# Plot Outline done for Green Magic One

By Holly Lisle

I had a couple folks ask how I would do headers on the plot cards. So I took a picture of the outline view of my plot card outline for **Green Magic I**.

This is done in Scrivener; your results will look different depending on what you're using to outline your book. But…

The entire project is in a folder titled (ever so imaginatively) Draft. The working synopsis is the green rectangle beneath it. That holds my short description, main character arc, theme, and cover copy description. Then I have my character list—each character has a short description that I can roll over at any time with my cursor, so that the names of my folks are in front of me all the time, plus pertinent details about their appearances, jobs, etc.

Following that is the title, and then the book divided into three beats. It alsol follows Three-Act Structure, but you'll see that the actual acts, Gathering the Players, Intensifying the Situation, and Resolving the Conflict, do not land at the same place as the story beats.

At the far left of every other title, C[#] marks off each chapter (you can see I'm doing two scenes per chapter), each card has a title that cues me in to what the main action of that scene will be, and the necessary word count I have to hit to come in on deadline at length, and within the specifications for the book. This is a line romance with a requirement for 60%-40% heroine-hero viewpoints. Having the cards marked off this way will keep me on track.
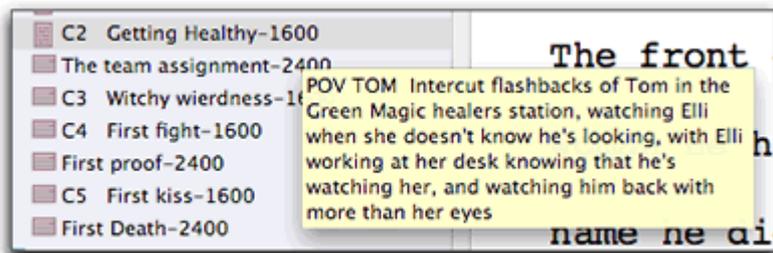
I can see the contents of each card as I roll the cursor over it, preventing me from ever having to click back into the plot-cards working view, but keeping all that information at my fingertips.
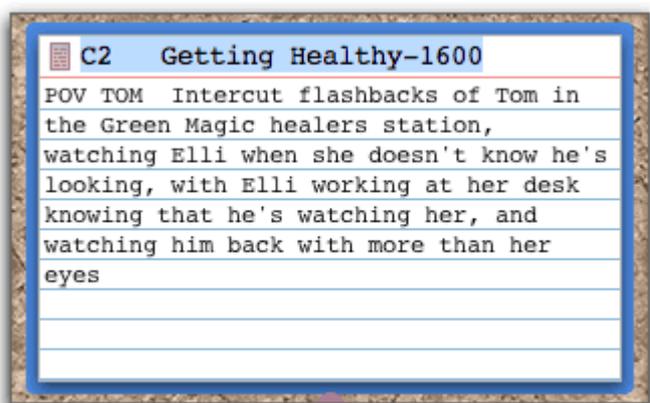
Here's the corkboard with card in place for comparison purposes.

The information in the body of each card is the character POV for each scene and the scene's main action.

Finally, here's the titles-only view that I see as I'm actually writing the book. (All of the cards are drag-and-drop, too, to make in-progress revision simple.

And to the cries of "Where's the creativity in the midst of all that structure…" well, I like to write sonnets, too. It's the same process. You learn the rules, you integrate the rules, and then you see just how far outside the envelope you can push you can push your content without breaking the entire structure.

- ▼ 📚 **Draft**
  - 📒 Synopsis
  - ▼ ⬜ Character List
    - ▤ Tom O'Riley
    - ▤ Elli Fox
    - ▤ John Green
    - ▤ Paul Howard Zmed
    - ▤ Rachel Haightly
    - ▤ Ari (Aragorn) Linden
    - ▤ Marissa Lee
    - ▤ Rob Kitura
    - ▤ Kate O'Hanlon
    - ▤ Mike Brikowski
  - ▼ 📙 ███████████ ←— **Title intentionally obscured**
    - ▼ 📘 Boy Meets Girl
      - ▦ C1 Out of the cage–1483
      - ▦ To safety–2559
      - ▦ C2 Getting Healthy–1600
      - ▤ The team assignment–2400
      - ▤ C3 Witchy wierdness–1600
      - ▤ Two bods and a jeep–2400 ——— **Act I ends here**
      - ▤ C4 First fight–1600
      - ▤ First proof–2400
      - ▤ C5 First kiss–1600
      - ▤ First Death–2400
    - ▼ 📘 Boy Loses Girl
      - ▤ C6 Power struggle–1600
      - ▤ Elli prevails–2400
      - ▤ C7 Stuck with the team–1600
      - ▤ Hunting the killer–2400
      - ▤ C8 San Jose–1600
      - ▤ The Room–2400
      - ▤ C9 Wake up call–1600
      - ▤ Elli scores big–2400
      - ▤ C10 Old City–1600
      - ▤ Love and Death–2400
    - ▼ 📘 Boy Gets Girl
      - ▤ C11 And Guatemala–1600
      - ▤ Supplying for Disaster–2400
      - ▦ C12 Run through the Jungle–1600
      - ▤ Following Bread Crumbs–2400
      - ▦ C13 The Last Night–1600
      - ▥ The Last Day–2400
      - ▦ C14 Captured–1600 ——— **Act II ends here**
      - ▥ The End of the World–2400 ⎫
      - ▦ C15 Morning After–1600 ⎬ —— **Short Act III**
      - ▥ Brand New Day–2400 ⎭
  - ▶ 📚 Research
  - ▶ 🗑 Trash