



Exercise Eight – Positive Change Arc

The First Half of the Second Act

In the structure of character arcs, the First Half of the Second Act is where your character ventures (or is thrust) into uncharted territory and gets lost. She may not quite see it this way, but this is where she begins to discover that the old rules (the Lie she believes) no longer apply.

This puts her in a tailspin where she scrambles to react to the events of the First Plot Point, while chasing as hard as ever after the thing she wants. She is reactive in the sense that she is at the mercy of the antagonistic force; she is not in control of the conflict. However, don't confuse reactivity with passivity. Your character will be very active in her pursuit of her goals during this time, and she will learn what methods of achieving that goal are ineffective. This new knowledge will, in turn, lay the groundwork for helping her begin to realise how her belief in the Lie is holding her back.

What 'tools' will your character begin to receive that offer hints for how to start fighting her Lie?





How can other characters show your protagonist the truth, rather than just telling her about it?

How is your protagonist feeling slightly out of place within the new adventure world of the Second Act?

What old Lie-based actions is the protagonist still trying to use to reach her goals?

How are these old Lie-based actions proving less effective in the Second Act than they did in the First?





How is the protagonist demonstrating confusion or frustration about why her old methods are no longer working?

What first move will she make to slowly begin evolving her tactics to avoid these Lie-based failures?

How is the character pursuing the thing she wants in the Second Act?

How is she getting closer to achieving her plot goal?





How is her pursuit of the thing she wants pushing her away from the thing she needs?

How can you give your character a tiny glimpse of what life would be like without her Lie?

