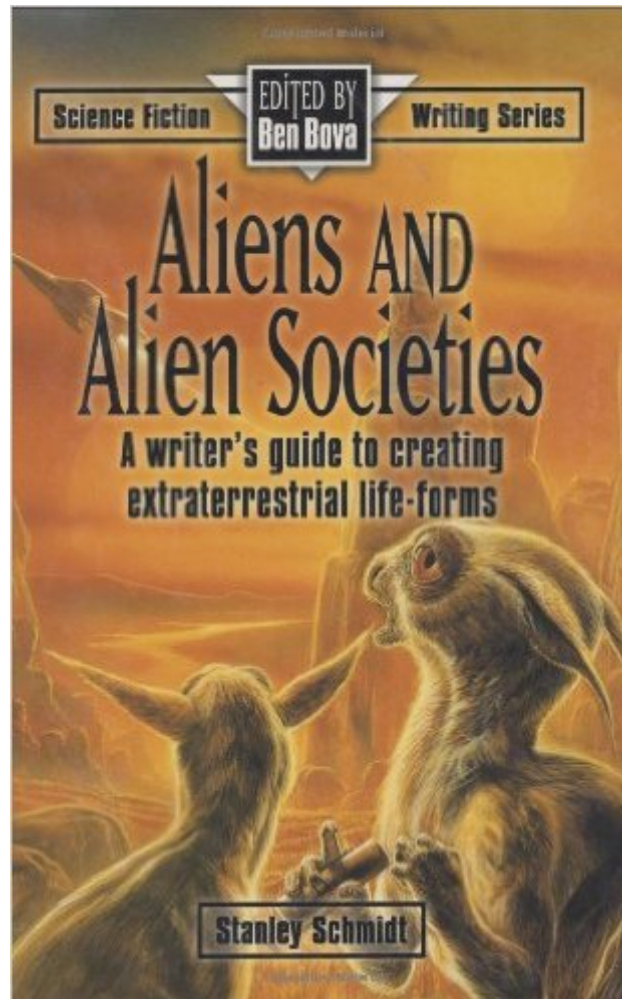


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# Aliens And Alien Societies (Science Fiction Writing Series)



## Synopsis

Teaches writers how to use real scientific knowledge of our universe to create more convincing extraterrestrial life forms in their science fiction or fantasy novel.

## Book Information

Series: Science Fiction Writing Series

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Writer's Digest Books (March 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0898797063

ISBN-13: 978-0898797060

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.2 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #908,671 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Science Fiction & Fantasy](#) #3390 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Writing Skills](#) #4487 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Fiction](#)

## Customer Reviews

The answer is no ... or yes, depending on what form and/or market your writing is goaled toward. If a science fiction novel was written to include every element presented in this manual, it would be as boring as reading a detailed summary of how to climb a step ladder. If you get too lost in the guidelines, you'll lose your creativity. A being with rubbery skin can live on a wet planet, but you don't have to detail that being's evolution from primordial ooze to rubber man down to the details of its DNA. Writing "hard" science fiction is much different from writing "fantasy" science fiction, or "softer" science fiction. Mieville's cactus people wouldn't exist if he'd followed the restrictive rules of hard sci-fi, and they are intriguing. Mieville didn't build a world with climate, rotation, axis position, mean distance from a sun, the type of sun, or any other hard facts, he just made his species absorbable and intriguing. The presumption that even "hard" science fiction is for mathematicians, physicists, professors, scientists, and total numbers-geeks is preposterous and insolent. You'll have to ask yourself, as a writer, "how far do you want to go?" Are you writing science or science fiction? Is this a thesis or compelling imagery? Schmidt pointed out that certain people write in to the publisher when the hard facts are shaky, but remember that these are guys portrayed by the "comic

book guy" in The Simpsons. Do you cater to the few who don't have a life or do you use your creative talent to entertain the majority? Even one of the stories mentioned by Schmidt, Stanley G. Weinbaum's "A Martian Odyssey" didn't follow such strict guidelines as Schmidt presents, and still created one of the most intriguing aliens to have ever graced the written word.

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