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## I Saw the Sunrise in Their Eyes: An Endeavor in the Novel Writing Process

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# I SAW THE SUNRISE IN THEIR EYES: AN ENDEAVOR IN THE NOVEL WRITING PROCESS

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## INTRODUCTION

The novel writing process can be difficult to navigate. In this project, I aimed to find a method to systematically create a plot and use said process to develop one of my own.

## CREATING A MAIN CHARACTER

In order to create an engaging protagonist, you need to know 3 essential things about them. First, they need a problem. The more flawed your character is, the better, because that makes them more relatable. Additionally, they need to have something happen to them in your story that changes their world. Next, they need to want something. This want is what they think is going to fix their problems, but in actuality, won't. Last, you have to discover what your character needs. What is it that will *actually* solve their problems?

## PLOT GUIDE

### Act 1

**Opening Image:**  
A quick look as to what your protagonist looks like in the world you've created.

**Setup:**  
Set up your main character's life and their status in their world *before* everything changes.

**Debate:**  
Show how resistant your main character is to change and/or have them prepare for Act 2.

### Act 2

**Break into 2:**  
Bring the protagonist into the chaotic world of Act 2, where they will fix things the wrong way.

**Fun & Games:**  
The premise of the story and shows how your protagonist is doing in the new world of Act 2.

**Bad Guys Close In:**  
A place where the protagonist can rebound after a false defeat or fall after a false victory, all while the internal bad guys (flaws) are closing in.

**Dark Night of the Soul:**  
Show how your protagonist reacts to the "All Is Lost" phase and how they eventually will break through with a resolution.

**State your Theme:**  
Give the reader a sneak peek as to the flaw(s) of your character and the the journey they will take to conquer them. (see Image 1)

**Catalyst:**  
A life-changing event that disrupts their world. (see Image 2):

**B Story:**  
Introduce the character who will represent the underlying story/spiritual story/theme and help your character learn it.

**Midpoint:**  
The middle of the novel with either a false victory or a false defeat while at the same time, raising the stakes of the story.

