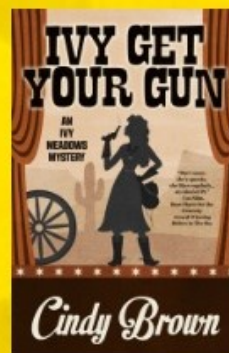
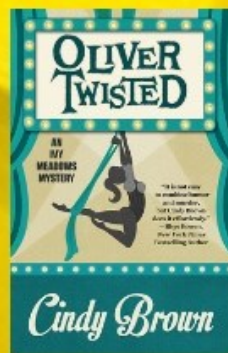
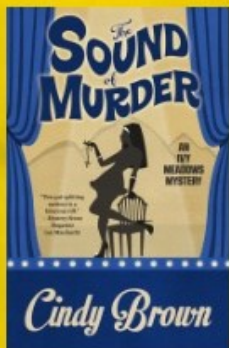
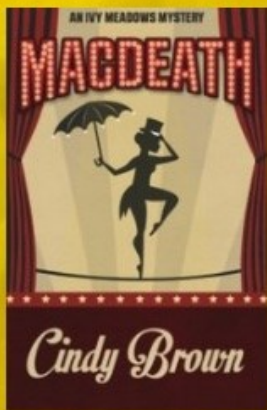


# WHAT NOVELISTS CAN LEARN FROM THE MOVIES

Cindy Brown  
[cindybrownwriter.com](http://cindybrownwriter.com)





"Cindy Brown has mastered the serial novel format, parsing out self-contained references to Ivy's previous adventures while still developing the character as well as a cracker of a Christie-style mystery." BroadwayWorld.com

Cindy Brown  
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# MOVIES CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO:

