Exercise Four (ACCESS)

Pre-outline questions

Before you do any work on your outline, it's time to take a good look at your premise. Are you milking it for everything it's worth? Can you identify any weaknesses and create strengths from them before you begin to plot your story?

Answer the following questions to help you determine any weaknesses:

Can you name 3 big moments that will occur in the plot and think of 2 complications for each of these moments?

Big Moment No 1:

Complication No 1:

How will this complication make your protagonist uncomfortable?

What additional settings will this complication require?

Complication No 2:

How will this complication make your protagonist uncomfortable?

What additional settings will this complication require?

Big Moment No 2:

Complication No 1:

How will this complication make your protagonist uncomfortable?

What additional settings will this complication require?

Complication No 2:

How will this complication make your protagonist uncomfortable?

What additional settings will this complication require?

Big Moment No 3:

Complication No 1:

How will this complication make your protagonist uncomfortable?

What additional settings will this complication require?

Complication No 2:

How will this complication make your protagonist uncomfortable?

What additional settings will this complication require?

Which character will be affected most by the inciting event?

Is this character your protagonist?

Name two problems or anxieties in this character's life:

Problem No 1:
How does this problem affect other characters?

Problem No 2:
How does this problem affect other characters?

Which problem offers the most potential for conflict and drama?

Who is your main antagonist?

Is your main antagonist a conscious entity?

If so, what is his motive?

What is his goal?

What are his values?

Name two minor antagonists:

Miniantagonist No 1:

What is his motive?

What are his values?

Miniantagonist No 2:

What is his motive?

What are his values?

How will these antagonists each attack your protagonist's weakness in different ways?

Main antagonist:
Miniantagonist No 1:
Miniantagonist No 2:

How will these characters stand between your protagonist and what she wants?

Main antagonist:
Miniantagonist No 1:
Miniantagonist No 2:

How will the minor antagonists oppose the main antagonist?

Miniantagonist No 1:
Miniantagonist No 2:

How will the minor antagonists oppose each other?