



Exercise Eleven – Positive Change Arc

The Third Plot Point

This is the low moment in your story. A minute ago, at the end of the Second Act, your protagonist seemed to have won a victory. Everything seemed to be going her way. She was getting the Truth figured out, and she seemed to have pushed the Lie to the back of her life. Even the antagonist appeared to be at her mercy.

Unfortunately, pushing the Lie to the back burner isn't good enough. Before the story can end, the Lie must reappear front and centre and confront the protagonist head on. That's what the Third Plot Point is all about. This low moment which is all the more crushing because it comes on the heels of a seeming victory - will force the character to stop deceiving herself about the Lie. She can't evade it anymore. She can't pretend it away. She must confront it once and for all and either destroy it or be destroyed.

What Third Plot Point crisis will force your protagonist to a low moment in both the inner and outer conflicts?





What does the antagonistic force do to enact the reversal that occurs at the Third Plot Point?

How does the Third Plot Point finally cause the character to make a choice between the Thing She Wants and the Thing She Needs by forcing her to sacrifice one or the other?

How can you make the consequences of this choice (whether the character chooses the Lie or the Truth) as painful as possible?

How can you make it easy and pleasant as possible for the character to choose the Lie and the This She Wants – making it all the harder for her to reject it?





What will finally prompt the character to do the right thing in recognising the true horror of the Lie and rejecting the Thing She Wants in favour of the Truth and the Thing She Needs?

What irretrievable action will your character take in burning her bridges and proving her choice of the Truth?

