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# My Pre-Writing Process

A few people on Twitter asked me what my pre-writing process was for my books since I mentioned that I'm in that stage right now. This is the summary of my constantly evolving process:

by Roni Loren 5 years ago 1,961 Views ▾



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@RoniLoren 

So for those wondering about my pre-writing process. Here's the gist: 1. Write a one-page/back cover style synopsis to "sell" to my editor.

11:43 AM - Sep 4, 2013

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This synopsis gives an overview of the story but not a lot of details or spoilers. It's similar to the back cover blurb. Often, this synopsis is what the marketing department uses to write the initial back cover copy.

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2. Fill out as much as I can of the Blake Snyder Beat Sheet  
(from the book Save the Cat)

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**Save The Cat! The Last Book on Screenwriting You'll Ever Need**  
~ Blake Snyder (author)  
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List Price: ~~\$19.95~~  
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Save The Cat! The Last Book on Screenwriting You'll Ever Need: Blake Snyder:  
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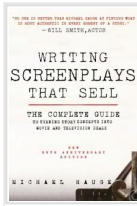
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3. Fill out the Inner Journey worksheets for each main character  
(the Michael Hauge stuff I tweeted about earlier)

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I have my own personal worksheet I've made based on the Michael Hauge workshops I attended. So it's basically a list of Longing/Need, Wound, Belief, Fear, Identity, Essence. The worksheet only makes sense if you're familiar with his stuff. So here is his website and a post by Jami Gold about the inner journey. Note: Hauge's book, from what I understand, does not cover his Inner Journey stuff, so you may have to order one of his workshops/talks to get it. Or you can get an overview at Jami's sight.



## Michael Hauge's Story Mastery

The official website of best-selling author and story consultant Michael Hauge.



## Michael Hauge's Workshop: Are These Characters the ... - Jami Gold

Aug 14, 2012 ... Last time I shared tips from Michael Hauge's presentation at the Romance Writers of America (RWA) Conference about...





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4. Come up with the "6 Things That Need Fixing" for each main character at the beginning of the story (also from Save the Cat)

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The number 6 is arbitrary. If you can't find six, at least have three. These are the things you show in the setup. What are the problems in this character's life. What are they missing?

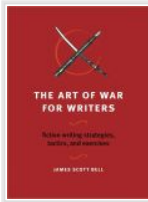
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5. Answer the questions about the lead that James Scott Bell suggest in The Art of War For Writers (9 questions)

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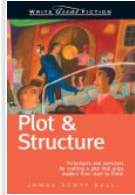
I kind of adore anything James Scott Bell has to say about writing. Besides this book, I also recommend his Plot and Structure book.



### The Art of War for Writers: Fiction Writing ... - Barnes & Noble

Dec 9, 2009 ... Available in: Paperback. Strategies and Tactics for the Master Novelist  
Successfully starting and finishing a publishab...

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### Write Great Fiction - Plot & Structure by James ... - Barnes & Noble

Oct 6, 2004 ... Available in: NOOK Book (eBook), Paperback. Craft an Engaging Plot How  
does plot influence story structure? What's ...

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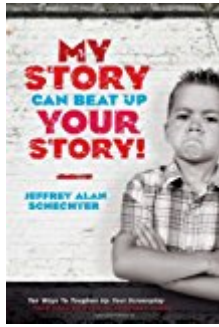
6. Answer the Central Story Question and the Four Questions about Lead's goals from the book My Story Can Beat Up Your Story book.

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I've developed a stack of worksheets based on the principles in My Story Can Beat Up Your Story. This book is chock full of good information.



## My Story Can Beat Up Your Story: Ten Ways to Toughen Up Your Screenplay from Opening Hook to Knockout Punch

~ Jeffrey Schechter (author)

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7. Open Scrivener, set up document, set deadline word count goals, and write. Reevaluate plot around the 10k-20k word mark.

11:49 AM - Sep 4, 2013

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I can't express the importance of setting word count goals. It's changed my writing speed dramatically. In Scrivener, you can put in your deadline, what your work days are, and it will break it down how much you need to write each day. It will even give you a progress bar. Odd how powerful a motivator that little bar can be.

### [Literature and Latte - Scrivener Writing Software | Mac OS X | Windows](#)

Scrivener for Mac OS X and Windows is an Award-winning writing software for novelists, scriptwriters, academics or anyone working on lo...

 [WWW.LITERATUREANDLATTE.COM](http://WWW.LITERATUREANDLATTE.COM)

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8. Write my ass off, angst, get blocked, freak out, write some more, delete, get inspiration, write like a fiend, turn in book at last minute

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9. Take 2-3 weeks off and do it all again.

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Oh, I forgot to include the step where at the end of a book, I SWEAR that the next book I will plot out first to save myself grief. o\_o

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Me, convincing myself it will be better next time. (below)

**Reaction GIF**




Tagged with yes, Jack Nicholson, The Shining

[REPLYGIF](#)

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Also, want to point out that what the final book looks like compared to pre-writing stuff is often very different. Jumpstarts me though.

12:00 PM - Sep 4, 2013

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So those are my basics. I'm organized in my pre-writing and then a complete panster once I start writing. I apparently need the foundation for my house in place to feel ready, but I throw away the blueprints for the rest of the building once that first part's done. What's your process?

