Where is the documentation?? It is HTML. (texroot)/doc/lualatex/novel/novel-documentation.html.

News: This document class was first privately used in 2014. Then, in 2018, it was improved, documented, and released. It has been maintained through TeXlive 2023. It is expected to work in the future, but is no longer maintained by its original creator.

Changes in print-on-demand technology have made many parts of this code irrelevant. There are also a few commands that require graphic design experience for proper usage. And a few settings, which should be simple and obvious, are complex and arcane.

If novel works for you, good. But if you are simply writing a fiction novel, nothing fancy, then see if CTAN and TeXlive have a package named novelette. As of late January 2024, the package is in beta test (not released yet). If the package exists and can be installed, then you should prefer novelette.

Description: The novel document class is for writers of original fiction, to be printed to paper, with attention to the requirements of the print-on-demand market. Non-color interiors and color covers are supported. Images are supported, but only as they might be used in fiction, not picture books.

If your work is an E-book, or uses interior color other than gray, or is academic, then this document class is not for you.

But if you are writing a detective novel, or science fiction, or a collection of short stories, then you are in the right place.