

Creating the Anti-Hero: A Stepped Approach to Creating Believable Villains...

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In their own minds they are right, the heroes of their own stories.

-Christopher Vogler, The Writer's Journey

The Hmmm Factor, using central story themes as basis for creating the Antagonists Ordinary World:

Using Character Charts to create a full background:

They've been around forever; they are usually used in reference to the Hero/Heroine of the story. But the questions needed are not necessarily the ones often asked. A few insightful and odd questions bring the character into full perspective. All things should be taken into consideration...

Emotional - When the fight becomes one of a personal nature tempers run hot and attitudes become stagnated. Ruling by emotion leaves little room for reason. Is this based on an environmental circumstance?

Environmental - These are the external factors beyond the control of the villain that have helped create him. Social restraints, education, religion, etc.

Inherent - Just as eye and skin color are inherent, so are some of the reasons for a personal quest. Some of this is taught and some are victims of personal attitudes, such as stubbornness, temper, etc.

The Path:

Recognition - Humanizing the villain. Fear of the known.

Call to Adventure/Crisis - Insighting factor, catalyst propelling the character and story forward.

Tests/Growth factor - Acceptance of mission, either through psychological background, or current circumstance. Investment in the fight.

Conflict/Transformation - Rebirth, phoenix, giving for the greater good.

Death/Release - The ultimate demise. Putting a fitting end on the story to a release the reader and relinquish the story.

Resurrection:

The ultimate sacrifice for the villain can only be a just ending for the hero.

Finally... some things to consider:

POV and Male vs. Female:

Reference Material:

Techniques of the Selling Writer, Dwight V. Swain

The Writer's Journey (2nd edition): Mythic Structure for Writers, Christopher Vogler,

20 Master Plots and How to Build Them, Ronald B. Tobias

Character Chart:

www.eclectics.com/articles/character.html

Presenters Bio:

In her many lives, Teagan Oliver has worked both in the promotion and book sales fields for a non-fiction publisher as well as serving as a past President of Maine RWA where she has presented workshops on time management and writing craft. Her short stories and articles have appeared in regional and trade magazines and most recently she ran a promotional website called RomancingNewEngland, a resource for New England booksellers and writers. Currently, she writes under the pseudonym Teagan Oliver. Her first book, Obsidian, a romantic suspense from Five Star was release January, 2007 and is followed by The Three Truths of Katie Talmadge, a sweet paranormal from Wings in July 2007.