

ThrillerChat Transcript for July 21, 2010

All times are Pacific Time

- [12:01 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Another nail-biting [#thrillerchat](#) starts now.
- [12:01 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: RT [@Selorian](#): Another nail-biting [#thrillerchat](#) starts now.
- [12:01 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Tonight's starting topics are Is It A Thriller? and Backwards Plotting for Tigher Thrillers. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:02 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: [@inkgypsy](#) Thanks for the RT! Glad to see you again! [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:03 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: RT [@Selorian](#): RT [@AllInky](#): This was fun reading today: 20 Rules for Detective Fiction <http://ow.ly/2eMeM> [#thrillerchat](#) [#scriptchat](#)
- [12:03 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: RT [@Selorian](#): Tonight's starting topics are Is It A Thriller? and Backwards Plotting for Tigher Thrillers. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:04 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: [@Selorian](#) So what are the necessary thriller ingredients then? What does it get confused with? [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:04 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: [@Selorian](#) Yay - me too! Just gotta coordinate the family to let me have my thrill ride. :) [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:06 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: That inspired the second topic, but we'll discuss what makes a thriller further, since the lines are so blurred these days. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:07 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: Poised. :) [#thrillerchat](#) [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:09 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: OK my two cents: thrillers require the bad guy to be known to the reader so reader watches exactly how close comes to MC etc [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:09 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: When it comes to defining a thriller, I still like the wikipedia definition and characteristics list - <http://bit.ly/d04pXj> [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:09 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I have to remember the [#thrillerchat](#) hash tag. :-)
- [12:10 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT [@inkgypsy](#): OK my two cents: thrillers require the bad guy to be known to the reader so reader watches exactly how close comes to MC etc [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:14](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Also the hero must thwart the plans of an enemy, rather than uncover

[am](#) a crime that has already happened. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:14 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[Selorian](#) I feel like we're being stalked by non-chatting lurkers. It's kind of creepy in this chat! LOL [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:15 am](#) [Selorian](#): Sorry for the delays, i can't type and research links at the same time apparently. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:15 am](#) [GigiVernon](#): @[Selorian](#) @[inkgypsy](#) Agree on the essence. Trying to think of examples that push the envelope... [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:17 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[GigiVernon](#) @[Selorian](#) There's also the plot where the crime (or one of them) happens DURING the novel. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) [paperbatty](#): @[inkgypsy](#) I'm a non-chatting lurker. Just trying to learn. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) [JasonCosmo](#): RT @[inkgypsy](#): OK my two cents: thrillers require the bad guy to be known to the reader so reader watches exactly how close comes to MC etc [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): Or where the MC becomes victim and must escape/get revenge - turn tables. What's that called? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) [GigiVernon](#): @[inkgypsy](#) Example? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[paperbatty](#) Hi! Phew. Far less creepy now. :D [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) [Selorian](#): Nice to see you. Some examples would be great, if you can think of any. @[GigiVernon](#) [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:19 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[GigiVernon](#) Wondering if Silence of the Lambs counts on that point. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:19 am](#) [Selorian](#): Suspense plays a huge part in a thriller, even though they are their own genres as well. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:20 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[Selorian](#) Do you define suspense as pacing/info withholding/etc? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:21 am](#) [Selorian](#): Lurking is permitted, as long as you say hello. ;-) @[paperbatty](#) [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:21 am](#) [GigiVernon](#): @[Selorian](#) A marketing label for fiction that is. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:21 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[Selorian](#) My understanding of suspense (the genre) is we DON'T know who baddie is, just like reader. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:22 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[Selorian](#) I meant just like the MC - not the reader (obviously).

