

Chat and Questions from Feb 18th Power Plotting

Questions

Nancy

Mary, do we fill out all these template questions for the heroine and the hero?

Cath

Can the answer to Q9 become the 'kryptonite' that later almost kills her in the story?

Deb

I have a heroine who believed she was strong but in a very deep dark moment she made a wrong choice and is trying to fix it. Which ultimately means she's played the part of a passive person while planning to escape. What characteristics is that

Cath

For Q6, is this the start of story character view? Or should we be providing viewpoints for all major characters? One character arrives later and he has an entirely different view than the 'family' characters.

Cath

Are there third levels to the 'weakness' question: her view of weakness, how the other characters view her weakness, and what the 'story' real weakness is?

Lorraine

Can the weakness be what others always tell him, but he doesn't necessarily agree. "You're stubborn." "So, I've been told."

Mary

Could a character say that her weakness is being drawn to the wrong kind of men?

Cath

for question 5, is this from the view of the character? or everyone else in the story? the character might not see their weakness

Deb

Dane is a Sheriff, he's strong, confident, has the respect of the town, until Scarlett shows up. She's on the run from an abusive ex, she's weary of everyone, doesn't trust easily. Dane being so used to her town, isn't prepared for the danger Scarlett brings with her

Mary

What if your character is say, on the run? Is her Everyday world before she had to go on the run, or now while on the run?

Chat Column

Elaine
thanks!

Elaine
got it!

Elaine
does weakness = character flaw?

Nancy
Nancy J -Thank you Mary, very helpful see you Tuesday, will these Q&As also be up for 6 mo

Debora Dale
Thanks, Mary! As a pantsur I'm a little shaky but will approach this a little at a time.

Elaine
weakness from her head.

Barbara
Thank You, Mary!

Elaine
Thanks Mary, i need to revamp Belva

Kalinya
Thanks, Mary B!

Cath
thank you!

Anne Parent
Thanks so much,

Nancy
Nancy D; Thank you, Mary. I will work hard and dig deeper.

Andy
Thanks! Bye!

Cindy
Thanks, Mary! I've been lurking. It's a lot to take in.

Terri

Thank you, Mary.

Cath

what is the agenda (scope) of next Saturday's lecture?

Elaine

Q&A is 5pm PT, 7pm CT?

Julie

Have to run; wishing you all a good weekend!

Lorraine

Sorry Mary, Great session and look forward to Tuesday night.

Paulette

Have to go see you Tuesday - must think harder - may be taking this class a 3rd time
LOL!

Anne Parent

20 - she will find purpose in her life.

Elaine

#19 Belva will let go of her old life by revealing the secrets of it to the ones who love her in her new life.

Julie

20 she'll no longer be a loner; she'll have a relationship and friends

Terri

19 allow herself to be vulnerable to love with hero

Andy

Template B/1 to avoid husband's violence

Anne Parent

19 - realizes she needs to trust others and depend on someone else.

Elaine

#14 Belva wants to attend her mother's funeral.

Deb

Hard because she has to hope she'll be able to keep custody of her daughter

Nancy

Nancy D: 19

Nancy

Nancy W-14. Work her way to San Francisco and start over.

Nancy

Nancy D: She realizes she vulnerable, cannot answer every question

Deb

She going to work with the FBI to take her husband down

Andy

14. he won't let her leave

Julie

I'm a little confused about 14.

Cath

at the start of the story she is not making enough money to keep her apartment

Andy

14. To decide to go to a safe-house or stay with abusive husband - or poison him

Cath

Q14. She wants to be successful as a working musician and make a living at it

Cath

Q13. the worst that can happen: Janice fails at being a musician and becomes her mother (which means she has to rely on a man to support her - and she fears that she will become bitter like her mother)

Anne Parent

To help this motherless child

Andy

14. To not die at her husband's hands

Julie

to leave behind the life of an assassin; she moves to a small town in Washington to start a "normal" life

Andy

14. keep thje peace at home

Elaine

I want Belva to open her heart to the man that truly loves her. I want her to accept his love for the sake of love and no other reason. I want her to be able to rely on and trust a mated.

Julie

I want her to let down her guard and let Rick get close to her

Andy

13. She'll be murdered

Mary Stibal

I want my jeweler protog to get a billionaire as a customer.

Kalinya

For Devil to follow his heart, not his head, and find the courage to be a man with a life to lead, not just a duke.

Andy

12. To be safe, to keep son safe by taking matters into her own hands

Misty

This was wonderful everyone! Thanks Mary B. Gotta head out. Have a great day1

Andy

She's a loving and responsible mother despite the fact she's trapped in an abusive relationship 9.

