

# ThrillerChat Transcript for April 12, 2010

All times are Pacific Time

- [12:40 am](#) **AllInky:** If you like suspense in your films or fiction, try [#thrillerchat](#) in 20 minutes! [#scriptchat](#) [#writechat](#) [#amwriting](#) [#litchat](#) [#ScriptFrenzy](#)
- [1:01 am](#) **AllInky:** Hello @[Selorian](#) - Made it! BUT the Genies are on, so, I'm watching out of two corners tonight. :) [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:01 am](#) **Selorian:** New [#thrillerchat](#) now. Come and talk anything thriller tonight during an open chat.
- [1:04 am](#) **AllInky:** I've actually got a [#thrillerchat](#) -esque question tonight! How "small" a setting/budget/story would still qualify as a thriller?
- [1:07 am](#) **jessrosenbooks:** A psychological thriller can be done in minimized space/budget/words if they're crafted well. Some of the best are spare. [#Thrillerchat](#)
- [1:08 am](#) **AllInky:** [#Thrillerchat](#) I'm seeking a line between thriller and suspense. Bourne, big, thriller. Anything-with-folk-on-tiny-island, small, suspense.
- [1:11 am](#) **Selorian:** I don't see why there couldn't be one done on a small island setting. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:11 am](#) **AllInky:** Ooops, forgot the [#thrillerchat](#) tag... again.
- [1:12 am](#) **Selorian:** Sorry for slow replies. The screen is hurting my eyes tonight as my headache still hangs on. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:13 am](#) **AllInky:** @[Selorian](#) [#thrillerchat](#) I'm trying to think of a... claustrophobic thriller? Shutter Island, for example, thrilling, by not thriller.
- [1:13 am](#) **Selorian:** Nice to see you, @[jessrosenbooks](#)! [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:14 am](#) **jessrosenbooks:** @[AllInky](#) I wish I had some answer to the thriller/suspense spectrum definitions. It would make my eventual query much easier. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:14 am](#) **AllInky:** Hootsuite is doing something dumb from 10:30 on, so, you'll likely lose me then. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:15 am](#) **AllInky:** Reason for the question... doing something for [#ScriptFrenzy](#) and about half the readers say "suspense," half "thriller." :) [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:15](#) **jessrosenbooks:** @[Selorian](#) Sorry to hear you're fighting one, too. What is it,

[am](#) something in the coffee? Hope it clears up soon. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:15 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: a book, film, play, etc., depicting crime, mystery, or espionage in an atmosphere of excitement and suspense [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:16 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) I tend to think of "thriller" as big action, big budget, big stage. A la Bourne, Munich, anything Bond-ish.

[1:16 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: There is one definition of thriller [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:17 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) While "suspense," seems to lean to the psychological, the tight, the cramped, the smaller cast, more personally frightening?

[1:17 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Thanks, [@Jessrosenbooks](#). I take it you have one too? Hope it goes away soon for you too. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:18 am](#) **[jessrosenbooks](#)**: [@AllInky](#) I think you've got something with the size quality. The Bourne comment is on target. SFX takes a budget and space. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:18 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) I tend to think of "thriller" as big action, big budget, big stage. A la Bourne, Munich, anything Bond-ish.

[1:20 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Here's a' look at 'characteristics of a thriller from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thriller\\_%28genre%29#Characteristics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thriller_%28genre%29#Characteristics) [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:21 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) My writing partner says thrillers affect countries (big issues and ethics), suspense affects people (personal motives)? Ideas?

[1:24 am](#) **[jessrosenbooks](#)**: There's no "Romantic Thriller" in the sub-genre list on the wiki link. I find that amusing. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:25 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I would agree I normally think of thrillers as big, exotic locale affairs [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:25 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) Just got a message that "thriller" is what used to be called "espionage." Hmmm. Cold War goes underground? :)

[1:26 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) I think, in film, almost everything is encouraged to have a romantic subplot... but not get in the way of explosions. :)

[1:28 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I think the problem people have classifying a thriller now is that technical elements of crafting classic thrillers... [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:29 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: ... have been borrowed for other genres. It has created hybrids that are hard to classify in the traditional sense. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:30 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Join me for a [#thrillerchat](#) TweetChat at: <http://tweetchat.com/room/thrillerchat> [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:30 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) Like a medical thriller "ReGeneration," as opposed to a medical mystery "House?"

[1:30 am](#) **[jessrosenbooks](#)**: I think suspense is more personal. It tweaks the mind to get the blood pumping rather than dazzling the adrenal glands. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:33 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) I think of things like "Basic Instinct" as "suspense," very personal. Sometimes straying over into horror, "The Mist."

