

THE SCENE-BY-SCENE TRACKER



Use this table to map every scene and make sure it actually does something.

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Instructions for Use

Use this tracker alongside Chapter 5 in *Fix The Right Thing First* to make sure every scene is doing its job. A scene without a goal, conflict, or change is just pretty words on paper. This table helps you spot the drifters, the duplicates, and the overachievers—all in one place.

Scene Goal: What does your POV character actively want in this scene? Avoid “to talk about...” or “to show the reader...” —that’s author intention, not character intention.

Conflict / Resistance: What makes the goal hard? Could be another character, bad timing, withheld information, a fear, a secret, new stakes, an emotional clash—anything they must push against.

Turn / Change: What happens that leaves the character, situation, or reader in a new state? This is the hardest box for most writers and the most important. If nothing changes, the scene is probably a filler scene.

Print as many sheets as you need for the number of scenes you are reviewing.

Scene #	Setting/ Chapter	POV	Scene Goal (what the character wants right now)	Conflict / Resistance	Turn / Change (what's different at the end)	Notes (cut, combine, keep)