



OH SO SECRET

PART 4:

THE VILLAIN/ ANTAGONIST

You can build on your previous scene or write an entirely new one—a confrontation with the villain, perhaps? The villain outing your protagonist somehow?? This scene has the potential to be EXPLOSIVE with lots of tension, intrigue, danger, and high stakes. Have fun with this!

For this week, see how having the dangerous presence of your villain changes how your protagonist and the other characters behave around the secret. What happens if the villain finds out? How does the villain play with having or not having this info? What weapons are in their arsenal? Can they get the secret with manipulation or actual torture? What are they holding over the proto's head? (Dig into the questions raised in the lecture for how this villain can reveal much about your proto). Also consider working in your proto's misbelief, which the villain will often trigger.

See if you can really dig into TONE here. This is a big aspect of writing a good villain—how can you make your reader nervous just by having this character on the page? Give this villain blood, give them power. (For tone, use objective correlatives, fresh language, sentence variation, and white space).

The best antagonist is one that heightens the strengths AND weaknesses of the protagonist. So consider if the villain being present makes your proto more or less noble, more or less authentic. What is the proto up against and how are they going to overcome their fear surrounding the antagonist?

This is a big one to think about OBSTACLES. What obstacles does the villain represent? Are they real or imagined? I give you permission to write a good fight scene here. Get some blood on the page!



Use this space to do a bit of mindmapping before you write:



Additional Sidewriting

- **See additional villain / antagonist questions to consider in this module's lecture notes.**
- How do your character's feelings about the secret change as the scene evolves?
- In what ways is your character having to strategize and pivot throughout the scene?
- In what ways is the ANTAGONIST having to strategize to get what they want? Do they know what buttons to push? Do they think they can get more bees with honey, or are they the kind of person who doesn't ask permission, then apologizes later?
- **In this scene, is the villain a window or a mirror?**
- How do the other people in the scene feel about the antagonist? How does the antagonist feel about them? (Do they try to get some of those people on their "side"? Who is susceptible to their manipulations, who sees them for who they are?)
- Who has the power in this scene? Why? Who wants it? Why? Who *doesn't* want it? Why?
- List one objective correlative you are using in the scene to show, now tell. If you haven't used one, consider where you might include it.
- What are the stakes in this scene and how does the antagonist affect them?
- List any new obstacles your protagonist is encountering in the scene.
- What does each character want in this scene? What's at stake if they get the thing or don't get it?
- If your antagonist is part of the crew, dig into what alliances and enemies they've made.