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Master the Plot Points that Matter

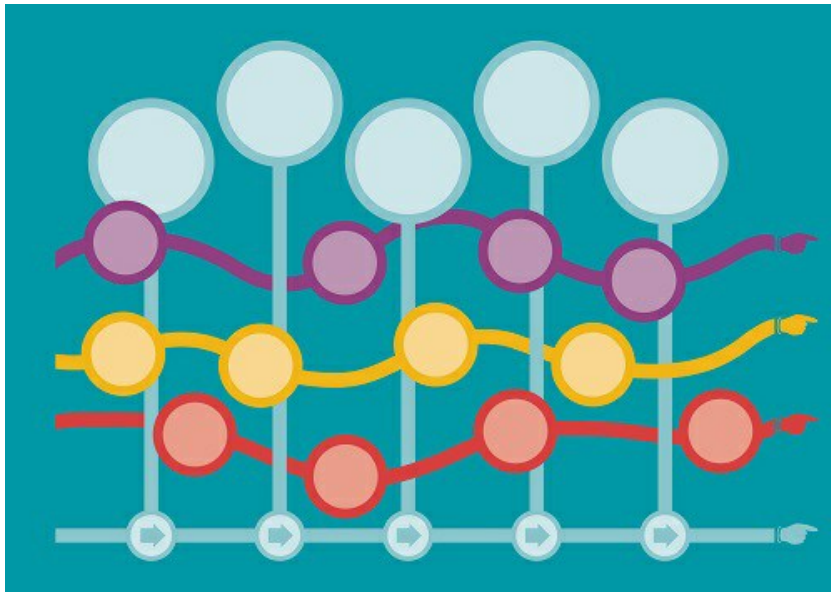
What comes easiest to you when working on your novel? For me, it's writing specific scenes. I often have a clear vision for what I want my characters to say and do in a certain moment. Mapping out an overarching plot, on the other hand? Not my strong suit.

Speaking to some of my writer friends, I know that others feel differently. Some writers love thinking about the plot of their story. But executing the mechanics of that plot on a scene-by-scene basis isn't nearly as fun for them.

In this newsletter, we're talking all about plot. We have articles about everything from the four plot mistakes you might be making to the difference between plot, story, and structure... and why that difference matters.

Plus, at the end, we have an invitation to our next ProWritingAid Write-In. Join us as we work on mastering suspense together, live.

Read on!



How to Master the Plot Points that Matter

Whether you write your novel as you go (aka, you're a "pants-er") or you build a scene sequence before you begin, missing one of the five major plot points that define all novels will slow down your story.

If you skip these plot points, readers may not know the intended plot structure, but they will know that something is missing from your story. In this article, we cover the five plot points that matter and how to include them in your work.

[Check them out here.](#)



4 Plot Mistakes You Might Be Making

Sometimes it's hard to see plot problems while you're writing. You may get to the end of your novel and realize that there are huge plot holes which affect the integrity of your work.

This realization will send some writers into a downward spiral of negative self-talk. Others

will white-knuckle their way through half-hearted revisions.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to rectify your mistakes without tossing your whole book out and starting from scratch.

[Here are a few common plot pitfalls and what you can do to fix them.](#)



How to Write a Mind-Blowing Plot Twist like Gone Girl

As a reader, don't you love the mind-blowing plot twist that seems to come out of nowhere, yet makes complete sense? There's something deeply absorbing in a good plot twist you didn't see coming; it sticks with you, sometimes for years.

Plot twists can happen in the middle of your story, creating a feverish tension that keeps readers turning the pages to see how this new twist will play out next. Other plot twists happen at the climax of a story, resonating with you long after the last page. But you can't force a plot twist; readers will smell it a mile away.

[In this article, we teach you how to write a successful plot twist.](#)



Plot Versus Story

If asked, could you clearly define the difference between plot, story, and structure? If you're not confident that you could, don't worry! There's a lot of conflicting information out there.

But, understanding the difference between plot, structure, and story is important because knowing the difference and how they affect your writing process can help you tell a powerful story. In this article, we break it down, once and for all.