[am](#) Oops. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:23 am](#) **[GigiVernon](#)**: @[inkgypsy](#) I knew you meant MC. I read your mind. :) [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:23 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Nathan Bransford has an article describing the difference between Thriller, Suspense and Mystery. <http://bit.ly/bucIRK> [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:24 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: The lines are so blurred that you're basically right. @[GigiVernon](#) [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:25 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[GigiVernon](#) Aiee! Stalking & mind reading during [#thrillerchat](#)! (LOL) [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:25 am](#) **[creativitycoach](#)**: RT @[Selorian](#): Tonight's starting topics are Is It A Thriller? and Backwards Plotting for Tighter Thrillers. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:25 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: That's my understanding as well. @[inkgypsy](#) [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:25 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: RT @[Selorian](#): Nathan Bransford has an article describing the difference between Thriller, Suspense and Mystery. <http://bit.ly/bucIRK> [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:25 am](#) **[GigiVernon](#)**: Good one! @[Selorian](#): Nathan Bransford describes the difference between Thriller, Suspense and Mystery. <http://bit.ly/bucIRK> [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:27 am](#) **[GigiVernon](#)**: Seems to me in fiction they're labeling a lot of horror as thriller because it attracts more readers. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:27 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: That may not be an official definition, but it's one perspective of how an agent makes the distinction. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:27 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[Selorian](#) So what else gets mixed up? I know UF often has a lot of suspense, not so much thriller but many same writing skills [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:30 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Yes, horror gets labeled as horror thrillers quite often [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:30 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Are thrillers always mysteries? Considering the outcome of the MCs health is never guaranteed? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:31 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I think many things can be labeled as thrillers. As long as they have thriller elements, they could be labeled that way. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:32 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Sorry to be late... lost the dog and had to go walkabout to find her! [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:32 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: No, I don't believe they have to be. I may be wrong about that,

[am](#) though. Maybe just not traditional mysteries. @[inkgypsy](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:33 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[Selorian](#) So what are considered thriller elements besides action (and danger too?) Tense pacing? #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:33 am](#) [Selorian](#): In the end, it really comes down to what the publisher decides to label it. We just need to be in the ballpark for queries. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:34 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): Could it be mysteries usually have the law involved OR some sense of justice whereas thrillers/suspense not necessarily? #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:34 am](#) [AllInky](#): Thrillers are, I think, like mysteries in that you can have categories of "dun-it." It's not always a who, more often a how. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:34 am](#) [Selorian](#): A lost dog is never a good thing. Good to see you. @[AllInky](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:35 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[AllInky](#) Yikes. Did you find her? #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:36 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): RT @[AllInky](#): Thrillers are, I think, like mysteries in that can have categories of "dun-it." Not always who, more often a how. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:37 am](#) [Selorian](#): That could be. To be honest, I'm not sure. I'm still learning too. Not all mysteries have the law involved, though. @[inkgypsy](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:38 am](#) [Selorian](#): Tense pacing is a mainstay, for sure. @[inkgypsy](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:38 am](#) [AllInky](#): Oh, yes, she's safe! Lead me a merry chase through the ball field and the park, but, she's well exercised! Me too! :) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:38 am](#) [Selorian](#): I keep forgetting the hash tag tonight. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:38 am](#) [Selorian](#): That's a good way too look at it. @[AllInky](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:38 am](#) [inkgypsy](#): @[Selorian](#) that's why I put 'some other form of justice' as in righting a wrong somehow. Maybe not making sense sorry. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:40 am](#) [GigiVernon](#): @[AllInky](#) Your own personal thriller--dog vs woman--who will win? :) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:40 am](#) [Selorian](#): No worries. I think most thrillers will have some sense of justice or righting a wrong, that may happen. @[inkgypsy](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:41 am](#) [Selorian](#): It may not seem that way to us, but it has to seem that way for the characters, both the villain and the hero. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:43 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @[AllInky](#): I think thriller plots tend to be tighter, maybe more linear?, than most mysteries. Very visual, short scenes. Mostly action. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:44 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I would agree. @[AllInky](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:45 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: I think no matter what other elements it has or does not have, pace is what makes it a thriller for me. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:46 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: There's usually a romantic interest in a thriller, but, it's usually a plot point, not a goal. The lover is a complication. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:48 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[AllInky](#) Really? Romantic interest? That never crossed my mind. Could it be the types I read? #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:48 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Switching gears to Backwards Plotting inspired by the Writing Backwards screenwriting article - <http://bit.ly/cEAw8b> #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:50 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Thrillers also often seem to feature "special knowledge." Take us to special places, professions, or knowledge. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:51 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: This really made an impact on me. Asking the cause of what happened instead of just what came before, or what comes next... #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:52 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: really helped me in cutting out the extra stuff that made the story loose instead of tight. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:53 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Romantic interests aren't always lovers. Best friend murdered. Old boss in scandal. Something special to MC, motivation. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:55 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: One reason thrillers make good movies? They're tight. Short, single scene, chapters make for lots of white space. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:55 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Definitely seems like a good plan for outliners & perhaps an edit pass for non-outliners. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:55 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: brb, need a coffee refill. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:56 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: A thriller often looks like a "big book," but, lose a 1/2 page at the beginning of 80 short chapters, and... reads fast! #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:57 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @[bobspear](#): Tight plotting for thrillers essential cause that drives the pace. Adding romance is good?heightens emotional levels. #[Thrillerchat](#)

