

Lecture Notes

For this course, think of yourself as a binge detective...

Assignments for course

- Binge reading worksheets / analyze / annotated biblio
- Binge Factor Worksheets
- Oh So Secret Project ((can be totally new project or something you are already playing with or fun: If you don't have any ideas, go through a magazine and choose a picture that might have a story in it for you...))

Bingeing: What, Why, How

- Don't confuse binge with "good" literature or books you love best or change your life. They might be these things, but they might not.
- Binge = can often be junk food, but not always
- Are your binges your dirty lit secrets? Why? Come out of that closet!
- Siren Song Books vs Binge Books – don't confuse them ((Example: *Circe* vs *A Discovery of Witches*))

My Binge List

First real fandom: Harry Potter

First conscious experience of bingeing as an adult: Twilight

Childhood Binge Reads: Anne of Green Gables series, Nancy Drew books, WWII stories (fiction and non-fiction)

Current Binge Reads / Authors: Sarah J. Maas (fantasy), Jojo Moyes (trade "women's" fiction), Lisa Kleypas (old-school historical romance), good contemporary romance (Red, White, & Royal Blue or The Kiss Quotient)

Outlier Binge Reads (not your usual fare, but surprised you): Gone Girl, Normal People

Bingeable Shows: Firefly (you'll hear me mention this crew A LOT), Friday Night Lights, The Expanse, GOT, Outlander—the list goes on!

What are your "sweet spots"? Your binge factors?

((See below for some of mine))

Why I chose Red, White, and Royal Blue as my binge re-read:

- Amazing voice / great writing
- Character-driven
- Emotionally resonant
- Strong Crew
- Killer Pacing
- High stakes
- Funny
- Setting sweet spots: powerful people, royals
- Romance (and with a twist!)
- Secrets & Misunderstandings
- Profligence
- "does right by the miracle" - has a larger, social / human condition component

Writing Bingeable Characters

Lecture Notes

We don't binge plot, we binge character

- Desperate Desire – in EVERY scene, not just for the whole book
- Misbelief – this runs your proto
- Longing - what your character needs to feel whole
- Purpose - Why your character is on the planet; their mission; their vocation
- Obstacles
- Stakes – Why the hell does any of it matter? ((IN EACH SCENE))

For the course we'll be covering:

- My Unlock Your Novel Process and Method Writing
- Proto
- Crew (Secondary Characters – my personal essential for a binge!)
- Love Interest (best when part of crew, but don't have to be)
- Antagonist
- Using obstacles and stakes to up your binge factor
- how to revise for extra binge-worthiness
- Your Process Archetype
- Story, Plot, Character, Writing elements of the binge
- Pacing, pacing, pacing!!
- Profluence!!!

Each chapter has a character with a clear desire!

- See my post: "How To Write A Bingeable Chapter"
 - <https://heatherdemetrios.com/blog/how-to-write-a-bingeable-chapter>
- Use obstacles to get in the way of desire
- How does your proto strategize and pivot as needed to get what they want?
- Maybe the desire changes over the course of the scene
- Cliffhangers not always necessary! BUT, end the chapter with another obstacle so that you set yourself up for the next chapter and create profluence.

Secrets and the Oh So Secret course project

- Using secrets to plot from character
- Secrets are exciting, create inherent drama / tension / suspense = all binge-worthy elements
- Sidewriting
- Building backstory
- What this exercise is leading to...

A Few of my Fave Protos...

- Beth Harmon (*The Queen's Gambit*)
- Dana in *Kindred*
- Stella (*The Kiss Quotient*)
- Alex (*Red, White, and Royal Blue*)
- Jane (*Jane The Virgin*)
- Cher in *Clueless*