Kalinya

forT10: Devil doesn't fight for anything - doesn't need to, and believes there's naught in life worth the sacrifice of a duke's dignity or reputation.

Cath

I meant heroine

Carlene

Mary B--just want you to know I'm geting it, even if my responses keep sounding like I'm not. :-D

Linda

Go to go. Thanks Mary

Cath

Q10. Hero can't/won't take risks. No risks in relationships, professionally, with her family, etc.

Mary

Got to go, too. Thanks, Mary. Great webinar.

Amy Cook

This has been super, I'm afraid I need to leave in the next few minutes. Thank you for all the great information. Cheers until next time!

Carlene
Compassion doesn't save lives

Lisa
Gotta check out. It's been so helpful already.

Misty
Stry starts the day before the grand opening. She has thrown her entire savings and life into opening a dog grooming salon and facing a possible big date that she's afraid to go on with an old lover

Elaine
#9 - Belva discovers that her estranged drug-addicted mother who abandoned her has died.

Cath
Hero has a conflicted relationship with her family but the hero takes care of her brother by putting him in her band.

Elaine
Belva is incapable of opening her heart to trust and rely on a mate.

Paulette
Deb got it

Nancy
Nancy D: Father is responsible for getting her into the "ranching" routine, and her injuries resulted from "ranch duties".

Deb
debjulienne@gmail.com

Misty
10. She lacks trust that someone will love her enough to stay

Paulette
Deb what is your email?

Deb
Paulette, email me

Paulette
Deb we have the same character!

Anne Parent
10 - self-forgiveness

Nancy
Nancy W- 10. she is not worthy of love.

Deb
She'd biding her time to escape

Sandra
Sorry, need to go. I'll check out the rest on the replay later. Thanks, I did gain some great stuff.

Terri
for T10, heroine lacks emotional ties to anyone because she's too afraid to lose someone she loves again

Paulette
my heroine didn't follow up on a call she made to save a child, child died, and now she hears another child in danger and runs to save them?

Nancy
Nancy D: Describes a great and tender relationship with her father, through many years. She is Gravely injured and looking at her world from the other side of "dead"

Anne Parent
Se defends a child, another protagonist, against the false assumptions of the father', the other protagonist.

Amy Cook
Hero takes care of his mother who has dementia and lives alone...he is making the decision of how to care for her the best, and is trying to decide if she can move in with him in the upper duplex of his home, or a group home.

Mary Stibal
My protag is a fast-thinking sales person who can laugh at herself.

Misty
I love you Mary. Bring it on

Terri
heroine is a Forensic specialist, her perfectionism stems from her determination to bring closure to others because she wasn't given closure in her own parents murder

Cath

"The Professional"

Misty
The Assassin

Kalinya
DEvil is serving as pall-bearer at the burial of a close friend who was murdered while doing Devil a favor. He is grieving badly on the inside, and concerned for another friend who is present but clearly sinking fast (health-wise)

Lisa
In a career typically male - builder/construction, she's presented with the opportunity to host a TV show (weakness - sees herself as unfeminine)

Misty
Because she will detail what she's gone through to get here - working a job she didn't like for too long to save up for this business

Julie
my protag is an assassin. I start to create sympathy for her when she rescues an abandoned puppy

Misty
Starting from scratch but has that determination to get her through. You want to root for her to make it happen.

Mary
Mary B. -- this is fantastic! I know we're going fast, but I have already learned so much.

Amy Cook
Strength of hero is his devotion to his family, reliable as his word is his bond.

Nancy
Nancy W-Works toward what she wants, savior, loyal

Lorraine
persistent may be seen as bull headed.

Cath
reliable, hard-working, organized

Kalinya
But you are talking about strengths, not weaknesses

Julie

vulnerability, kindness, determination

Elaine

Others see Belva as loyal, optimistic

Carlene

Others see my protag as reliable, safe and in control of herself

Mary

Free spirited could also be seen as reckless.

Paulette

blind devotion

Lorraine

Free spirited can be seen as inconsistent.

Anne Parent

Two other protagonists. One sees her as arrogant, while the other sees her as empathetic.

Kalinya

Devil's peers admire his unshakeable composure; his friends see his loyalty; his servants and tenants see his respect for everyone; the heroine sees him as a traditionalist with an over-abundance of self confidence and determination

Misty

Resilience

Mary

So the character could see herself as too sensitive and someone else can see her as empathetic.

Paulette

6. loyal, determined, capable

Lisa

capable, smart, tender-hearted

Paulette

Complex

Paulette

weakness: passive aggressive + martyr complex

Misty

I changed it to she gives too many chances

Amy Cook

Hero doesn't stand up for himself, he feels his actions should speak for themselves.

