

ThrillerChat Transcript for June 10, 2010

All times are Pacific Time

June 10, 2010

- [12:14 am](#) **Selorian:** A little late, but I'm here for [#thrillerchat](#).
- [12:16 am](#) **Selorian:** [#thrillerchat](#) starts now. Tonight's topic: Plotting. Come join in on the discussion. [#amwriting](#) [#thriller](#) [#writechat](#) [#writing](#)
- [12:17 am](#) **Selorian:** How do you plot? What tricks do you use when plotting? Do you plot differently when plotting a thriller? [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:33 am](#) **Selorian:** How to Create a Plot Outline - <http://bit.ly/8Xmzcw> [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:42 am](#) **Selorian:** Writing Thrillers: Lessons Learned From James Rollins - <http://bit.ly/5am8ny> (via [@thecreativepenn](#)) [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:57 am](#) **paperbatty:** [@Selorian](#) oh, I missed [#thrillerchat](#). poo. I learned good things last week.
- [1:03 am](#) **cinematicshot:** [#thrillerchat](#) is it over?
- [1:04 am](#) **Selorian:** My free time is up for the night, but we can give it another shot tomorrow night if anyone is interested. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:05 am](#) **paperbatty:** [@Selorian](#) I am interested in [#thrillerchat](#) tomorrow.
- [1:06 am](#) **Selorian:** As long as I have one other person, I'm game. 8PM EST sound good to you? [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:09 am](#) **Selorian:** [@paperbatty](#) 8PM EST then? Want to talk plotting or do you have a topic you'd like to discuss? [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:09 am](#) **cinematicshot:** [#thrillerchat](#) I'll give it a try.
- [1:10 am](#) **paperbatty:** [@Selorian](#) 8 EST is good for me. Plotting is also a topic I'd like to discuss. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [1:11 am](#) **Selorian:** [@cinematicshot](#) Sounds good. I'll be there with bells on. [#thrillerchat](#)

[am](#)

[1:12](#) [am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT [@paperbatty](#) Great! I'll see you there! [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:15](#) [am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Special Thursday [#thrillerchat](#) @ 8PM EST. Topic: Plotting. Spread the word & let's have a great discussion! [#amwriting](#) [#writechat](#) [#writing](#)

[1:16](#) [am](#) **[ReelyBored](#)**: RT [@Selorian](#): Special Thursday [#thrillerchat](#) @ 8PM EST. Topic: Plotting. Spread the word & let's have a great discussion! [#amwriting](#) [#writechat](#) [#writing](#)

[1:16](#) [am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: RT [@Selorian](#): Special Thursday [#thrillerchat](#) @ 8PM EST. Plotting. Spread the word [#amwriting](#) [#writechat](#) [#writing](#)

[12:42](#) [pm](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Special Thriller Thursday [#thrillerchat](#) tonight @ 8pm EST. TOPIC: Plotting. Spread the word & join us. [#amwriting](#) [#writing](#) [#writechat](#)

[12:43](#) [pm](#) **[TruckinTWrites](#)**: RT [@Selorian](#): Special Thriller Thursday [#thrillerchat](#) tonight @ 8pm EST. TOPIC: Plotting. Spread the word & join us. [#amwriting](#) [#writing](#)

[3:13](#) [pm](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I'm wanting links to articles on plotting to share for tonight's [#thrillerchat](#) so tweet them to me by @ 'ing me please. ;-) [#amwriting](#)

[3:14](#) [pm](#) **[VariancePublish](#)**: RT [@Selorian](#): wanting links to articles on plotting to share for tonight's [#thrillerchat](#). tweet them to me please. ;-) [#amwriting](#)

[6:47](#) [pm](#) **[Selorian](#)**: REMINDER: [#thrillerchat](#) tonight @ 8pm EST. TOPIC: Plotting. Join in on the discussion! [#thriller](#) [#writing](#) [#amwriting](#) [#storycraft](#) [#writechat](#)

[6:48](#) [pm](#) **[jterzieff](#)**: RT [@Selorian](#): REMINDER: [#thrillerchat](#) tonight @ 8pm EST. TOPIC: Plotting. Join in on the discussion! [#thriller](#) [#writing](#) [#amwriting](#) [#storycraft](#) [#writechat](#)

[10:40](#) [pm](#) **[Selorian](#)**: [#Thrillerchat](#) @ 8pm EST tonight. TOPIC: Plotting. [#amwriting](#) [#writing](#) [#writechat](#) [#thriller](#)

[10:47](#) [pm](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) at 8pm EST. Great writing discussion. Tonight's topic: plotting.

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[12:03](#) [am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: RT [@paperbatty](#): [#thrillerchat](#) at 8pm EST. Great writing discussion. Tonight's topic: plotting.

[12:04](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Time for a special Thursday edition of [#thrillerchat](#). Topic: Plotting. [#thriller](#)

[am](#) [#writechat](#) [#amwriting](#)

[12:06](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Plotting is important no matter the genre, but thrillers are generally plot driven, so it's even more important. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:06](#)
[am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: ?@[Selorian](#): Time for a special Thursday edition of [#thrillerchat](#). Topic: Plotting. [#thriller](#) [#writechat](#) [#amwriting](#)? I'm here with bells on.

[12:08](#)
[am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) True, plot needs to drive the suspense.

[12:09](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I figured I'd start things off with how I start plotting. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:09](#)
[am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: Do you outline your plot in detail before beginning to write? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:10](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I plot my main plot points, then go back and start adding more in between to move the story forward. Simplistic, but it works [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:11](#)
[am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) Unlike mysteries where you withhold info, thrillers give more info up front for dramatic irony.

