



MYNOVEL AUTHOR SERIES

PRACTICAL GUIDES FOR BUDDING INDEPENDENT AUTHORS

**BOOK
3**

BUILDING YOUR PLOT

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SHAPING A STORY
WITH STRUCTURE, MOMENTUM AND MEANING

*From loose ideas
to page-turning
plotlines...*

HOOK
SCENES
TENSION
TWISTS
RESOLUTION

INCLUDES
PDF GUIDE
+
**EDITABLE
WORD
WORKBOOK**

*Plot Drives
Readers On*



MIKE GROBLER

FREE PREVIEW

BUILDING YOUR PLOT

MyNovel Author Series — Book 3

Mike Grobler

This short preview contains the introduction and the opening of
Chapter 1.
The full guide includes 15 chapters plus an editable Microsoft Word
workbook.

*A practical guide to shaping a story with structure, momentum and
meaning*

Introduction - Plot Is Cause and Effect

Plot is often misunderstood as a list of things that happen. A storm hits. A secret is discovered. A stranger arrives. Someone loses a job. A relationship breaks down. Any of those events can be useful, but a sequence of events is not automatically a satisfying plot.

A plot becomes convincing when one event changes what a character wants, knows, fears or decides to do, and that decision creates the next problem. The reader should feel that the story is moving because the characters are acting inside a chain of consequences.

This is why plot and character cannot be separated for very long. Book 2 focused on believable people. Book 3 asks what happens when those people are placed under pressure. Their choices reveal who they are, and the consequences of those choices create the story.

A strong plot is not a pile of events. It is a chain of choices and consequences.

You do not need to force every novel into a rigid formula. Crime, romance, fantasy, memoir-like fiction and literary novels may all move differently. What they share is movement: something changes, the character responds, the response has consequences, and the situation becomes more difficult or more meaningful – echoing normal day to day life.

In the recurring guesthouse example, Leah wants to save the neglected coastal property she has inherited. That goal gives the plot direction. Her brother Daniel wants to sell. The bank wants arrears paid. A developer sees an opportunity. Guests, repairs, weather and old family decisions complicate the situation. What matters is not the number of problems but the way each one forces Leah to choose what she will do next.

WORKBOOK: Complete Exercise 1 — Before You Begin in the accompanying editable Word workbook.

1. Start With the Central Story Question

Before you plan chapters, scenes or twists, identify the question that keeps the story alive. The central story question is the uncertainty the reader follows from the beginning towards the ending.

In a mystery the question may be obvious: who committed the crime? In a romance it may be: will these two people overcome what keeps them apart? In a survival story: will the character get home alive? In a quieter family novel: will the protagonist repair a damaged relationship, or finally walk away from it?

The question should not be so vague that almost any ending would answer it. 'What happens to Leah?' is too broad. 'Can Leah save the guesthouse without destroying her relationship with Daniel?' gives the story a clearer line of tension.

The question creates direction

When the writer knows the central question, it becomes easier to judge whether a scene belongs. A scene can deepen character, reveal information, increase pressure or change the direction of the story, but it should still contribute to the larger uncertainty.

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

Leah's practical goal is to keep the guesthouse. The emotional question is whether she can do that without repeating her mother's habit of sacrificing every relationship for the business. The plot can therefore test both the business and Leah's way of dealing with people.

WORKBOOK: Complete Exercise 2 — Find the Central Story Question in the accompanying editable Word workbook.

THE PREVIEW ENDS HERE

Continue with the full guide to explore character goals, story structure, hooks, inciting incidents, complications, midpoint, crisis, climax, resolution, scenes, cause and effect, twists, foreshadowing, pacing and plot logic.

Your purchase includes the complete PDF guide and an editable Microsoft Word workbook.

PURCHASE THE FULL BOOK