

# How to Build a Romance Plot

LTUE, Feb-2015, LL Muir & John D. Brown

## ***My Precious***

- Belladonna Baggins
- And Thorin (they're even about the same size!)
- To him, she's incompetent
- To her, he's a royal jerk (like literally)

## ***Technique 1: Calculate Number of Events***

### ***2 Keys***

- You are NOT building a plot
- Tents and castles are not the same

## ***Technique 2: MC MOTHR CAR***

## ***Technique 3: The 3 Parts***

## ***Technique 4: What's Cool?***

## ***Technique 5: Specific MOTHR Patterns***

## ***Technique 6: Play Both Sides***

## ***Technique 7: Make it Hard!***

- Conflict
- Throw relationship for a loop
- The seemingly killing blow (ability or desire)

## ***Romance***

- Can be the main MOTHR or woven through another plot
- The experience wanted by reader. The joy. Falling in love, being adored and admired and wanted above all else by the person so attracted to. Women love security. Men love admiration. Excitement. Enjoying the human interaction (wit, banter, etc.). Growing physical and emotional attraction.

- The MOTHR is something that obstructs or threatens the development of that wanting AND commitment. External or internal--part of them wants to, part doesn't or can't.

## ***MC MOTHR CAR***

- **M**ain character we can get behind
- Gets entangled with a MOTHR
  - A **m**ystery, **o**ppportunity, **t**hreat, **h**ardship, or **r**elationship
  - A huge obstacle, underdog
- Sets a **c**oncrete goal
- Takes **a**ction (struggle)
- **R**esolution

## ***The 3 Parts - Relationships***

### ***Trouble***

- Main character we can get behind
- Signal romantic possibility
- Show the big obstacle
- Reason can't or won't walk away, concrete goal
- Surprise in some of particularities.

### ***Struggle***

- They build and undercut emotional attraction
- Physical attraction grows
- Admission & admiration
- Decision & declaration
- Black moment
- Surprise in some of particularities of motives, decisions, actions, and results.

### ***Resolution***

- Climax
- HEA
- Confirmation of HEA
- Surprise in some of particularities of resolution.

More: *Writing and Selling Your Novel* (Bickham), *How to Write Romance* (Pianka), *You Can Write a Romance* (Estrada & Gallagher)