

# Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats

By Jane K. Cleland

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## Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats By Jane K. Cleland

### Enthrall Your Readers!

Suspense is one of the most powerful tools a writer has for captivating readers--but it isn't just for thrillers. From mainstream fiction to memoir, suspense creates the emotional tension that keeps readers on the edge of their seats. *Mastering Suspense, Structure, & Plot* is your hands-on guide to weaving suspense into your narrative. Award-winning author Jane K. Cleland teaches you how to navigate genre conventions, write for your audience, and build gripping tension to craft an irresistible page-turner.

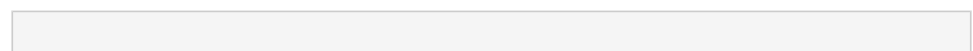
Inside, Cleland will show you how to:

- Implement thirteen no-fail techniques to construct an effective plot and structure for your story
- Use Cleland's Plotting Road Map to add elements of suspense like twists, reversals, and moments of danger
- Write subplots with purpose
- Improve your descriptions, character development, sentence structure, and more


Packed with case studies, exercises, and dozens of examples from best-selling authors, *Mastering Suspense, Structure, & Plot* is the key to writing suspenseful, engaging stories that leave your readers wanting more.

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"Indispensable! For newbie authors and veterans alike, this terrific how-to is your new go-to. Don't write your book without it--it's a treasure." --**Hank Phillippi Ryan**, Agatha, Anthony, Macavity and Mary Higgins Clark award-winning author



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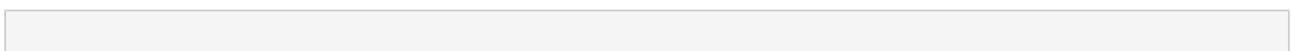
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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Award-winning author Jane Cleland has crafted an insightful and entertaining page-turner about crafting page-turners. *Mastering Suspense, Structure, & Plot* belongs on every writer's shelf." --**Wendy Corsi Staub**, *New York Times* best-selling author

"Unputdownably indispensable! For newbie authors and veterans alike, this terrific how-to is your new go-to. Don't write your book without it--it's a treasure." --**Hank Phillippi Ryan**, Agatha, Anthony, Macavity and Mary Higgins Clark award winning author

"Masterful! I love this book. Oh, how I wish I'd had it when I was struggling with my first crime novel. This is a gold mine of information, of insight on how to structure and pace the novel. Brilliant. And even as I write my current book I find myself reflecting on her insights, and using them. This isn't about being formulaic. It's about first understanding the structure, and then making it your own. *Mastering Suspense, Structure, & Plot* is an absolutely extraordinary resource for anyone serious about writing not just a crime novel, but any book." --**Louise Penny**, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author

"Jane Cleland had drawn a detailed road map for navigating the suspense-writing journey. In a well-thought-out and artfully constructed way, she concisely covers it all. I wish I had read *Mastering Suspense, Structure, & Plot* before I ever started writing mysteries, but I sure am glad to have this book now." --**Mary Jane Clark**, *New York Times* best-selling author

"Leave it to Jane Cleland, the reigning queen of the traditional mystery, to reveal the secrets of suspense--and to take the sweat out of writing today's hottest genre!" --**Paula Munier**, senior literary agent at Talcott Notch Literary Agency and author of *Plot Perfect*

#### About the Author

Jane K. Cleland writes the multiple award-winning Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series (St. Martin's Minotaur). The ninth in the series, which is often reviewed as an Antiques Roadshow for mystery fans, *BLOOD RUBIES*, will be published in December 2014. Library Journal named the first in the series, *CONSIGNED TO DEATH*, a "core title" for librarians looking to build a cozy collection, one of only 22 titles listed, along with books by Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers. "Josie" stories have also appeared in Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine (AHMM). The novella, "Booked for Death," is slotted for publication in the January 2015 issue of AHMM. In addition, Jane has published four nonfiction books, most recently *Business Writing for Results* (originally published by McGraw Hill). Jane is well-established and well-respected in the global crime fiction writing community. She chairs the Black Orchid Novella Award, one of the Wolfe Pack's literary awards, granted in partnership with Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. She is a past chapter president of the Mystery Writers of America, New York Chapter and served on the national board. Additionally, Jane is the host of the Writer's Room, a series of interviews with authors and industry professionals that appears on cable television and online (BronxNet). Jane has both an MFA (in professional and creative writing) and an MBA (in marketing and management). She's a member of the fulltime faculty of Lehman College, part of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, where she is also the Director of the Program for Professional Communications. She also mentors MFA students in the Western Connecticut State University MFA in Creative and Professional Writing and facilitates writing

workshops, including Aspiring Writer's Weekend and Memoir Writing, both sponsored by MIT/Endicott House. In addition, Jane is a frequent guest author at university writing programs, a featured presenter at major writing conferences, a much-loved facilitator at writing workshops, and a popular speaker at library and corporate events.

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#### **Tim Travers:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats book is readable simply by you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer involving Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats content conveys prospect easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different by means of it. So , do you continue to thinking Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

#### **Dolores Stiger:**

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#### **Amy Sims:**

Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats can be one of your nice books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats however doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

**Myrtle Anderson:**

This Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats is brand new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information since it relief your hunger details. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having little digest in reading this Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get by anyone. These books build itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book sort for your better life along with knowledge.

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