

FROM IMAGINATION TO THE PAGE

HOW TO START YOUR URBAN FANTASY NOVEL



BASICS

GRAB ATTENTION
SET THE SCENE, MOOD, TONE, VOICE
INTRODUCE YOUR PROTAGONIST
INTRODUCE THE PROBLEM/CONFLICT
ADVANCE PLOT OR CHARACTER OR THEME

I. DECIDE TENSE & POV

1ST PERSON
3RD PERSON
OMNISCIENT

PRESENT
PAST

II. WHERE TO START?

DROP THE READER INTO THE SCENE SO THEY ARE IMMEDIATELY IN THE ACTION
WHAT SETS THE ACTION OF YOUR CORE STORY INTO MOTION?
INTRIGUE AND ENTICE THE READER:
INCITING INCIDENT
SIGNIFICANT EVENT
A PROBLEM THAT NEEDS TO BE SOLVED

III. PRESENT YOUR PROTAGONIST

GROUND US IN YOUR PROTAGONIST'S PERSPECTIVE
WHOEVER WE FIRST MEET IN THE BOOK IS THE CHARACTER WE BOND WITH
MAKE YOUR READER CARE ABOUT YOUR PROTAGONIST:
▫ DISPLAY A VALUED TRAIT
▫ HAVE YOUR CHARACTER TREATED UNJUSTLY
▫ THROW YOUR CHARACTER INTO DANGER OR GRIEF
▫ HAVE THEM FACE AN INNER STRUGGLE
▫ HAVE THEM HOPE/YEARN FOR SOMETHING VALUED (ACCEPTANCE)

IV. MAGIC

HAVE MAGIC PERVADE YOUR FIRST PAGES
SHOW IT IN EXCITING OR DIFFERENT WAYS
MAKE YOUR READER WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT

V. DETAILS

GIVE FLAVOR OF THE SETTING
GIVE THE DATE, TIME OF DAY
IMMERSE YOUR READER
DON'T GO OVERBOARD ON THE DETAILS - LEAVE THE READER WANTING MORE

VI. CONFLICT

GIVE THE PROMISE OF CONFLICT
EVOKE QUESTIONS

VII. FORESHADOWING

DROP A NUGGET AT THE VERY BEGINNING
THINK OF OBJECTS/SYMBOLISM TO PROMOTE YOUR THEME
WRITE THE BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND

LEAVE THE CHAPTER WITH A HOOK