

QuickTime™ and a
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are needed to see this picture.

LAYERING THE STORY CONCEPT

presented by Sylvie Kurtz

Story Concept = A *hero* with a *flaw* that keeps him from achieving a *goal* he desperately wants, is forced to respond to a *lifechanging event* provoked by the *opponent*, and in the process of responding to that lifechanging event and with the help of the *ally*, the hero is forced to overcome his flaw, and only then is he ready to do one-on-one *battle* with the opponent to realize his goal.

HERO: (I also work up a form for the heroine and the opponent)

Backstory: (how he got to who he is)

- situation that started molding the fear (formative years)
- situation that cemented fear
- what the situation asked of him
- what choice he had to make to "survive" situation
- how that choice made him define who he is
- fear the choice generated
- motto (how he expresses his life viewpoint)

Flaw (defense mechanism he feels he needs to survive):

Redeeming Quality (quality that allows him to overcome his flaw):

End of Character Arc (quality gained by dropping flaw):

Enabling Circumstance (circumstance that allows him to maintain his flaw):

Goal (something concrete and specific that hero is working toward):

Opponent (someone who pushes hero's emotional buttons):

Ally (someone who helps hero overcome his flaw):

Ally's MO (way ally helps hero overcome his flaw):

Lifechanging event (event that forces choice between flaw & opportunity):

Jeopardy (something important to lose physically or emotionally):

Objective Line (backdrop of story):

Subjective Line (hero's internal journey):

Author Bio:

Flying an eight hour solo cross-country in a Piper Arrow with only the airplane's crackling radio and a large bag of M & Ms for company, Sylvie Kurtz realized a pilot's life wasn't for her. Not a quitter, she finished her pilot's course, earning her commercial license and instrument rating. Since then, she's traded in her pilot's license for a keyboard, where she lets her imagination soar to create fictional adventures that explore the power of love and the thrill of suspense.

Her first Harlequin Intrigue, *One Texas Night*, was a 1999 Romantic Times nominee for Best First Category Romance and a finalist for a Booksellers Best Award. Her Silhouette Special Edition, *A Little Christmas Magic* was a 2001 Readers' Choice Award Finalist and a Waldenbooks bestseller. *Remembering Red Thunder* was a 2002 Romantic Times Nominee for Best Intrigue. She is a 2005 and 2007 Romantic Times nominee for Lifetime Achievement for Series Romantic Adventure. She has written twenty novels. For the latest information, check www.sylviekurtz.com.