

Plot Clinic Revision is close to finished

By Holly Lisle

I've written about four thousand words today of all-new material—the ONLY thing I still have to add is detail on **Line-for-Scene, Take Two**. And I have a few more typos to hunt down and kill.

Thought you might like to see the table of contents. Line-For-Scene, Take Two, all the way at the bottom, will have more pages and headers than it has now, but otherwise, this is close to gone gold.

Introduction: What Is Plotting (And Why Is It So Hard?)	8
Plot Is...	8
Where Plots Are Born	9
Plotting's first home is your logic.	9
Plotting's second home is your life.	9
Plotting's third home is your Muse.	10
A word of warning on dealing with the subconscious	11
How Plots Grow	12
Before you start writing	12
While you're writing	13
While you're revising and editing your first and subsequent drafts	13
While you're plowing through you're editor's final revisions	13
The Seven Basic Plots (Plus A Mermaid)	14
Plotting Is A Process, Not An Act	15
How To Use This Book	17
Order of Use	18
First:	18
Second:	19
Third:	20

What Youâ€™ll Need	20
Absolute Necessities	21
Should Haves	21
Things You Might Need	21
My Assumptions	23
Section I: Plotting Before Writing	25
Structures	27
How Many Plot Cards Will I Need?	27
Usual Novel Word Counts	28
Figuring Average Scene Length Wordcounts	28
The Number of Scenes Youâ€™ll Need Is...	28
The Three-Act Structure	29
Pros	32
Cons	33
Character Structure, Single POV	33
Pros	33
Cons	34
Character Structure, Multiple POV	34
Pros	36
Cons	36
Cliffhanger Structure	36
Pros	37
Cons	37
Organic Structure	37
Pros	38
Cons	39
Timeline Structure	39
Pros	41
Cons	41
Mixing It Up	41
Section II: Toolsâ€”When Things Are Going Well	42
Plot Tools, and Why There Are So Many	43
Tool 1: Question	45
The Good Question	46
After you figure out your question and ask it, donâ€™t say anything else.	49
Exercise: Question	49

Tool 2: Twist	50
Doing the Twist	50
Exercise: Twist	53
Tool 3: Cliffhanger	55
You can leave your reader hanging:	56
Working out the cliffhanger:	57
Exercise: Cliffhanger	58
Tool 4: Character	60
What is Annalise's compelling need?	61
Exercise: Character	63
Tool 5: Line-For-Scene, Take One	65
Exercise: Line-For-Scene, Take One	69
Tool 6: Conflict	72
Exercise: Conflict	75
Tool 7: Language	76
Exercise: Language	81
Tool 8: Culture	83
Exercise: Culture	86
Tool 9: Map and Terrain	87
Exercise: Map and Terrain	90
Tool 10: Throwing Stuff Against A Wall	91
Get Stuff	91
Throw Stuff	92
Make Sense of Stuff	93
Exercise: Throwing Stuff Against A Wall	95
Tool 11: Theme and Concept	96
Exercise: Theme and Concept	101
Section III: Tools "When Things Go Splat"	103
Tool 12: Awake "Timed Writing	104
Exercise: Timed Writing	106
Tool 13: Awake "Word Games	108
Goosebumps	108
Exercise: Goosebumps	111
Pong	112
Exercise: Pong	114
Chase Your Tail	115
Exercise: Chase Your Tail	117

Tool 14: Awakeâ€™Drawings	118
Random Drawing	118
Exercise: Drawing	121
Tool 15: Awakeâ€™Cards	123
Everyone Can Use These Cards	124
Recommended Tarot Decks	125
Card oneâ€™my problematic character	128
Card twoâ€™my characterâ€™s objective	129
Card threeâ€™my characterâ€™s obstacle	130
Exercise: Cards	131
Tool 16: Awakeâ€™Making and Doing Things	133
Exercise: Making and Doing Things	135
Tool 17â€™Chop Wood, Carry Water	136
Exercise: Chop Wood, Carry Water	138
Tool 18: Awakeâ€™Bore Your Muse	140
Exercise: Bore Your Muse	143
Tool 19: Asleepâ€™Dream Journal	145
Exercise: Dream Journal	149
Tool 20: Asleepâ€™Dream Blackmail	150
Exercise: Dream Blackmail	151
Section IV: Plotting While Writing	153
Fix an Existing Project	155
Start by building a line-for-scene outline on white index cards.	156
Now you have to fix the line-for-scene.	157
First you define the problem.	157
Then you decide on a course of action.	158
Then you write line-for-scenes for existing scenes on plot cards.	160
Finally, create fresh plot cards for the rest of your book.	161
Dance With the One Who Brought You	162
Rethinking Plot Points	162
Donâ€™t panic.	163
The Great (Late) Idea	166
What do you do?	166
Changing Characters	167

When it happens:	167
Changing the World	168
If "probably when" this happens to you, how do you handle it?	169
Changing the Crisis	169
How to Fix the Crisis	170
Plotting the Ending	173
The Good Ending	174
Exercise: Plotting the Ending	178
Plotting While Revising	180
No	180
Line-For-Scene, Take Two	182
Conclusion	186

Contents © Holly Lisle. <https://hollylisle.com> All Rights Reserved