**All Is Lost:**  
The main character reaches "rock bottom."

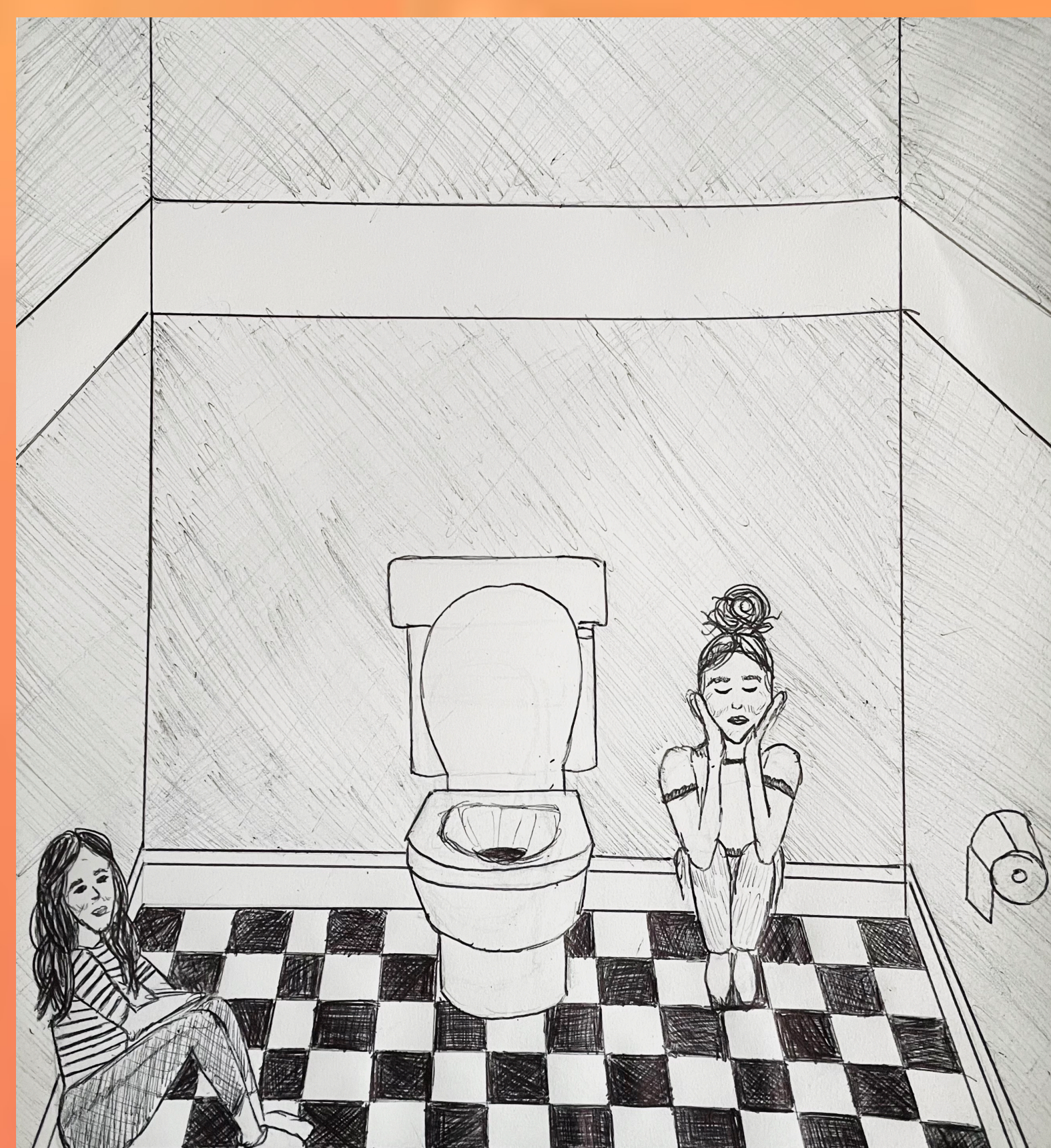


IMAGE 1

My Theme: It's okay, to not be okay.

### Act 3

**Break into 3:**  
Brings the main character into the world of Act 3 where they will finally fix things the right way.

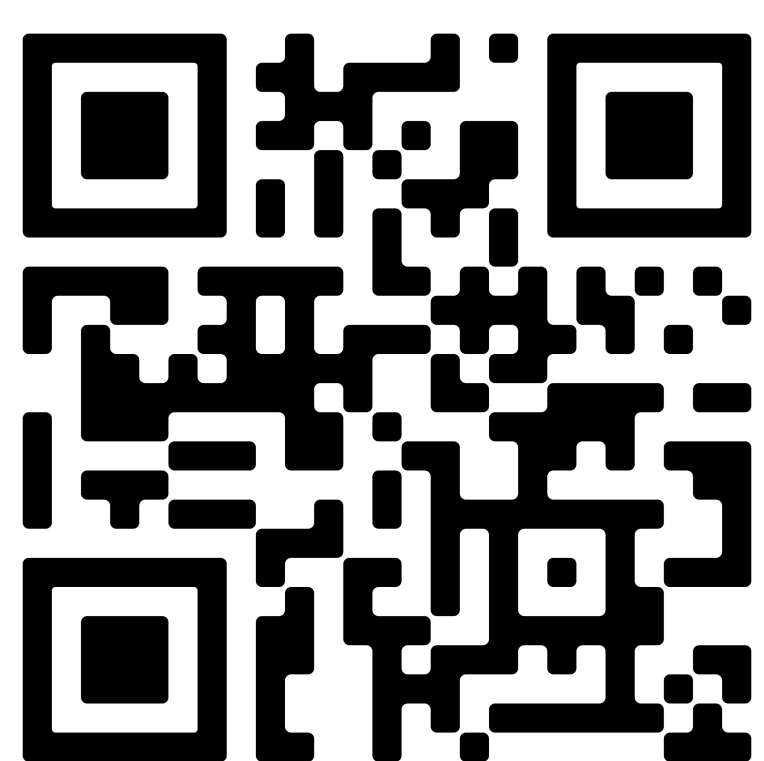
**Final Image:**  
Provides a look at your main character and their life to show how much they've changed.



IMAGE 2

My Catalyst: My protagonist wakes up after a night of drinking in the woods to find all of her friends dead, their throats slashed.

**Finale:**  
Resolves all the problems created in Act 2 and proves that your protagonist has learned the theme and has been transformed.



← SCAN ME  
Check out the first three chapters of my book.

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