BOOK ONE

YOUR SERIES

BOOK ONE

BOOK TWO

BOOK THREE

BOOK FOUR

MY SERIES PLANNER

WANT2WRITE.COM

NAME:

Table of Contents

How To Use This Planner

Series Fundamentals
Complete the Series Fundamentals section - this defines the type of series, genre and structure you'll be using.

Series Brief
Complete the Series Brief section - this helps you define the creative elements of your overall series to assist with marketing, branding and setup. This also assists with cover art and editorial briefs if contracting those services. It provides a framework for further developing your series concept, and can ensure efficient series delivery - as well as provide consistency across your series.

Series Outline
Complete the Series Outline section to help plan the series, story, and character elements, and to build breadcrumb trails.

*Please note: this is **not** a Novel Planner.*
Check want2write.com for more resources.

SERIES FUNDAMENTALS

Project Planner

- [ ] Identify the project goal
- [ ] Brainstorm potential solutions
- [ ] Research the project
- [ ] Identify resources needed
- [ ] Create a timeline
- [ ] Set milestones
- [ ] Develop a plan to manage risks
- [ ] Identify potential stakeholders
- [ ] Communicate the plan to key personnel
- [ ] Monitor progress
- [ ] Make any necessary adjustments
- [ ] Celebrate project completion

Eisenhower Matrix   **Task Code: 1, 2, 3 or 4**

Urgent - tasks that require your immediate attention.
Important - tasks that don't require your immediate attention, but do contribute to your long term success.

1. Important and Urgent – DO!
- Tasks with deadlines and consequences.
2. Important but Not Urgent – DECIDE!
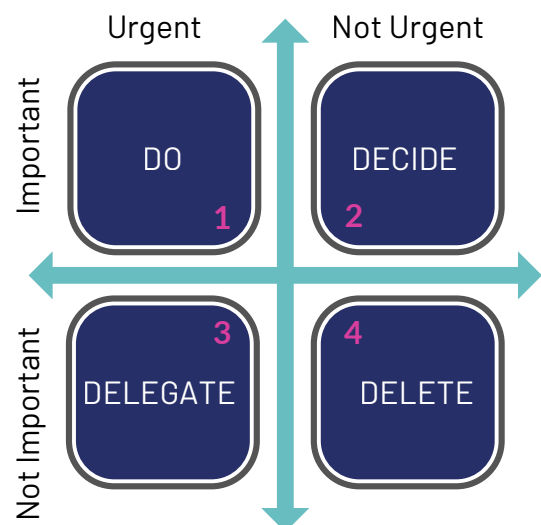- Tasks with unclear deadlines that contribute to long term success.
3. Not Important, but Urgent – DELEGATE.
- Tasks that must get done but don't require your specific skill set.
4. Not Important and Not Urgent – DELETE.
Distractions, unnecessary tasks.
A.K.A. – SUCCESS SUCKERS

	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important	DO — 1	DECIDE — 2
Not Important	3 — DELEGATE	4 — DELETE

Series Type

There are a number of different types of series, and I've listed some of the types here (this is by no means a definitive list), and others may use different terms - this is simply what I call them.

Types of Series:

Compounding: a compounding series has a series arc told across several stories, with each story building upon the previous one. Each story must be read in order for the overall story to make sense.

Stand Alone: each novel is a self-contained story unit, and characters are generally linked by the story-verse (for example, siblings, small town residents, co-workers, etc). These stories may be read out of order, but if they are read in chronological order, then subplots and secondary character arcs make more sense (and avoid spoilers).

Episodic: an episodic series features the same single protagonist (or group of protagonists) throughout the series, but each self-contained story has a primary focus on the extrinsic elements of the tale. While there may be some character growth, the main protagonist/s may be static, as it's the goings on rather than the struggles and growth of the character that is the focus. Each story unit can be read out of order without impacting on the understanding of the story world and series development.

Continuity: a continuity blends both compounding and stand alone elements by having a series arc, while feauturing different protagonists in a self-contained story unit that is best read in order - and is generally (but not always) written by a different author per story unit.

Off-shoot: an off-shoot series (also referred to as a spin-off series) is one that has its origins based in a previous series. For example, the next generation of a family, or another city branch of the same company, etc.

Bonus Book - where a side character in a series who is not part of the core focus of that series gets their own story, but there isn't enough to warrant a full series - for example; core series about four siblings, and a background friend gets a story, or the parents get their 'prequel' story...