Structure Your Story

Open Your Story

Avoid On-the-Nose  
Dialogue

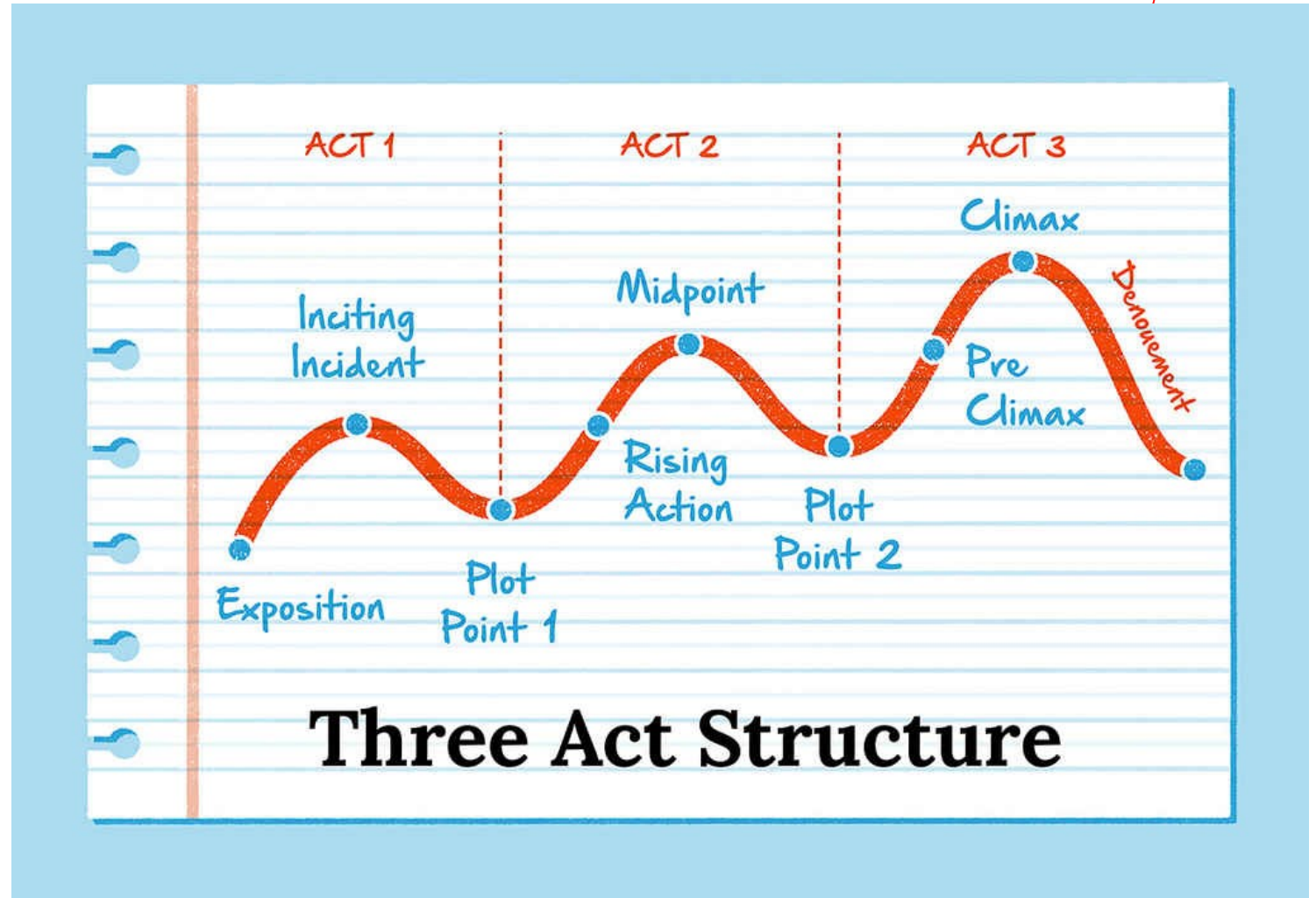
Perfect Your Timing

Utilize Meaningful  
Action

Revise for Maximum  
Impact



- Exposition: The world & character(s) as they are
- Inciting incident: The catalyst of the story
- Plot Point 1: A decision
- Midpoint: A major twist
- Plot Point 2: All is lost
- Climax: A battle
- Resolution: The wrap up



# THE WIZARD OF OZ

## Exposition:

- Dorothy dislikes her home life.

## Inciting incident:

- The tornado whisks Dorothy away.

## Plot Point 1:

- Dorothy decides to follow the Yellow Brick Road to find the Wizard.

## Midpoint:

- The Wizard is a fake who can't help Dorothy.

## Plot Point 2

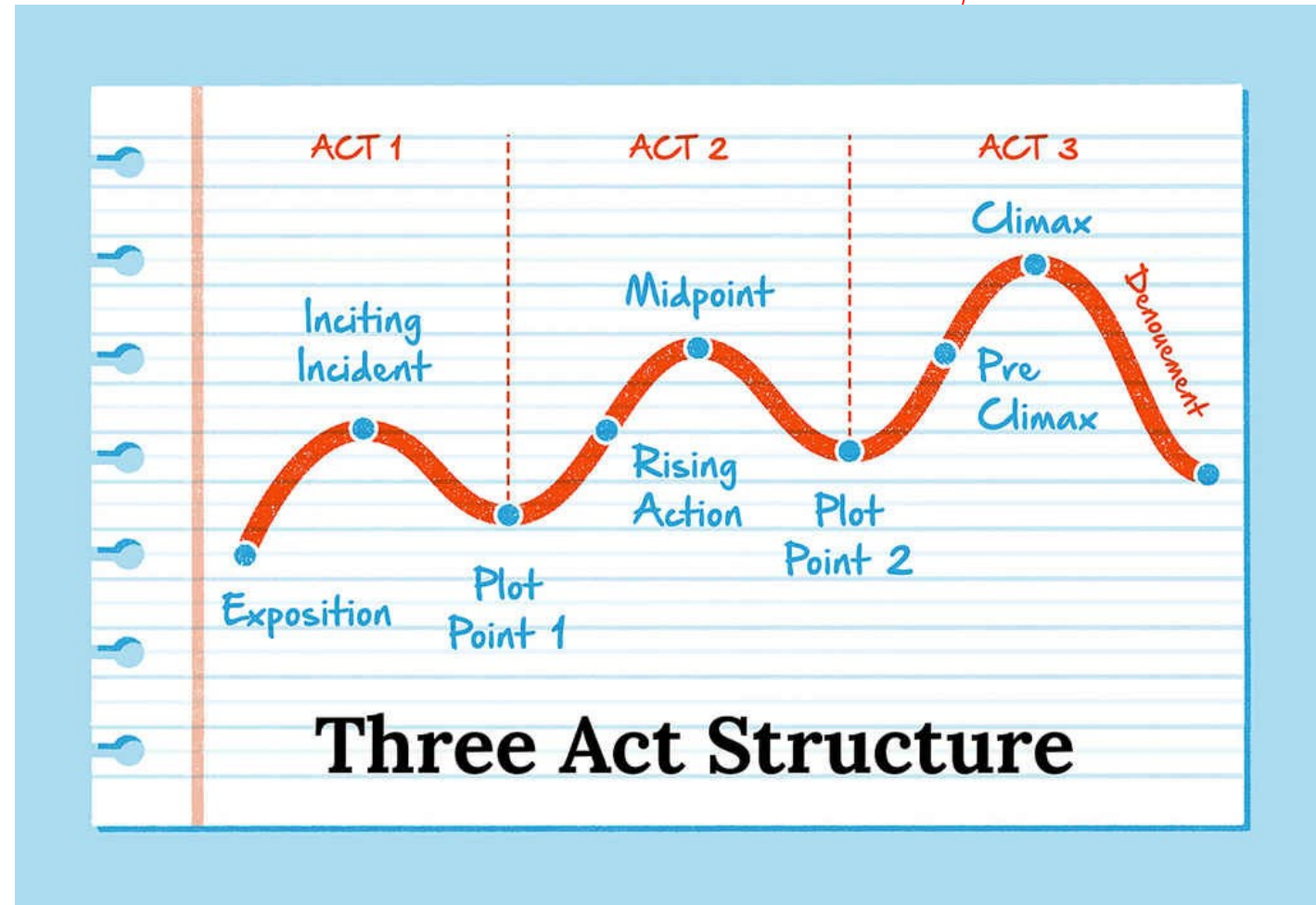
- Dorothy is captured by the witch.