[12:58 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @[bobspear](#): Backwards planning essential in military opns. Comes from airborne opns. #[Thrillerchat](#)

[12:58 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[AllInky](#) Think also thrillers make good movies because - usually they're focused on one story + cause/effect. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:59 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Ther tight plots and fast pace is what i believe is the reason they are exploding in the YA market. #[Thrillerchat](#)

[1:00 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: @[inkgypsy](#) Absolutely! They can look like ensembles - old Mission Impossible - but there's one goal. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:00 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[AllInky](#) I think this is a place where (good) UF overlaps with thrillers - cause/effect. It's very active. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:01 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: . @[Selorian](#) I think need for action in stories is reflective of society right now too. Showing up in many genres. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:01 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: "building from an effect back to its cause, constructing unbroken chain of events which helps keep audience on edge of seats" #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:02 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Younger readers love white space too, and everyone likes tension and high stakes. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:03 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: good to see you, Bob. Interesting that backwards planning is essential in military operations. @[bobspear](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:04 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Most planning is backward really. Identify the goal, then the steps to get to it. I love knowing what the last chapter is! #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:04 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: i think it's also just we live in such fast paced lives that we don't like to diddle-daddle in stories like we use to. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:04 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @[bobspear](#): Tension makes for exciting, edge of seat reading. Have you ever had an adrenalin rush for reading or watching a thriller? #[Thrillerchat](#)

[1:05 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[AllInky](#) Agree - even being organic writer I know the general result/outcome - just not specifics. Keeps me on track. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:05 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: Must away. Hope to see some of you in #[UFchat](#) on Saturday at 3pm PST. Discussing @[StaciaKane](#)'s tightly paced Downside bks. :) #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:07 am](#) **[GigiVernon](#)**: Have to go too. Great discussion, all. See you next time. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:08 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @[bobspear](#): We know the hero saves the day, but how does he & she do that and what must happen before? #[Thrillerchat](#)

[1:08 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Medical thrillers always good for providing a ticking clock. Backwards planning allows building different clocks into story. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:10 am](#) **Selorian**: RT @bobspear: Cliff, you are absolutely right. Keep pumping up the volume. #Thrillerchat < TY. Scream intense enough to captivate them. ;-)

[1:10 am](#) **Selorian**: Excellent point. @AllInky #thrillerchat

[1:11 am](#) **Selorian**: Thanks for joining in. See you next time. @GigiVernon #thrillerchat

[1:13 am](#) **Selorian**: I like that backwards plotting cuts straight from effect to cause instead of meandering from cause to effect. #thrillerchat

[1:14 am](#) **Selorian**: For me, that tightens the plot like a noose on a swinging deadman. #thrillerchat

[1:15 am](#) **Selorian**: RT @inkgypsy: @GigiVernon @Selorian Sorry yes - urban fantasy - details about the author Q&A & her books here <http://bit.ly/buNDvc> #thrillerchat #UFchat

[1:15 am](#) **Selorian**: Cool, @inkgypsy. I'll try to make it. #thrillerchat #UFchat

[1:19 am](#) **Selorian**: I'm going to have to cut out to get kids in bed. It's been a fun chat. Thanks to everyone for coming and talking. #thrillerchat

[1:20 am](#) **AllInky**: Plotting in either direction requires pre-planning. See the storyline, write essential scenes, then make bridges interesting. #thrillerchat

[1:20 am](#) **Selorian**: As always, .pdf teanscript will be up tomorrow on my site. Another #thrillerchat next week, same night and time.

[1:20 am](#) **Selorian**: RT @AllInky: Plotting in either direction requires pre-planning. See the storyline, write essential scenes, then make bridges interesting. #thrillerchat

[1:21 am](#) **Selorian**: Excellent advice. @AllInky #thrillerchat

[1:23 am](#) **AllInky**: Always makes me think, this chat. Thanks again, @Selorian! Catch you next week - dog permitting. :) #thrillerchat