Series Fundamentals

What type of series are you writing?

_____

What Genre are you writing in? _____

What story/character elements do you need to include in each story, and across your series? E.g. alpha hero, murder mystery, magical elements, etc.

_____

_____

_____

What do readers **LOVE** about this genre/sub-genre? What do you need to include to make readers hard-core fans?

_____

_____

_____

What is your series hook?

The hook is the foundation upon which you'll build your series - it's the world that encapsulates your series. E.g.: werewolves, former military operatives, baker sleuth, etc. How can you build this across several novels?

_____

_____

_____

What are some comparative titles – novels, TV, film, etc.

What are some examples out there that your series would be similar to? How is it similar? How is it different?

COMP TITLES	SERIES SIMILARITIES	SERIES DIFFERENCES
_____ _____ _____ _____		

Series Fundamentals

Number of Books

How many books do you plan to include in this series? _____

● HOW ARE THESE BOOKS CONNECTED?

Are these books based on a group of characters (e.g. siblings, small town residents, etc.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Characters & Tropes

List the primary characters for your series, and any significant tropes you wish to use.

CHARACTERS	TROPES

Series Fundamentals

World Building

Where and When is this series set? Not to be confused with actual settings (we'll get to them later) - give a brief overview of the where and when of these stories - contemporary? A fantasy world? Small town? A palace in a historical period? Space?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Rules

Are there any rules, societal structures, etc. that you need to observe? (E.g. Magic? Science? Fantasy?)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Technical Details

How many character POVs will you use? What perspective are you writing these stories in? E.g.; 3rd person POV, 1st person POV, multiple 1st person POV? A combination of 3rd and 1st person POV, etc.? What narrative form? (E.g. past tense, present tense?) What is the estimated wordcount for each novel? Are there any must-have inclusions for each instalment (e.g. murder, cliffhanger ending to next book, etc.)

POV and number of: _____

Wordcount Estimate: _____

Narrative Form: _____

Must-haves: _____

SERIES BRIEF

Series Creative Brief

Series Tagline

Come up with a SERIES TAGLINE... a catchphrase or slogan that epitomises your series across the books... can be later used in advertising, book covers, series pitches to editors/agents, etc.

_____

_____

Overview

This section is where you give a series 'blurb', as if pitching it in a proposal to an editor or agent.
In this overview blurb, you want to give an indication as to what kind of series – paranormal, historical, suspense, cozy, etc. and create the expectation as to what kind of stories are going to be found within the series. Specify what kind of series - cozy mystery, darkly romantic, exciting fantasy, etc.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Objective

Why are you wanting to write _this_ series, _now_? What SMART goals are you setting to achieve with this project? What kind of release schedule are you considering? (Tip: be the R in SMART - realistic).

_____

_____

_____

_____

Tone

What tone are you going to be writing these books in? (E.g. gritty, dark, light, humorous, steamy, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Series Creative Brief (cont.)

Feel

What do you want your reader to feel when they read these books? (e.g. thrilling, cozy, swoony, sexy, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Target Audience

Who would be reading these books? What do you know about them? Gender, age, socio-economic demographics, location, likes, dislikes, etc.

_____

_____

_____

What is your reader's pain point? (The problems/frustrations your reader faces - in life, and with other books, series, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

What does your reader NEED?

_____

_____

_____

Where will you find your reader? How will you get her attention?

_____

_____

_____

Series Creative Brief (cont.)

More on Your Reader...
What would be a deal-breaker for your reader in a story such as this?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What would be a deal-breaker between you the author, and your reader? (E.g. announcing a release and not delivering...) What are your reader's 'pet peeves'?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Keywords & Tropes
What are some keywords or tropes to explore/incorporate in this series, in these books?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Series Creative Brief (cont.)

Series Title
Brainstorm some series titles

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Book Titles
Brainstorm some book titles for your series, and number them in the order you want to use them.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Linkage

How are these stories going to be connected?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Series Creative Brief (cont.)

Comparative Titles

List the comparative titles for your stories - how are they alike/different?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Comparative Covers
Insert here covers of comparatative titles

Cover Notes – Do's

What do you like about these covers?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Series Creative Brief (cont.)

Your Covers

What elements do you like/want to keep for your books - and how can you make them UNIQUE to your stories? Note: use for INSPIRATION, do *not* copy.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Colours

What colours to you want to use on the covers? Is there something specific you want to use for branding across the series ?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Fonts

What fonts do you want to use for the series title? What fonts do you want to use for the book titles? What fonts do you want to use for the author name? What font do you want to use for the blurb/tagline, etc.?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Series Creative Brief (cont.)