Nancy

Nancy J - fear of confrontation & change

Terri

okay, that helps because she doesn't have an issue showing anger its offering comfort or showing love. So any soft emotions make her feel vulnerable. Hmmm. maybe she sees being vulnerable as a weakness

Amy Cook

hero- weakness not getting promoted and a loser at his job. He's too quiet in a group of verbal coworkers in his workplace. Situation

Anne Parent

Another idea for my protagonist's weakness would be impatience.

Carlene

My protag is realistic and wishes her patients family members were the same

Mary Stibal

thinks fast on her feet. Her weakness is that she can't abide indecision.

Paulette

Mary - lost sound as you started to reply to my post will have to listen to it in reply.

Anne Parent

Would relying on others resulting in disappointment work?

Misty

She feels her weakness is aht she is too trusting

Carlene

My protag feels her weakness is dealing with family members of her patients

Elaine

Belva thinks her weakness is she is too trusting of her men

Elaine

ok disregard - that is from my head

Paulette

weakneww unyielding. turst issues,

Paulette
those were her strengths

Andy
weak means unable to confront problems in her life

Terri
so on T5, this is what the character thinks of themselves? If my heroine thinks her strength is determination but she wouldn't think of herself as stubborn, that would be in T6, right? She thinks her weakness is showing any emotion.

Sandra
Sorry, that was a reply to what happens with helicopter parenting

Elaine
Unyielding

Elaine
Belva's weakness is she is inflexible, unyielding

Nancy
Nancy W-too trusting, decision making, stray children.

Cath
5. Her weakness IS her controlling everything

Misty
Funny I was typing that her weakness was stubborn!

Mary Stibal
Yes, by honoring her thinking fast part - flip side she is superficial.

Julie
disconnected from emotion

Anne Parent
Unable to commit to a relationship

Lisa
not feminine enough

Nancy
Nancy D: #5 - Argumentative, wants her own way, even when it's just for the sake of winning the argument!

Kalinya
Devil would say he has none

Andy
passive, weak, scared

Sandra
character grows up weak

Amy Cook
hero would say his strength is being the organized and able to solve everyone's problems...always finds a way, whether or not its' legal, easy or in HIS self interest

Cath
how can people change their display names?

Paulette
having trouble with this character - loyal and determined and optimistic

Deb
Dane is a Sheriff, he's strong, confident, has the respect of the town, until Scarlett shows up. She's on the run from an abusive ex, she's weary of everyone, doesn't trust easily. Dane being so used to her town, isn't prepared for the danger Scarlett brings with her

Mary
Strength: resilient, independent, intelligent

Nancy
Nancy D: Horsemanship, Youth, Athleticism

Cath
Strength: Her responsibility which translates in the ability to always keep the band working

Carlene
got it :)

Misty
Determination, independence

Mary Stibal
Protag thinks her strength is that she can think fast on her feet. (She's basically a sales person to the rich.)

Nancy

she's a survivor, won't abide liars, always finishes the job she starts

Elaine

Belva would say that her resilience is her strength.

Kalinya

Thalidomide

Nancy

could Nancys put their last name initial after their name?

Anne Parent

Intelligence

Andy

protective mother

Kalinya

His self-discipline

Nancy

nancy d / is cowgirl tough. There must be 4 Nancys in class.

Julie

Determination

Lisa

hard working, smart, independent

Amy Cook

hero feels hopeless and stuck in a rut because his world revolves around needy relatives

Carlene

my protag is a doctor who sees patients suffer from greedy entities like pharmaceutical industry

Andy

It's too risky to change - she could get killed.

Elaine

Belva feels her world is safe but feels like an outsider because she is fairly new to the city.

Nancy

social piranha, unworthy of love, low self-esteem

Nancy
(Nancy J) - dangerous, isolated, insecure

Paulette
safe, boring, constrained

Nancy
Nancy D / Cowgirl tough - Safe, but dangerous elements

Barbara
secure in job and engagement

Paulette
Snort

Amy Cook
hero believes he has no options and has to take care of everyone

Sandra
Love the addition of comfortable or constrained, that really explains what you want.

