuggling, white collar crime, prostitution, and more.

## Book Information

Series: Howdunit

Paperback: 224 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,116,975 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Writing #1399 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Authorship #3804 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > Creative Writing & Composition

## Customer Reviews

If you set out to write a crime novel, you better get the facts right. Armchair detectives may not commit many crimes, but they can spot the holes in a plot quicker than you can say, "Dick Francis." The authors of this unique writer's guide are New Jersey police detectives, and they provide an overview of virtually every type of crime that readers are likely to encounter in mystery fiction. Care to get a feel for counterfeiting and forgery? It's all here. Want to get the details of a murder right? These guys will tell you how knife wounds bleed and what investigators notice when looking at a gunshot victim. Toss in the nuts and bolts of the prostitution game, bank robbery do's and don'ts, current drug prices, and much more. It's all well organized and concise but not so detailed that budding lawbreakers could use it as an instructional. Even if you don't aspire to be the next Dick Francis, this is fascinating reading. If you do see your name on the title page of a crime novel, it's essential. Wes Lukowsky

Book was copyrighted in 1995, seems a little dated in places. But overall, it gives good insight into the array of issues faced by criminals and those who need to defend against criminals, and should provide a confidence level to a writer of a crime story. If the book you plan to write is placed in the 1990's, you are surely on reliable ground; my subjective feeling is that the book describes criminal activity very well for that time period, but if written today would have a few revisions.

This series of books is superb for mystery/thriller/crime writers. I recommend all of them wholeheartedly. Even after two decades, it sustains - all the series lacks is a real handle on the Internet in crime fighting and crime noveling, but that's understandable ... wish WD would update these books - i'd buy them all over again.

Great info for my serial killer novel

Used this book years ago was glad it was still around.

Looks interesting.

very well written and a very helpful resource for writers

Good reference.

This is a very basic book written by 2 detectives. It seems a bit dated to me (1995) and doesn't seem very writer-oriented either. While there is a wealth of material (from a detective's perspective), most of it was already known to me from watching TV & reading. While it could be used as a reference for writers, I don't think it would be much help in actually writing a mystery or detective novel or story. One would be better off IMHO reading some of the great mystery writers (e.g. Christie, Marsh) and current ones (e.g. Marcia Muller, Grafton). However, I did enjoy reading it--it's a very easy read.

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