Cover Don'ts

What do you definitely NOT want to see on your covers?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Character Descriptions

State main character descriptions per book if needed for cover art:

BOOK#

_____

_____

BOOK#

_____

_____

BOOK#

_____

_____

BOOK#

_____

_____

SERIES OUTLINE

Series Outline

Series Arc

If writing a series with a series arc - what is your series question? (BIG story question)

_____

_____

_____

Plot the turning points of your series question:

In brief, write out the plot points that will carry this story thread across your books, and how each plot point affects (and contributes to transformation of) your character:

SETUP: _____

_____

HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHARACTER? _____

_____

INCITING INCIDENT: _____

_____

HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHARACTER? _____

_____

COMMIT TO STORY JOURNEY: _____

_____

HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHARACTER? _____

_____

MIDPOINT: _____

_____

Series Outline

Contine to plot the turning points of your series question:

In brief, write out the plot points that will carry this story thread across your books:

HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHARACTER?

_____

_____

SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS:

_____

_____

HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHARACTER?

_____

_____

SOMETHING WORSE HAPPENS:

_____

_____

HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHARACTER?

_____

_____

THE WORST THING HAPPENS:

_____

_____

HOW DOES IT TRANSFORM CHARACTER?

_____

_____

CLIMAX

_____

_____

WRAP-UP

_____

Series Outline

Character Transformation

How does your character transform across the series?

WHAT IS YOUR CHARACTER'S FLAW?

_____

_____

WHAT IS YOUR CHARACTER'S WOUND?

_____

_____

_____

_____

WHAT IS YOUR CHARACTER'S FEAR?

_____

_____

_____

_____

WHAT IS YOUR CHARACTER'S MISBELIEF?

_____

_____

_____

_____

WHAT LESSON MUST YOUR CHARACTER LEARN?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Series Outline

Series Mapping – with a Series Arc

Map the plot points and character transformation across the books:

B O O K #

PLOT	CHARACTER

B O O K #

PLOT	CHARACTER

B O O K #

PLOT	CHARACTER

Series Outline

Series Outline – by the book

SERIES TITLE:
_____

BOOK #:
_____

BOOK TITLE:
_____

Tropes:
_____

_____

Who is the feature character?
_____

_____

How is this book connected to the others?
_____

_____

What Story Breadcrumbs from other books need to be included in this book?
_____

_____

_____

What Story Breadcrumbs for subsequent books need to be dropped?
_____

_____

_____

What is the Theme for this book?
_____

_____

Series Outline – by the book

BOOK #:

BOOK TITLE:

TROPES & KEYWORDS

HERO:
WOUND:

FEAR:

MISBELIEF:

LESSON:

HEROINE:
WOUND:

FEAR:

MISBELIEF:

LESSON:

STORY NOTES

GUEST APPEARANCES

THINGS TO REMEMBER TO MENTION...

Series Schedule

BOOK #:

SERIES & BOOK TITLE	PLOTTING	TARGET WORDCOUNT
TARGET PUBLISHER	START DATE: END DATE:	WRITING DAYS: WORDS PER DAY:

WRITING	EDITING	DELIVERY DATES
START DATE END DATE:	START DATE END DATE:	

OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME

TROPES & METADATA

DELIVERY DATES
PUBLISHING

_____

FINAL DRAFT

_____

BLURBS

_____

EDITOR

_____

FORMATTING

_____

COVER FINAL

_____

DELIVERY OR UPLOAD

_____

DELIVERY DATES
SOCIAL MEDIA

_____

LAUNCH PLAN

_____

PROMO GRAPHICS

_____

NEWSLETTER

_____

PROMO POSTS

_____

_____

MILESTONES

FIRST DRAFT ☐

EDITING/FORMATTING ☐

FINAL DRAFT ☐

COVER ☐

SUBMISSION/UPLOAD ☐

RELEASE DATE SET ☐

LAUNCH ☐

WORK PROGRESS

| 10% | 20% | 30% | 40% | 50% | 60% | 70% | 80% | 90% | 100% |

TASK LIST

WRITE TASKS IN TASK ORDER.
DO NOT WRITE CODE 4 TASKS.

Want
2
Write

Project: _____

Task Code	Task Description	Completed
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐
☐	....	☐

Want **2** Write

want2write.com