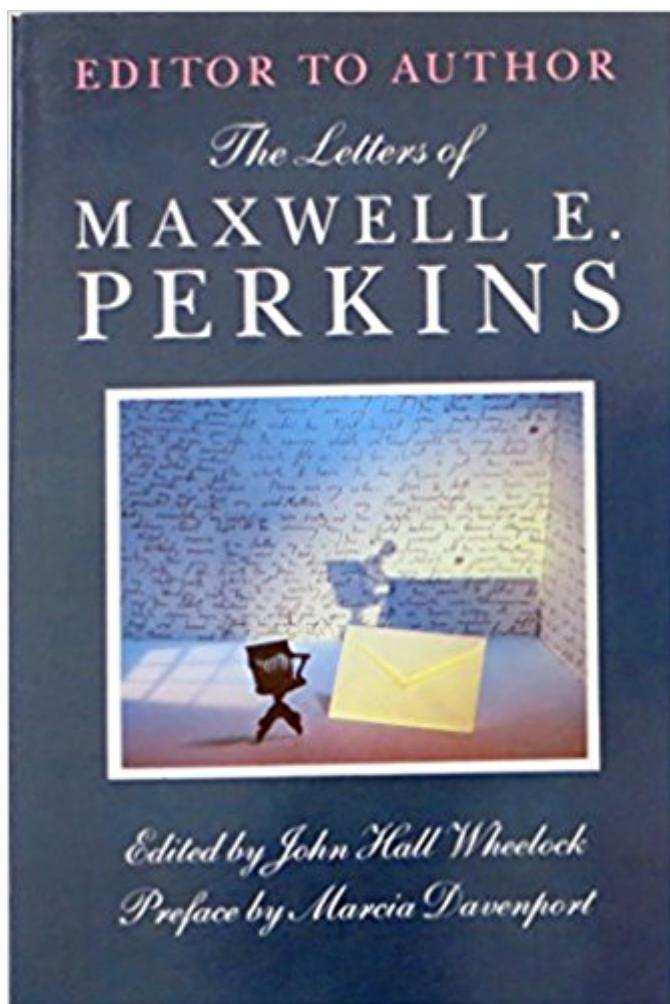


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Editor To Author: The Letters Of Maxwell E. Perkins



Synopsis

Editor to Author: The Letters of Maxwell E. Perkins

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Customer Reviews

Editor to Author: The Letters of Maxwell E. Perkins

Editor to Author: The Letters of Maxwell E. Perkins is a good book and one which I bought to see what made Perkins such a genius editor (as described by many writers). I cannot answer that question here but I do recommend the book for anyone wanting to know more of how Perkins thought about writing. In his biography of Perkins, A. Scott Berg tells of how Perkins dictated his thousands of letters. (There are several books of Perkins' correspondence available on .) I am not sure why it is but for me there is a difference in reading a letter that has been dictated and one that comes directly from the pen (or typewriter) of the writer. No doubt (needless to say) Perkins had many with which he had to correspond, so I do not in the least criticize Perkins' dictation. On the other hand, I am sure there are letters which Perkins wrote himself. I like the preface of Editor to Author by Marcia Davenport. She writes: "Since the letters fortunately took the place of much of that he left unsaid in person, the interested reader, more importantly, the writer, published or still unpublished, who seeks for the magic in Max which drew their best work out of so many authors, will come closest to that discovery in reading the letters of Maxwell Perkins without the intervention of any expositor."

Great insight into the mind of one of the greatest editors. Good condition for a used book.

This is one of my all-time favorite books and my absolutely favorite book of letters. I'm a textbook editor myself, and I first read this book fairly early in my career. I learned from Perkins how to respond to authors in a helpful way that would soothe them and get them to do what I wanted. From that point of view, it was almost a textbook on how to get along with authors. Besides that, the book was terrifically entertaining and interesting. Max Perkins was the literary intimate of almost every great American writer of the first half of the twentieth century: Thomas Wolfe, Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (*The Yearling*), and many others.

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