



Exercise Two – Your Character’s Ghost

Your Character’s “Ghost” is something in her past that haunts her. You may also see it sometimes referred to as the “wound.” Answer the following questions to help you:

Write down four possible events that might have happened in your character’s past to traumatise her and/or provide the initial seeds for the Lie that is already latent within your character.

Ghost #1:

Ghost #2:

Ghost #3:

Ghost #4:





Which of these four Ghosts will be the primary motivating wound in your character's backstory?

- Ghost #1
- Ghost #2
- Ghost #3
- Ghost #4

How has your chosen Ghost indirectly created or enable the Lie Your Character Believes?

How is the character currently able to use the Truth to save the wound of the Ghost?

Later in the story, as the character moves away from the Truth, how will she use the Lie to try to compensate for, cover up, or simply survive the consequences of the Ghost?

How does the Ghost tie in thematically with the Lie?





On a scale of 1 to 10, how “big” is the Ghost?

1. (e.g. Stressful Parental Relationship)
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10. (e.g. Murder of a Loved One)

How is your Lie commensurate to the “size” of the Ghost (e.g. a big Ghost gets a big Lie)?

Must readers explicitly understand the Ghost in order for the rest of the story to make sense?

- Yes
 No

This Ghost will best be shared with readers how?

- As a mystery (teased in the beginning and revealed later at an important turning point in the plot)
 Dramatised at the beginning of the First Act
 Not shared at all

