

How to Write a Novel



LESSON 18

DMP Provisional Outline: Incomplete

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A brief explanation here: This provisional outline reflects neither the story I've written nor the story I'll have when I've revised. To understand the uses for this odd "neither fish nor fowl" tool, work your way through upcoming **Lesson 19: Controlling the Mess in the Middle**, which goes through the process behind this tool.

IN-PROGRESS STORY OUTLINE:

1) Bill -- the man who named himself God, hunts down and kills Andy, then escapes.

2) Amanda, working at a Caravan stop, spots one-time actor/hero Harry Tankred and pays a co-worker to wait on him.

3) Andy, suddenly alone in his head, fakes being alive, getting help from his employee Corri, and patches himself back together.

4) Andy seeks sustenance to kickstart his corpse, and in the process finds something that points him toward Bill.

5) [BIG CHANGE] In the BINKLEY CARAVAN, Jaro and allies cross the Mississippi, killing cannibals, and find the remains of a caravan that crossed before them.

6) [FLASHBACK] Amanda meets Jaro, who both falls in love and discovers the importance of individual human freedom of thought and action -- which causes Amanda to plan the destruction of the Underworld.

7) Amanda discovers that God has entered the Underworld, [NEW] and connects him to a real-world identity.

8) Andy discovers the true identity of the man who killed him, and sets out to kill his murderer.

9) Amanda builds the new entry to the Underworld, and leaves a warning on the bulletin board.

10) Bill tries to figure out who knew him in the Underworld, and figures out a way to recapture what remains of humanity as his slaves [GOING TO NEED A DIFFERENT WAY IN THIS NEW AND GRIMMER WORLD].

11) Andy gets the Excalibur alert, and decides that his best chance to find and kill Bill is to become Excalibur's guardian angel.

12) [BIG CHANGE] Amanda comes out as the goddess and eventual destroyer of the Underworld.

13) Andy comes to Amanda/Excalibur's call, determined to be her defender.

14) Jaro and the Binkley Caravan capture a lone cannibal alive, sneaking into their encampment, and capture her, hoping to get information from her about other cannibals -- and discover she's living in a completely different world.

15) Bill sees that Amanda/Excalibur is building an army around herself, and joins a Caravan headed to help her.

16) * Andy, traveling alone, is attacked by cannibals who confuse him for a zombie (or correctly identify him as one), and he defeats them -- but takes new damage -- AND BIG PIVOTAL MID-POINT ISSUE

17) Amanda and the others in [TOWN] greet the first pilgrim caravan, welcoming the troop reinforcements, supplies, and weapons that will further their cause --

and meets in person for the first time some of her allied AI/humans.

18) Jaro hears word of the AI who came out as Excalibur, and that she has called for help against a monster who is hunting her and those who helped her. He and the Caravan plot a shorter route to her now-known location.

19) Amanda hears that the caravan Harry Tankred was in has turned around and is coming back to town, and realizes that she's not going to be able to avoid him a second time.

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