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How to Edit a Science Fiction Novel

Shane Millar

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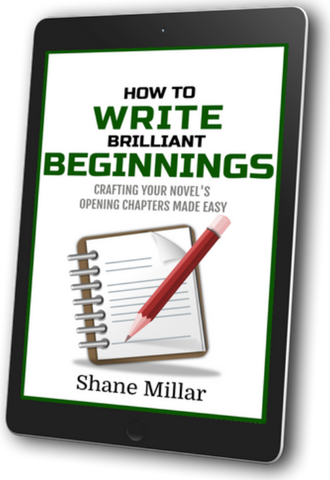
Who am I?



- Urban fantasy author & Podcaster
- Author of The Write Better Fiction Craft Guides
- Fictionary Certified StoryCoach Editor
- Community and Customer Success Manager at Fictionary

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We help fiction authors write stories readers love through community, software, courses, and story editing services!

Kindness is our guide

Story editing is our passion

Sculpting stories readers love is our goal

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The Character Supergroup

Point of View

POV Goal

Character Arc

POV Goal (Internal)

Goal Related to Plot

What if Goal Fails

Character in Motion

Impact on POV Character

POV Knowledge Gained

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Point of View

- The POV character is the one telling the story
- Readers experience the scene through the POV
- BEWARE Head-Hopping
- BEWARE unbalanced POVs
- BEWARE using too many POVs

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POV Goal

- This is what the POV Character wants
- POV Character = one goal per scene
- BEWARE unclear POV goals in each scene
- BEWARE too many POV goals in each scene
- BEWARE easy POV goals in each scene

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What if Goal Fails

- POV Goal success shouldn't be guaranteed
- This creates stakes or consequences
- BEWARE no stakes
- BEWARE lack of tension (more later…)
- BEWARE lack of conflict (more later…)

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The Plot Supergroup

Scene Name	**Story Arc**	Purpose
Tension	**Conflict**	Opening Type
Closing Type	**Entry Hook**	**Exit Hook**

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Fictionary Story Arc

- Inciting Incident (anywhere up to 15%)
- Plot Point 1 (20-30%)
- Middle (45-55%)
- Plot Point 2 (70-80%)
- Climax (85-95%)

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Entry & Exit Hooks

- Entry hooks draw a reader into the scene
- Exit hooks make readers want to read on
- The aim is to make the reader ask questions
- They can only answer these by reading on
- BEWARE no hooks or weak hooks

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Tension & Conflict

- Tension is the threat of something bad
- Conflict is the bad thing actually happening
- There should be tension in every scene
- Tension should be related to the plot
- Conflict should be related to the plot

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The Setting Supergroup

Location

Date & Time

Object

The Five Senses

Emotional Impact

Location Split

Weather

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Weather

The weather can be a fantastic source of tension and conflict.

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Emotional Impact

Does the setting you've chosen give you the opportunity to create an emotional impact on the POV Character?

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The Five Senses

- Sight: Introducing new settings
- Sound: Creating atmophere
- Smell: Memory triggers
- Taste: Think of unusual things
- Touch: Physical sensations and emotions

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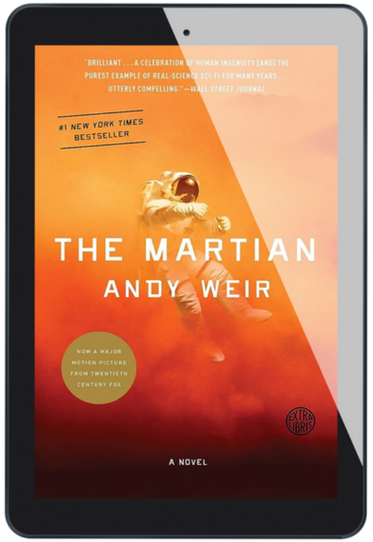
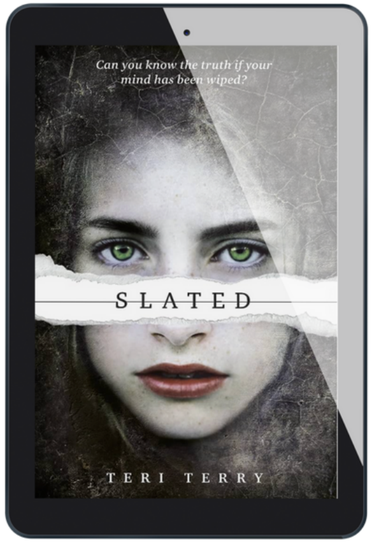
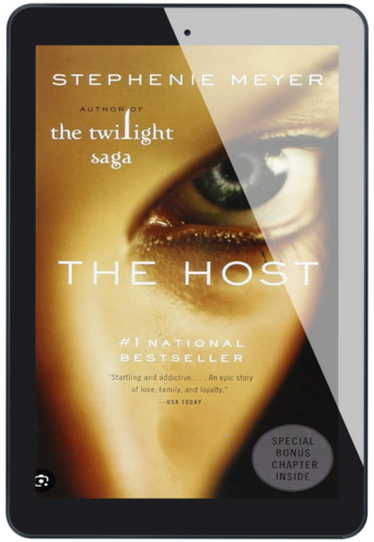
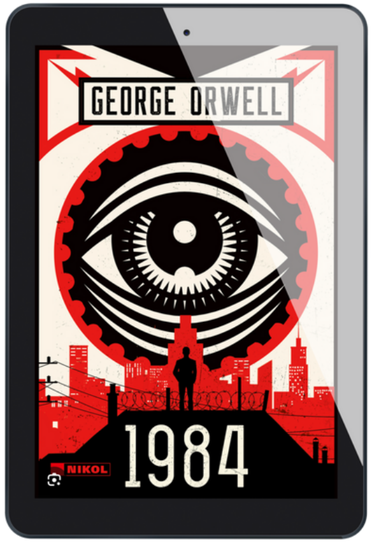
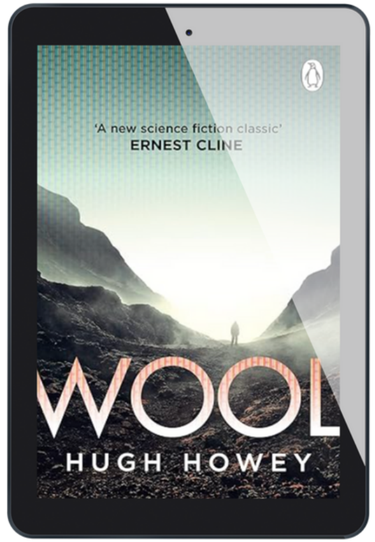
Case Studies











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Demo

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Questions