## Climax:

- Dorothy melts the witch.

## Resolution:

- Dorothy returns to Kansas, now understanding that there's no place like home.







# HOW & WHEN TO OPEN YOUR STORY

Amazon's "Look  
Inside" feature:

- Ebook=10%.



# AVOIDING “ON THE NOSE” DIALOGUE

“

I’m sorry, but I’m just not physically  
attracted to you.

”

# PERFECTING TIMING

Find the right rhythm by reading aloud, then use:

- Punctuation
- Paragraph and section breaks
- Sentence length
- Chapter endings



cover story

Jenée Parker | 11-21-2017 9:59 AM  
CW got the loan

Amanda Harris | 11-21-2017 10:01 AM  
How

Jenée Parker | 11-21-2017 10:05 AM  
Her father cosigned

Jenée Parker | 11-21-2017 10:06 AM  
The bank said he signed in person

Amanda Harris | 11-21-2017 10:08 AM  
Isn't he from Germany?

Jenée Parker | 11-21-2017 10:15 AM  
Austria

Jenée Parker | 11-21-2017 10:15 AM  
But get this

Jenée Parker | 11-21-2017 10:16 AM  
There's no record of Franz Wolff flying out here

Jenée Parker | 11-21-2017 10:16 AM  
At all

Jenée Parker | 11-21-2017 10:16 AM  
He hasn't flown to or from the U.S. since 1997

COVER STORY  
BY SUSAN RIGETTI

# UTILIZING MEANINGFUL ACTION

Meaningless action: Any action that doesn't add a deeper meaning to the scene.

Meaningful action: Any action that causes the reader to experience the most important meaning of the scene on a deeper level.

- Ask yourself, “What is the best action for this scene?”
- Example: A man and woman are discussing their future as a couple. She wants to get married and he's hedging



# REWRITING FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT





# MY FAV RESOURCES

*Story* by Robert McKee

*Save the Cat!* by Blake  
Snyder

*Save the Cat! Writes a  
Novel* by Jessica Brody

[ScreenwritingU.com](http://ScreenwritingU.com)

# The Slightly Silly Newsletter

*Who doesn't need a bit of silliness?*

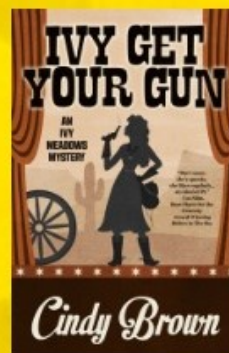
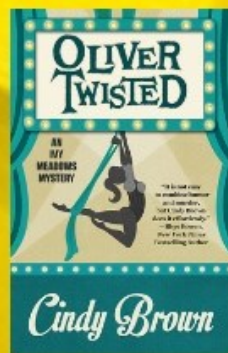
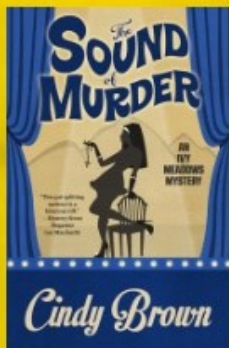
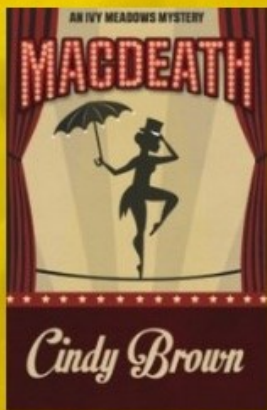
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If you sign up to receive Slightly Silly News, you'll get an irreverent look at mystery and theater, a trivia quiz, "Best Places to Hide the Body," plus whatever makes me laugh (and a smidge of book news, too). You can check out a past newsletter [here](#).

I hope you sign up (look up there, in the upper right hand corner) and join me and Ludwig Wittgenstein, who said, "Never stay up on the barren heights of cleverness, but come down into the green valleys of silliness." Really. He said that.

P.S. I will never share your email.



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