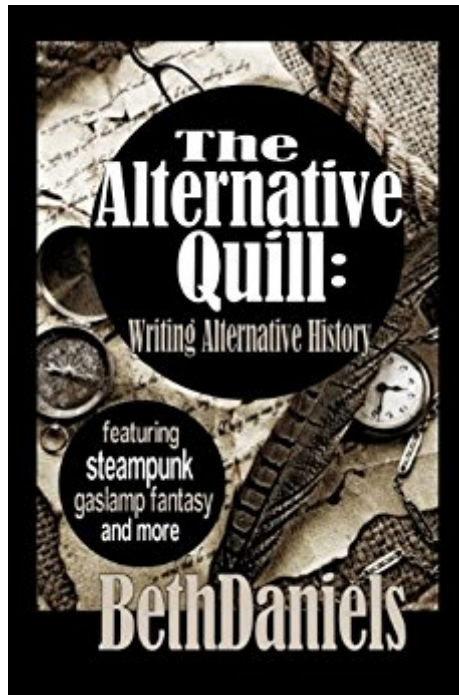


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# THE ALTERNATIVE QUILL: WRITING ALTERNATIVE HISTORY



## Synopsis

THE ALTERNATIVE QUILL: WRITING ALTERNATIVE HISTORYIt's a popular genre with multiple niches, so if you are interested in writing Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Steampunk, Gaslamp Fantasy, Dieselpunk, or tales that tweak history into something it never was (either the past or the present), Alternative History is for you. Beth Daniels (Writing Steampunk, Geared Up: Writing Steampunk 2nd edition, Muse to Manuscript) dips into the various styles of Alternative History by giving examples of published work and making suggestions on what specific niches have to offer and ideas on how to tweak history to your own story needs. Among the things covered are: Alternative Past Alternative Present Time Travel Urban Fantasy Paranormal stories Steampunk Gaslamp Fantasy (and what makes it different from Steampunk) Dieselpunk Magical Realism The audiences come in all age groups and the eras represented span from the beginning of mankind to the present. The possibilities when it comes to storytelling are endless. Cruise through history with an eye to creating your own world. Sometimes it's wondrous, and sometimes it's sad. Beth Daniels began life as a novelist in 1990 with the publication of her first romantic-suspense story, written under the pseudonym Beth Henderson. Since that time she has worked with editors at Harlequin, Berkley, Simon and Schuster's Aladdin Paperbacks, Kensington/Zebra, and a number of other smaller publishing houses. She's written fiction under a variety of pseudonyms and ventured into non-fiction in 2009 writing articles and books about the writing process, particularly the fiction writing process. She continues to spin fictional tales as Beth Henderson and J.B. Dane, switching from a background in romance (romantic-comedy, historical romantic adventure, romantic-suspense) to focus on mystery, urban fantasy and Steampunk. Visit her at [www.RomanceAndMystery2.com](http://www.RomanceAndMystery2.com), [www.Muse2Ms.com](http://www.Muse2Ms.com), [www.WritingSteampunk.com](http://www.WritingSteampunk.com), or at her blog [www.2write2write2write.blogspot.com](http://www.2write2write2write.blogspot.com).

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## Customer Reviews

This book does not know what it wants to be. It is trying to be a writer's guide, but there is very little solid writing advice and almost no instructions on the craft of writing. In effect, the book is a freewheeling exercise in free-writing that offers countless suggestions over what "might" make a good Steampunk or SF novel along with some brief, unenlightened thoughts about why some of the successful works in this genre have succeeded. She spends far too much time trying to draw a clear line between "gas lamp fantasy", "steampunk fantasy", and "alternative world SF" only to conclude that blending all of these "sub-genres" together is not only possible, it is in fact the reality of the marketplace. If you have absolutely no idea what kind of characters or world you want to write about and are instead obsessed with a vague concept such as, "I want to write steampunk because it's so fashionable right now!" then you might find a few useful ideas here. If you are looking for clear guidelines as to what is and is not "alternative", then you're off to the wrong start anyway and this book will only make your confusion worse.

This book contains definitions of different types of alternative stories, and is very helpful with suggestions as to how one might use them. I found it entertaining and well-written.

If you are into writing steampunk or alternative history and excellent buy. If not do not spend your money it is not a story but a "How To" type of book.

A little more detailed on the Steampunk side, helped me to organize my story a bit.

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