



Hank Phillippi Ryan

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CREATING YOUR NOVEL

Genre:

Logline:

Title:

First line:

Three Act Structure

Act One: Wow, that's strange!

(How do you take this to the next level?)

Act Two: Yikes, now what? And—whoa. I never expected *that*.

(How do you avoid the muddle in the middle?)

Act Three: How exciting! So that's what happened...and why.

(How do you wrap up all the threads and answer all the questions?)

WHO?

Who is your main character?

Who else does the book need?

Why?

Really?

For each character:

What do they want?

>motivation

What's in the way?

>obstacles

Who's in the way?

>antagonist to each

How can I make this mean more?

>subtext

POINT OF VIEW

>>whose eyes are you telling the story through?

WHERE AND WHEN?

Your setting or settings

WHERE?

>>is it in every scene?

>>all five senses

Can you pick one place that's meaningful?

>>why does it matter?

>>Now what?

>>can you pick a time that's meaningful?

>>why does that matter?

>>How about the past? What's not in the book? Backstory and flashbacks?

>>why does that matter?

WHY?

Why do we care?

>What will happen if your character does not succeed?

REVISIONS

>>For timing and plot and continuity

>>For characterization

>>For pacing and cutting

>>For theme

>>For writing

>>For poetry

HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN is the *USA Today* bestselling author of 14 thrillers, winning the most prestigious awards in the genre: five Agathas, five Anthonys, the Daphne, and the coveted Mary Higgins Clark Award. She is also on-air investigative reporter for Boston's WHDH-TV, winning 37 EMMY awards. Book reviewers call her “a master of suspense.” Her newest psychological thriller is **THE HOUSE GUEST**, an Amazon, Audible and Barnes & Noble bestseller.

Watch for **ONE WRONG WORD**, coming in February 2024.

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