

FOUR ACT PLOT STRUCTURE

The Busy Writer Plot: 22 Plot Points

ACT ONE

The old life exposes a yearning.
A disruption gives the character a goal.

- 01 The Imperfect Life
- 02 The Inciting Incident
- 03 First Response
- 04 The New Goal

ACT TWO

The character tests strengths and gains confidence before a shock.

- 05 New World and Allies
- 06 The Antagonist Threatens
- 07 Skills and Information
- 08 Subplot Challenge
- 09 Escalating Obstacles
- 10 False Hope
- 11 The Midpoint Shock

ACT THREE

Pressure brings out the old flaw.
A flawed choice leads to the lowest point.

- 12 Reaction to the Midpoint
- 13 The Fuse
- 14 Flawed Plan
- 15 Subplot Complications
- 16 A Near Win
- 17 The Big Mistake
- 18 The All-Is-Lost Moment

ACT FOUR

A realization changes the approach.
The final test reveals what has changed.

- 19 The Lightbulb Moment
- 20 The Climax
- 21 Aftermath
- 22 The Ending