[12:13](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) I seldom do an extremely detailed outline. I do a loose one and leave some room to play. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:14](#)
[am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) Do you work from the ending backwards?

[12:15](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[cinematicshot](#) Very true statement. We usually know within a few pages who the antagonist is in a thriller. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:16](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I personally jump back and forth when developing the plot, depending on the story. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:17](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Do you start at the end and work backwards? Does it always work for you? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:18](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Join us @ [#thrillerchat](#) where we're discussing plotting. [#amwriting](#) [#writechat](#) [#writing](#) [#thriller](#)

[12:18](#)
[am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) I try to but it doesn't always go as planned.

[12:20](#)
[am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I've tried a lot of ways of plotting, but find picturing my story as a movie trailer with major plot points works best for me. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:20](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: I know what I intend the ending to be and I work toward it, but things

am change. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:21 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I understand that. Every story is different. I'd like to have a set way, but it never happens. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:21 am](#) **[Wiswell](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Frequently I start shortly after the beginning, near the premise unfolding. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:22 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Yes they do. @[paperbatty](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:22 am](#) **[Wiswell](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) I find outlining in too much detail kills my ability to write it. A skeletal plotline allows for more growth. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:23 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[Wiswell](#) Actual writing or when you plot? Or do you plot as you write? #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:23 am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: #[thrillerchat](#) How do you pace your plotting? Is that mostly intuitive?

[12:24 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Wiswell](#) I agree. Seems as though detailed outlining satisfies my need to tell the story, and then I'm bored with it. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:24 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Detailed outlines tend to kill the excitement for me. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:27 am](#) **[Wiswell](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) Because essentially you have told the story, right? Just not in a way anyone would want to read. #[thrillerchat](#) Always a bummer.

[12:27 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Plotting is mostly intuitive for me. I do try to end and start chapters by either introducing or ... #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:27 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: resolving some plot detail, whether it be major or minor. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:28 am](#) **[Wiswell](#)**: @[Selorian](#) That's during actual composition. I come in with some skeleton, mental or written down based on how excited I am. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:30 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[Wiswell](#) Ah. Cool. If I'm excited, I go in with a bare minimum too. #[thrillerchat](#) (forgot hash tag)

[12:31 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Do you plot differently depending on the length of the story? #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:34 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Your Novel Blueprint - <http://bit.ly/7Cm6Fp> #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:37](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: I don't take much time plotting short pieces. I just plan my ending and then

am work toward it. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:38 am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) The shorter the story, the smaller the scope, and the less plot points.

[12:38 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Storytelling to the Beat of a Different Drummer - <http://bit.ly/cwnWVd> [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:38 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) Same here. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:40 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: How about plot worksheets? Ever try using them? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:42 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Two good links. I'm going to take my time reading them later. I have not used plot worksheets. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:44 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Plot Planner Exercise - <http://bit.ly/cUpAyx> [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:45 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) I hope they're helpful. Plot worksheets kill me in my tracks nine times out of ten. [#thrillerchat](#) (keep forgetting hash tag)

[12:47 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: The cause/effect method of that planner works for me, but I simply figure it out in my head, not on a worksheet. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:48 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Selorian](#) I use the old "scene/sequel" structure; it's the same as the plot planner exercise. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:49 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I also like to use foreshadowing and backshadowing to help with my plotting. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:50 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Foreshadow and Backshadow - <http://bit.ly/9e1YRp> [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:50 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) It is. A good one to use. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:51 am](#) **[cinematicshot](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Thanks for the links [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:52 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[cinematicshot](#) My pleasure. Hope you find them useful. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:53 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Amazing how fast an hour flies by. About eight minutes left of [#thrillerchat](#).

[12:54](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Plotting is something I really do mostly by the seat of my pants, so it's a

[am](#) tough one for me to talk about. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:54](#) [paperbatty](#): [@Selorian](#) You did a great job! I always learn a lot at [#thrillerchat](#)
[am](#)

[12:55](#) [Selorian](#): Anyone else have any links or tips they would be willing to share?
[am](#) [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:56](#) [Selorian](#): [@paperbatty](#) Thank you. You're too kind. At least if I can pass along
[am](#) something, I'm happy. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:56](#) [Wiswell](#): [@Selorian](#) Thanks for running [#thrillerchat](#). It was interesting conversation.
[am](#)

[12:56](#) [Selorian](#): [@cinematicshot](#) You're welcome. Thank you! [#thrillerchat](#)
[am](#)

[12:57](#) [paperbatty](#): [@Selorian](#) My tip is that I never quit for the day at the end of a chapter. I
[am](#) always write a little ways into the next. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:58](#) [Selorian](#): Do a search on the sites I gave links to. All of them have more on plotting if
[am](#) you want to read them. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:58](#) [Selorian](#): RT [@paperbatty](#): [@Selorian](#) My tip is that I never quit at the end of a
[am](#) chapter. I always write a little ways into the next. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:59](#) [Selorian](#): [@Wiswell](#) Thanks. It is a weak talking topic for me, so I hope at least
[am](#) something was helpful. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:00](#) [Selorian](#): Thank you all for coming and talking. We'll do it again next Wednesday.
[am](#) [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:01](#) [Selorian](#): I'll post a pdf transcript tomorrow morning on my site. [#thrillerchat](#)
[am](#)