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**Hank Phillippi Ryan**

**www.HankPhillippiRyan.com**

**CREATING YOUR NOVEL: A template**

**Title**

**Logline:**

**Genre:**

**First line:**

**Three Act Structure**

**Act One**: Wow, that’s strange!

**Act Two**: Yikes, now what? And—whoa. I never expected *that.*

**Act Three**: How exciting! So that’s what happened...and why.

**WHO?**

Who is your main character?

Who else does the book need?

Why?

Really?

**For each character:**

What do they want?

>motivation

What’s in the way?

>obstacles

Who’s in the way?

>antagonist to each

How can I make this mean more?

>subtext

**POINT OF VIEW**

>>whose eyes are you telling the story through?

**WHERE AND WHEN?**

**Your setting or settings**

**WHERE?**

>>is it in every scene?

>>all five senses

Can you pick one place that’s meaningful?

>>why does it matter?

>>Now what?

 >>can you pick a time that’s meaningful

>>why does that matter?

>>How about the past? What’s not in the book?

>>why does that matter?

>>backstory and flashbacks?

**WHY?**

**Why do we care?**

>What will happen if your character does not succeed?

**REVISIONS**

>>For timing and plot and continuity

>>For characterization

>>For pacing and cutting

>>For theme

>>For writing

>>For poetry

**HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN** is the *USA Today* bestselling author of 13 thrillers, winning the most prestigious awards in the genre: five Agathas, four Anthonys, the Daphne, and the coveted Mary Higgins Clark Award. She is also on-air investigative reporter for Boston's WHDH-TV, with 37 EMMYs. Book reviewers call her “a master of suspense.” **THE MURDER LIST** (2019) won the Anthony Award for Best Novel, and is an Agatha, Macavity and Mary Higgins Clark Award nominee. Hank’s 2020 novel is **THE FIRST TO LIE**. The *Publishers Weekly*starred review says "Stellar… Hank Phillippi Ryan could win a sixth Agatha with this one." It is now a Mary Higgins Clark award nominee. Watch for **HER PERFECT LIFE** in September.

Find Hank [www.HankPhillippiRyan.com](http://www.HankPhillippiRyan.com)

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