



# Writing Blockbuster Plots: A Step-by-Step Guide to Mastering Plot, Structure, and Scene

By Martha Alderson

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Plotting a story filled with memorable, engaging scenes from beginning to end can feel

like an insurmountable challenge. Having the right plan - and the tools to execute it - can make all the difference. *Writing Blockbuster Plots* pulls back the curtain on story structure with step-by-step strategies and visuals that turn plotting and scene writing into a no-stress endeavor.

In this completely revised and updated edition, celebrated writing instructor and plot consultant Martha Alderson helps you navigate the intricacies of story with the help of her exclusive Plot Planner and Scene Tracker tools. Using Alderson's effective, accessible techniques, you'll be able to:

- **PLOT** your story from beginning to end with a focus on dramatic action, the emotional development of your characters, and thematic significance.
- **ENSURE** that each scene contributes meaningfully to the narrative by tracking the seven essential elements of scene.
- **LINK** scenes by cause and effect to create a tight, seamless narrative.
- **INJECT** tension and conflict to keep readers glued to the page.
- **TARGET** weak areas in your story and learn how to fix them.

Filled with examples from both classic and contemporary novels, as well as illustrations of the Plot Planner and Scene Tracker in action, *Writing Blockbuster Plots* strips the confusion out of the plotting process, enabling you to write a story that deserves a standing ovation.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*Writing Blockbuster Plots: A Step-by-Step Guide to Mastering Plot, Structure, and Scene* by Martha Alderson is specifically designed to demystify how story writing works. It shows aspiring writers how to track the seven most important elements of a scene on a Scene Tracker, and how to use her Plot Planner to develop a multi-layered plotline for each individual project. *Writing Blockbuster Plots* also provides useful analysis of scenes written by classic and contemporary writers such as Twain, McCarthy, London, Fitch, Chopin, and Letts, all of which will help show writers how to: Pre-plot Link scenes through cause and effect; Determine which scenes are flat and why; Set up tension, conflict and suspense; Develop complex characters; Establish compelling action; Re-vision rewrites; Clarify themes; Deepen and expand narratives. Detailed, comprehensive, insightful, instructive, and thoroughly 'user friendly' in organization and presentation, *Writing Blockbuster Plots* is exceptional and very highly recommended for aspiring writers."  
--*Midwest Book Review*

#### About the Author

**Martha Alderson** is a historical novelist and the best-selling author of *The Plot Whisperer*. Her most recent books for writers are *Writing Blockbuster Plots* and *Writing Deep Scenes*. She also has written *The Plot Whisperer Workbook*, *The Plot Whisperer Book of Writing Prompts* and the forthcoming *Parallel Lives: A Novel*.

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