

SCENE CRAFT

The Scene Pressure Map

A scene earns its place when someone wants something, pressure changes the attempt, and the exit leaves a cost.

WHO OWNS THE SCENE?

Whose desire, fear, or decision organizes what the reader notices?

WHAT DO THEY WANT NOW?

Name the immediate scene objective in a concrete verb.

WHAT RESISTS THEM?

Person, system, information, time, body, place, or self.

WHAT CHANGES?

What new fact, choice, reversal, loss, or commitment enters?

WHAT DOES IT COST?

What is harder, riskier, exposed, or no longer possible?

WHY THIS SCENE HERE?

What would break in the story if this scene disappeared?

A SCENE IS NOT A CONTAINER

It is a pressure event. Characters should not leave with exactly the same information, leverage, relationship, or risk they entered with.

REVISION

The Turn and the Exit

A scene often becomes clear when you can name the exact beat after which it cannot return to its opening state.

THE SCENE TURN

THE MOMENT THE SCENE CHANGES DIRECTION IS:

BEFORE / AFTER

AT THE OPENING

Information

Leverage

Relationship

Risk

AT THE EXIT

Information

Leverage

Relationship

Risk

CUT, COMBINE, OR REBUILD?

If the scene has no distinct want, resistance, turn, or cost, decide whether it needs new pressure, belongs inside another scene, or should leave the manuscript.