[1:39 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) Then, I'm voting "suspense" for a script with short character list, minimal settings, and personal themes!

[1:39 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) What's [@Jessrosenbooks](#) project?

[1:41 am](#) **[BookEditorLM](#)**: RT [@AllInky](#): [#Thrillerchat](#) My writing partner says thrillers affect countries (big issues and ethics), suspense affects people (personal motives)? Ideas?

[1:41 am](#) **[jessrosenbooks](#)**: [@AllInky](#) My novels are more romantic suspense than thriller due to the 1st POV. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:42 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I think it comes down to classifying it as you see it, and if it needs thriller added, the agent or publisher will do it. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:43 am](#) **[BookEditorLM](#)**: RT [@AllInky](#): If you like suspense in your films or fiction, try [#thrillerchat](#) in 20 minutes! [#scriptchat](#) [#writechat](#) [#amwriting](#) [#litchat](#) [#ScriptFrenzy](#)

[1:44 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) I'd have though 1st POV fairly natural to thrill/susp. Like mysteries, often a "first person shooter" style of narrative?

[1:47 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: In my opinion, I don't think a 1st person POV automatically eliminates the thriller classification. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:48 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) Day of the Jackal... 1st person POV, yes?

[1:49 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: [@AllInky](#) True, but if it straddles the fence to the point you're not sure, I think it comes down to them making the decision [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:49 am](#) **[jenlemons21](#)**: RT [@AllInky](#): If you like suspense in your films or fiction, try [#thrillerchat](#) in 20 minutes! [#scriptchat](#) [#writechat](#) [#amwriting](#) [#litchat](#) [#ScriptFrenzy](#)

[1:52 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: How to Write a Damn Good Thriller: A Step-by-Step Guide for Novelists and Screenwriters by James N. Frey [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:52 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Most pubs/etc. are pretty specific - and dislike time-wasting. :). I guess, compare against their existing stuff? [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:52 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: New book released March 30th that I thought may be worth a mention here tonight. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:53 am](#) **[jessrosenbooks](#)**: I didn't mean that 1st POV ruled out thriller, sorry for not being clear. I'm using 1st to keep it smaller, more suspense. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:53 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: <http://www.amazon.com/Write-Damn-Thriller-Step-Step/dp/0312575076> [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:53 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [@jessrosenbooks](#) Ah, gotcha! Increase the "personal" and "intimate" feel! [#Thrillerchat](#)

[1:55 am](#) **[KaylaCagan](#)**: Perhaps a bigger emotional risk for the protagonist instead of say, protagonist working for country/big business/epic boss? [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:55 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) Interesting book [@Selorian](#) (adds to list).

[1:56 am](#) **[jessrosenbooks](#)**: [@AllInky](#) Thanks, you nailed what my sore brain was not saying properly. Trying to do that w/o making it claustrophobic. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:57 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I'm going to cut out due to headache but feel free to continue the chat as long as you wish. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:57 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [@KaylaCagan](#) I guess very personal motives. Revenge/love/ambition versus save-the-world? Specific characters instead of Cop #2? [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:59 am](#) **[jessrosenbooks](#)**: [@KaylaCagan](#) Thrillers need high stakes, so that sounds like a good foundation for a "smaller, personal thriller" to me. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:59 am](#) **[KaylaCagan](#)**: [@AllInky](#) That's what I was thinking. But then does that fall back into suspense? Or is it considered both? [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:59 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) "Claustrophobia" is probably a facet of some suspense... Isolated island. Isolated house. Panic room. Even relationships?

[2:01 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) I'm thinking that A doctor trying to stop a plague is more "personal" than a spy agency getting the virus back, you know?

[2:01 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) Still high stakes, but more amateur heroics in suspense than thriller? Maybe?

[2:02 am](#) **[jessrosenbooks](#)**: Too claustrophobic and I automatically think "Gothic drama." That's just me, though, and is why I'm trying to avoid it. [#thrillerchat](#)

[2:04 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) The Panic Room was definitely a suspense, claustrophobic, but I don't think it fell into melodrama - or is that just me?

[2:05](#) **[AllInky](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) I'm starting to think of suspense as the "cozy" of

[am](#)

thrillerdom. :)

[2:06  
am](#)

**[jessrosenbooks](#)**: RT @[AllInky](#): #[Thrillerchat](#) I'm starting to think of suspense as the "cozy" of thrillerdom. :) << Ha! That's great.

[2:11  
am](#)

**[AllInky](#)**: #[Thrillerchat](#) Yesterday scriptchat discussed the last 10 pages of a script. In Bond, he gets the girl. I think suspense is more complex.