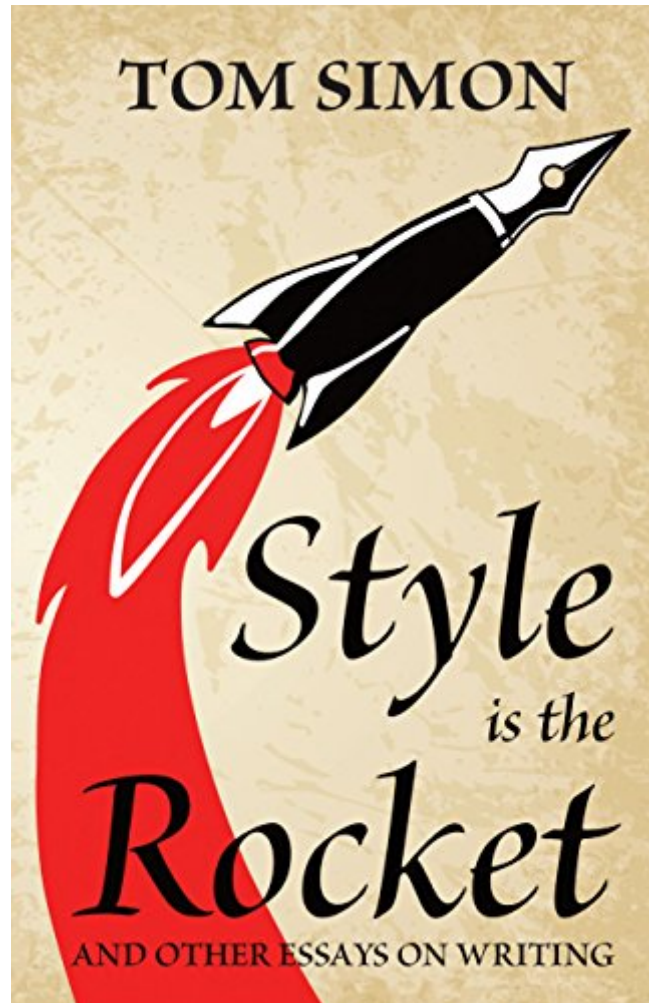


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Synopsis

Fantasy writer, essayist and critic Tom Simon looks at some elements of successful and memorable fiction. What makes a story stand out and grab a reader's interest, and how does it happen? What kind of imaginative elements are most likely to have enduring appeal? How important is prose style to a good story? In eleven essays, Simon investigates these and other questions, and his researches lead him to some surprising places. Like all Bondwine books, this title is sold without DRM.

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Customer Reviews

My cousin has been nagging Mr. Simon to get this collection out for ages. It was worth the weight. It's exactly what it says-- a collection of essays that are a lovely antidote to a lot of the unfunny silliness that gets tossed around about reading and writing. (He comes at it from the angle of writing, but I found it perfectly understandable from the reading side.)

This is a delightful collection of essays on writing and reading. I may be a bit prejudiced, because Mr. Simon admires and quotes from some of the same authors who have helped shape my mind, notably George Orwell and C.S. Lewis, but even if your own literary tastes and influences are different, you should take pleasure in Mr. Simon's insights into the processes of writing, and of literary appreciation, at least if you are at all a lover of books -- and if you aren't, what are you doing here?

This book of essays was . . . snarky. Honestly, I bought it for 'Ozamataz' and 'Legosity', which I enjoyed thoroughly when I first read them on Mr. Simon's website. But then I discovered 'Quality vs. Quality', which I plan to recommend to some of my friends, and also, in 'Sturgeon's Law School', the unfortunate tale of Grignr the barbarian, which I had not heretofore had the misfortune of reading in any form. 'The drudge and the architect' is one that made me think hard about life in general and writing specifically, and I will probably continue to study it for a long time to come. In short, I enjoyed every one of these essays, and I intend to buy an extra copy to loan out, since I would hate to have to part with my own.

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