



# BAVARIAN BARBARIAN

BREWING CO.

## BARBARIAN'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

On Writing *by Stephen King*



Short and snappy as it is, Stephen King's *On Writing* really contains two books: a fondly sardonic autobiography and a tough-love lesson for aspiring novelists. The memoir is terrific stuff, a vivid description of how a writer grew out of a misbehaving kid. You're right there with the young author as he's tormented by poison ivy, gas-passing babysitters, uptight schoolmarms, and a laundry job nastier than Jack London's. King gives us lots of revelations about his life and work. The mind-possession monsters in *The Tommyknockers* and the haunting of the blocked writer in *The Shining* symbolized his cocaine and booze addiction (overcome thanks to his wife's intervention). King also evokes his college days and his recovery from the van crash that nearly killed him, but the focus is always on what it all means to the craft. He gives you a whole writer's "tool kit": a reading list, writing assignments, a corrected story, and nuts-and-bolts advice on dollars and cents, plot and character, the basic building block of the paragraph, and literary models. King isn't just a writer, he's a true teacher.

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