



The Plot Thickens: 8 Ways to Bring Fiction to Life

By Noah Lukeman

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As a literary agent, Noah Lukeman hears thousands of book pitches a year. Often the stories sound great in concept, but never live up to their potential on the page. Lukeman shows beginning and advanced writers how to implement the fundamentals of successful plot development, such as character building and heightened suspense and conflict. Writers will find it impossible to walk away from this invaluable guide---a veritable fiction-writing workshop---without boundless new ideas.

“One of the best-ever books about the craft of writing. It is a book that can change the world of every writer who embraces Lukeman's ideas. His classroom on paper should be on every writer's shelf to be read again and again.”

--*Authorlink*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Lukeman's second book on writing after 2000's *The First Five Pages* (a third volume on dialogue is still to come) discusses the craft of writing well-plotted fiction. Lukeman, a literary agent, rallies against the lazy and mundane that cross his desk in the form of 50,000 manuscripts submitted in the last five years. Initially, at least, he is less concerned with artfulness than the simple need to make the book compelling beyond the first few pages. He asserts that the foundation (and often the first casualty) of a book is character, and accordingly, Lukeman dedicates the first two chapters to an exhaustive list of questions a writer should ask about the "outer" and "inner" life of each character. He encourages a Dr. Frankenstein-like approach to creating realistic fictional characters: devising them with the intention of bending them to the writer's own will, but at the same time investing them with enough life that they are capable of making their own way in the world and ultimately surprising their creator. A third chapter called "Applied Characterization" discusses how to use this knowledge to form a plot. The remaining five chapters cover different aspects of plotting: "The Journey," "Suspense," "Conflict," "Context" and "Transcendency." Lukeman's advice is practical and often entails multiple, time-consuming steps without a hint of the flakiness that creeps into many writing guides. The closest he ever gets to sounding like a guru is when he sagely stresses, "Real life is the best teacher." Though Lukeman works with books, he wisely asserts that the observations in this volume are applicable to all types of imaginary writing, from film to poetry. Indeed, it is a worthy addition to any narrative writer's reference shelf.

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From Booklist

In this follow-up to the author's successful *First Five Pages* (2000), literary agent Lukeman focuses on the mechanics of storytelling. He introduces budding writers to the techniques of characterization (ask yourself questions about the people you've created), the various ways of generating suspense (danger, a ticking clock), and the importance of conflict. He writes from experience: he's read, he tells us, more than 50,000 manuscripts in the past half decade. Curiously, he mostly uses movies to illustrate his points, on the assumption that more of his readers will recognize his references that way. (This premise--that would-be writers won't be familiar with literary references--may strike some as slightly insulting, unintentional though it may be.) All in all, though, this is a crisply written, nicely detailed examination of the art of storytelling. Beginning writers will find plenty of practical tips and useful advice in its pages. *David Pitt*

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Review

"One of the best-ever books about the craft of writing. It is a book that can change the world of every writer who embraces Lukeman's ideas. His classroom on paper should be on every writer's shelf to be read again and again." [?Authorlink](#)

"Full of practical common sense about how to write fiction and [he] answers many of the difficult questions first novelists ask themselves." [?Michael Korda, author of *Making the List*](#)

"Lukeman's advice is practical---and often entails multiple, time-consuming steps---without a hint of the flakiness that creeps into many writing guides. Though Lukeman works with books, he wisely asserts that the observations in this volume are applicable to all types of imaginary writing, from film to poetry. Indeed,

it is a worthy addition to any writer's reference shelf." *Publishers Weekly*

"A godsend...*The Plot Thickens* is not the type of book you want to check out from the library or borrow from a friend. It is the type of book you need to purchase so it can sit on your desk, dog-eared and underlined, worn from years of overuse." *Prairieden.com*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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The ability that you get from *The Plot Thickens: 8 Ways to Bring Fiction to Life* is the more deep you looking the information that hide into the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but *The Plot Thickens: 8 Ways to Bring Fiction to Life* giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by anyone who read this because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular *The Plot Thickens: 8 Ways to Bring Fiction to Life* instantly.

Orlando Hernandez:

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Sean Jones:

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