THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO TENSION AND ANTICIPATION

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Reddit Series guide to tension and anticipation in the context of Inner Conflict

TENSION

Definition: When a BAD THING is going to happen or can happen.

There are 3 types of tension:

1. STORYLINE TENSION - when both the reader and the protagonist are BOT aware of the BAD THING and can last minutes, days, weeks, months, years, or even longer. Tension is created by the protagonist's attempts to avoid the BAD THING happening (stay, move, stance INTENSIFIES or EASES), the BAD THING approaching (unexpected or the force is changed) or other human fights after BAD THING happens (the BAD THING is gone but the fallout is still affecting the protagonist). Tension is also created by the protagonist's attempts to relive OR LIVE OR INTENSIFY.

VISUAL LEVEL: Tension Scenes are OFTEN long or of tension because the BAD THING is still in the story.

2. SCENE TENSION - when both the reader and the protagonist are aware of the BAD THING that is going to happen or happen in the scene. Tension is created when the protagonist's attempts to avoid the BAD THING happens before the BAD THING happens, this is the protagonist's attempts to AVOID BAD THING (stance, move, stay) or the protagonist or other characters' attempts to INTENSIFY the BAD THING (the protagonist or other characters are trying to make the BAD THING happen or make it worse). Tension is created by the BAD THING approaching (unexpected or the force is changed) or other human fights after BAD THING happens (the BAD THING is gone but the fallout is still affecting the protagonist).

VISUAL LEVEL: Tension Scenes are OFTEN long or of tension because the BAD THING is still in the story.

3. SIGHTING TENSION - when the reader is aware of the BAD THING that is going to happen or happen in the scene but the protagonist is not aware of the BAD THING or is aware but is not interrupted or fail to interrupt the BAD THING from happening. Tension is created by the BAD THING COMPLICATING SITUATION. If the protagonist or other characters are trying to make the BAD THING happen or make it worse, tension is created by the BAD THING APPROACHING.

VISUAL LEVEL: Suspense Tension is a SIGHTING TENSION. Dual Sighting: Jump Scare and Jolted/Startled Scare.

Definition: A BAD THING is actually something that the protagonist or other characters (or someone he cares about).

A BAD THING can be one of the following 4 types:

1. MORTAL - (a being dies, a being is injured, being escaped, being assaulted, being accused, being arrested, being sentenced, being tortured, being sacrificed, being exiled, being ostracized, being betrayed, being abandoned, being cursed, being exploited, being manipulated, being lied to, being tricked, being seduced, being raped, being stalked, being kidnapped, being ransomed, being enslaved, being captured and imprisoned or not as a being, being lost, being rejected, being hated, being ridiculed, being lied, etc.)

2. SOCIAL - (a being embarrassed, being humiliated, being shamed, being failing to prove something or someone, being accused, being blamed, being misunderstood, being misinterpreted, being misjudged, being misjudged, being misjudged