[Learn the difference between plot, story, and structure here.](#)



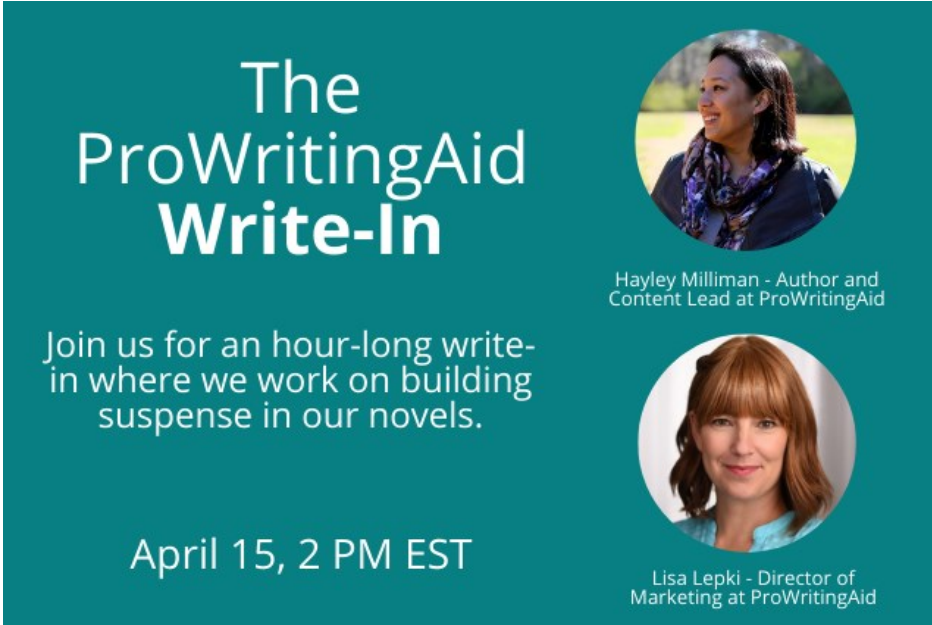
How to Balance Surprise and Suspense in Your Novel

Surprise and suspense perform two different functions in fiction. You can use both to reap readers' attention. They work in different ways so you need to know the difference, as well as how and when to add each to your story.

You can use surprise and suspense to keep your readers engaged and turning the

pages of your story. In this article, we break down the difference between each term and explain how to use them effectively.

[Read on!](#)

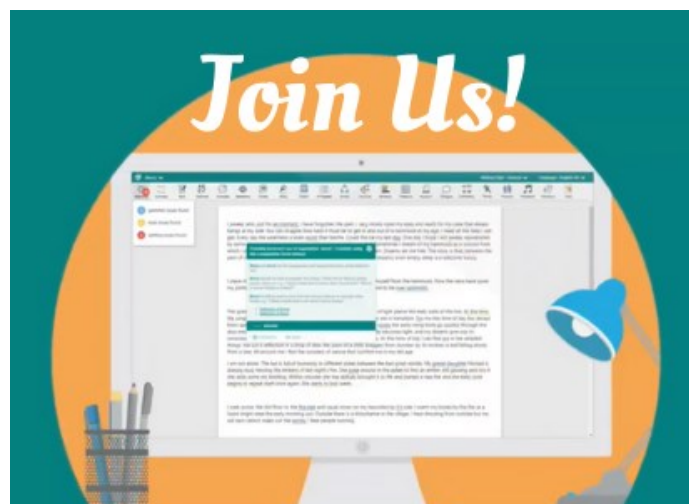


Keep Working on Your Novel With the ProWritingAid Community

We recently started doing virtual write-ins to connect with our community and work on our books together. Next up, we'll be doing a write-in all about suspense.

Join us tomorrow, April 15, at 2 PM EST as we work through three writing prompts surrounding suspense, then share out with the group. We had a lot of fun at our first write-in and hope to see many of you at this next session.

[Register here!](#)



Upcoming Free Writing Courses Online

Since we are all stuck at home at the moment, we have added a bunch of new online events over the next few weeks to give us all the chance to connect and learn. Here are the workshops coming up next:

- April 16: Book Marketing Basics with Nick Stephenson
- April 21: Scrivener 101 with Anne Rainbow
- April 23: Quick! Call the Book Doctor with Sally Orson Jones
- April 29: Get Started On Your Story Edit with Kristina Stanley

[Check out the full list of upcoming trainings and register for free on our blog.](#)

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