

FREE READING SAMPLE

"If you want to create truly global media, this is the guidebook for you."

- Pamela Jaye Smith

Mythologist, Author, Award-winning Writer-Director-Producer

THE SCREENPLAY

Sutra

A 13-STEP SYSTEM
FOR EMOTIONAL SCREENWRITING



Veebee Nag

A FEW PAGES FROM THE BOOK • NOT FOR RESALE

PRAISE FOR THE SCREENPLAY SUTRA

“The Screenplay Sutra offers screenwriters and media-makers a powerful and accessible way to combine Eastern soul with Western structure to create stories that capture our attention and open our hearts, ultimately moving us toward wonder and satisfaction at how a story unfolds.

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PAMELA JAYE SMITH

Mythologist, Author, Award-winning Writer-Director-Producer

The Ghost in the Machine

Every screenwriting book will tell you to find your story's spine. But none of them tell you why the spine is cold.

I started my journey as a student of the greats, Syd Field, McKee, Campbell. I learned the rules of the three-act structure and became a devotee of the whiteboard. But I soon hit a wall. The stories I wrote before I understood the rules were chaotic and undisciplined, but they were *alive*. The stories I wrote after were clean and efficient, but they were dead on arrival.

I had learned how to build a skeleton, but I had forgotten how to make it breathe.

When I wrote my screenplay *Minugurulu*, I stopped chasing beats and started following emotional milestones. For the first time, structure and feeling moved together. That film went on to win the Nandi Award for Best Story, and its screenplay was eventually acquired by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for their permanent collection.

But I couldn't move on. I needed to know *why* it worked. A result you can't explain is a result you can't repeat.

That search led me back to the *Natya Shastra*, the ancient Indian treatise on performance. There, I found a system for engineering emotion. Its central concept is **Rasa**, the “essence” or “taste” of an experience. I realized then that emotion is not a byproduct of a good story; emotion is the architecture itself.

The Screenplay Sutra is a 13-step system built on two interlocking foundations:

THE WESTERN LINE

The chain of causality (*What happens next?*) that drives the plot forward.

THE INDIAN SPIRAL

The pulse of emotional transformation (*How does it feel?*) that drives the story deeper.

I have stress-tested this system against everything from *The Godfather* to *RRR* and *Parasite*. The architecture holds.

This is a book for the writer who has handed over a perfect script only to watch the reader’s face stay blank. It is for those who have caught lightning in a bottle once and want to know how to do it again.

Master the form.
Then, add your soul.