

# Plot Clinic Outline

written by Holly















































March 15, 2007

By Holly Lisle

I needed a break from reading my own squished, squiggled, handwriting doing type-in on **The Ruby Key**, so I took about half an hour and outlined the plot clinic. I know this isn't going to make huge amounts of sense in this form. Each outline entry below, though, will have explanations, an example, and an exercise, and in the process we'll go through, I'll create a plot from scratch, and so will you.

I'll deal with each of the three times that you're plotting: before you write, while you're writing, and while you're revising. And I'll deal with every tool I use while plotting—at least those that I can remember. I've written a lot of books, and I might have tried something back in the early years that I dropped along the way.

Anyway, here's the first draft of the outline:

- ▼  Holly Lisle's Create A Plot Clinic
  -  What Is Plotting (And Why Is It So Hard)?
  -  How to Use This Book
  - ▼  Plotting Before Writing
    -  Plot Tools, and Why There Are So Many
    -  Tool 1: Questions
    -  Tool 2: Character
    -  Tool 3: Theme and Concept
    -  Tool 4: Line-For-Scene, Take One
    -  Tool 5: Crisis
    -  Tool 6: Language
    -  Tool 7: Culture
    -  Tool 8: Maps and Terrains
    - ▼  Tools 9-15: Rummaging the Subconscious
      -  Tool 9: Awake---Word Games
      -  Tool 10: Awake---Drawings
      -  Tool 11: Awake---Timed Writing
      -  Tool 12: Awake---Cards, Books, Newspapers and other Arcana
      -  Tool 13: Awake---Making Things
      -  Tool 14: Asleep---Dream Journal
      -  Tool 15: Asleep---Dream Blackmail
    -  Tool 16: Throwing Stuff Against A Wall---A.K.A. Organic Plotting
  - ▼  Structures
    - ▼  The Three-Act Structure
      -  Act One
      -  Act Two
      -  Act Three
    -  Character Structure
    - ▼  Cliffhanger Structure
      -  Logic
      -  Not Logic
      -  Fusion
    -  Organic Structure
  - ▼  Plotting While Writing
    -  Rethinking Plot Points
    -  The Great (Late) Idea
    -  Changing Characters
    -  Changing the World
    -  Changing the Crisis
    -  Changing the Questions
    -  Fighting with the Subconscious
  - ▼  Plotting While Revising
    -  The Line-For-Scene Plot Check
    -  It's (Almost) Never Too Late
    -  The Great (Late) Idea Revisited
    -  Eureka! or Eek!

Program I'm using to write this is **Scrivener**. It's also the program I'm using to revise **The Ruby Key**. Wrote **The Ruby Key** using WriteItNow. Will review the **Scrivener** software when I'm done with the work. And thanks to Kevin, who created the software, I have one free copy of **Scrivener** to give away.

We'll have a contest or a drawing for that after I've finished revisions and income taxes.

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