Deb
what would you call a man who uses humor to comfort people, my character is a sheriff and finds using humor calms and makes people feel less stressed in a situation

Cath
#2: Everyday world: if you work hard and play it safe, then you will reach your goals. If you get distracted or take risks, you might win but you're more likely to fail

Mary Stibal
Feels life is passing her by

Lisa
uncertain, unreliable

Carlene
that too many people are taken advantage of

Nancy
Safe, but dangerous elements

Julie
her everyday world is death and danger

Misty
Safe, waht she's made it

Andy
It's too risky to make a change - she could get killed

Nancy
mistrustful, determined, unworthy

Kalinya
It is what it is; his world is orderly, calm but wearisome; and people are driven by rank, wealth and appearances

Anne Parent
safe, but boring, lacking purpose

Paulette
every day world: safe, chaging, new beginning

Terri
hero, charming, controlled, protective

Amy Cook
instead of overburdened...emotionally weary

Julie
disciplined, wounded, determined

Elaine
being from Texas, i would say cowgirl tough would be independent, self-reliant

Cath
responsible, loyal, uncertain

Deb
how would you define someone who uses humor at a tool

Nancy
cowgirl tough

Monica
afraid, grieved, hopeful

Andy
Unhappy,passive, paralyzed

Paulette
loyal, determined, insecure

Elaine
nurturing, productive, self-reliant

Mary Stibal
Ambitious, craves acknowledgement

Nancy
Family oriented, Thoughtful, Cowgirl touch

Deb
Honor, loyal, guarded,

Amy Cook
Male protagonist is bitter, trustworthy but overburdened

Misty
loyal, giving

Carlene
Realist

Terri
perfectionist, guarded, analytical

Anne Parent
Grace - private, loyal, quick-witted

Debra Dale
insecure, pragmatic

Mary
loyal, trusting, naïve

Kalinya
Placid

Misty
Ready to do what she wants for once

Elaine
self-reliant

Kalinya

Honorable, self-disciplined, placed

Carlene
Pragmatic

Lisa
solitary, driven, loyal

Cath
Robert McKee says dimension is contradiction: e.g., trustworthy until betrayal

Misty
LOL! Bitch slap/ Me too! Boring.

Deb
in the instance of my 9 books cowboy series, any one situation could have 9 totally different endings based on their personalities and character...is this what you mean, a particular reaction from a particular person

Misty
I call that building their filter

Amy Cook
chuck norris jackie chan

Cath
steven seagal?

Misty
Chcuck Norris? Jackie Chan?

Deb
chuck Norris

Amy Cook
yes. thanks.

Sandra
I think there are crossover between the templates as you move to the next

Paulette
Deb - GREAT!

Sandra
:)

Amy Cook
temp 11 is resolution...how many words usually? I really don't like sudden endings..feels unfulfilled.

Deb
Paulette, book ordered, thanks!

Elaine
i mean no return

Elaine
is Template 8 considered the point of return?

Paulette
PDF on picture slides like the one now?

Paulette
Deb use the Break Into Fiction book

Sandra
Most info is in the book

Deb
will we be getting a pdf or something we can print out? I like to make note and keep the info hand when I'm writing

Misty
Lol

Amy Cook
When is the q&a again?

Paulette
giggle snort

Mary Stibal
Do I need a special password for that?

Cath
Romance: Historical, Western but I'm currently working on a contemporary romance

Barbara
Mysiteries andf women's fiction

Karen

Romantic suspense and Urban Fantasy

Deb

Romanctic comedy, RS, cowboys

Nancy

Nancy J - Tucson, Paranormal fantasy

Cindy

Historical mystery with a touch of romance

Elaine

Women's fiction/Contemporary Romance

Mary Stibal

Amateur Sleuth!

Andy

Women's fiction with magic

Mary

Romantic suspense

Amy Cook

Newbie...first book, strong romance with mystery/suspense minor part.

Monica

Contemporary Romance, Women's and Children's fiction

Kalinya

Regency Romance

Misty

Cozy Mystery, romance and romantic Mystery

Carlene

Thriller/Crime/Mystery

Debora Dale

I write romantic suspense under my own name - not yet published - and erotica under my pen name

Nancy

Western, morfing into Romance

Sarah

contemporary romance, science fiction romance

Terri
inspirational romance and romantic suspense

Nancy
Nancy-writing a romantic historical western.

Lisa
Romantic suspense and YA – Lisa

Anne Parent
I write women's fiction.

Lorraine
Romantic suspense

Linda
Historical romance

Sandra
Romantic Suspense

Sandra
Yay, you're here!

Terri
yay tech guy

Anne Parent
I have sound and picture.

Debora Dale
It's there - pencils sharpened!

Nancy
My pencil is sharp and I hear you.

Mary
Yes, can see you and hear you! Yay!

Amy Cook
Ok! got you. Yep, we're set.

Nancy
Nancy J here, can hear you

Linda
Yes!

Terri
Yes

Nancy
got it

Misty
Hello!

Terri
I can hear you!

Karen
I can hear you :)

Nancy
Cant see you Mary

Paulette
We Have Sound!

Sarah
I can see and hear!

Cath
now I can hear

Debora Dale
Yeah! I hear you, Mary!

Lorraine
I can see and hear!

Amy Cook
I can hear you...but not see you, Mary.