

ThrillerChat Transcript for June 2, 2010

All times are Pacific Time

- [12:01 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: #[thrillerchat](#) starts now! Let's talk about something evil. What does it take to make a worthy villain?
- [12:01 am](#) **[thebookjournal](#)**: RT @[Selorian](#): #[thrillerchat](#) starts now! Let's talk about something evil. What does it take to make a worthy villain?
- [12:03 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Is evil intentions enough? Maybe mentally unstable? What about one with perfectly valid justification for what they're doing? #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:06 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I turned to the Kill Zone blog and did a search for posts on villains. There are some great ones here - <http://bit.ly/do0CF4> #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:06 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Oh this is good stuff. I'm working on a villain and he isn't apparently evil (at first) and is sometimes justified. #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:07 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) It's a little tough though because my tendency is to make him one-dimensional. #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:08 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: .@[alphabet](#) I personally think those type of villains are much more chilling in the long run. #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:10 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: .@[alphabet](#) That is something that is easy to fall in to. #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:10 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) That is what I want to go for. Seems nice, but is actually rotten to the core. I feel he should have SOME good tho. #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:12 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I look at the villain as the hero of the story told from the opposite point of view. Then I write him as rounded as the hero. #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:14 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Selorian](#) I just popped in to see what #[thrillerchat](#) is all about, and your last tweet is worth the price of admission!
- [12:14 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Actually worth more than that. :D #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:15 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[alphabet](#) Some good adds dimension. Even if it is only good that only benefits him. #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:15 am](#) **[hansenjames](#)**: RT @[Selorian](#): I look at the villain as the hero of the story told from the opposite point of view. Then I write him as rounded as the hero. #[thrillerchat](#)
- [12:15 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Oooh that is an interesting way of looking at it. For a while it's mostly been "Villain X is a big horrible jerk" #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:16 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) Glad you popped in. Thank you! I got it from something I once read. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:16 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: "The villain is the hero of his own story." It makes a lot of sense. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) That's what I'm just thinking, some good acts to be revealed later as to his benefit. I'd like reader shock. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Damn that is a good line! #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:19 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[alphabet](#) It is, isn't it? It struck a chord with me the 1st time I read it. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:20 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Selorian](#) I'm glad I popped in too, but now that I like it I find out you're leaving?? #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:21 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: The villain needs to be as developed with the appropriate amount of motivation and desire to succeed as the hero. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:22 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) That really gives me a whole new perspective on how to write and think about him. Any thoughts on bad villains? #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:22 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) By bad I mean poorly-written #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:22 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) That is the plan. I haven't been able to give the chat what I feel it deserves. I hope someone steps up that can. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:24 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[alphabet](#) My main gripe is with villains that don't have the motivation to do the things they are made to do. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:25 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Sometimes it is understandable that they may be mentally mad, but there still need to be motivation. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:26 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Even if it is twisted to their own delusions and therefore drives them. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:26 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Right. That or their behavior far outstrips their motivations or doesn't match their character. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:27 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Selorian](#) I don't find a "mad" villain to be as compelling as one who has real reasons for his behavior. Insane seems 2 easy. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:29 am](#) **[alphabet](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) I think a mad villain could be good if they don't understand the consequences of their actions, ie no intent. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:30 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) I feel the same way for the most part. But if the logic makes sense, even if twisted, I can swallow it. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:31 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I love using comic books as examples... Take the character of Sandman in the 3rd Spiderman movie. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:32 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: His motivation to save his child no matter the cost makes him more than just an evil guy. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:35 am](#) **[alphabetete](#)**: @[Selorian](#) I like when villains have a reason that the hero can't argue with. Everyone would do what they must to save a child. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:35 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: Good discussion on [#thrillerchat](#) if you are interested in writing. What makes a good (bad) villain?

[12:36 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: The villain I'm writing now is the leader of a Paranormal Investigation team hoping to land a National television slot. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:36 am](#) **[alphabetete](#)**: RT @[paperbatty](#): Good discussion on [#thrillerchat](#) if you are interested in writing. What makes a good (bad) villain?

[12:37 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[alphabetete](#) Exactly. That adds an entire new level that people can sympathize with. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:39 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: My villain values landing that tv slot that he'll do anything to get it. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:40 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: And the reason he values it so much is complex, touching on a myriad of different levels. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:41 am](#) **[alphabetete](#)**: @[Selorian](#) When can I read about this villain? I am already curious to know more about his tv spot desires. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:42 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Selorian](#) @[alphabetete](#) That's a good setup. I always want to know what's most important to a character. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:46 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[paperbatty](#) Same here. And that is the basis of any good character. It has to be good enough to drive them. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:46 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[alphabetete](#) Writing 1st draft. The reasons he values it had to be sufficient to make it believable for him to do what he does. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:53 am](#) **[alphabetete](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Can't wait until it's done and I can read it. Sounds like it's going to be interesting just by virtue of his motive. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:54 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Is this a novel? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:54 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Winding up the [#thrillerchat](#) now. Anyone have some parting tips or links to posts/articles on creating villains?

[12:55 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: [@alphabete](#) Thank you! I'm discovering things about him that even shocked me. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:56 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: [@paperbatty](#) Yes it is. It's tentatively titled BENEATH THE FOUNTAIN. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:57 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: [@Selorian](#) [@alphabete](#) Good chat. Thanks for the food for thought. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:58 am](#) **[alphabete](#)**: [@Selorian](#) Maybe a good exercise is to sketch out the plot from the villain's POV, to add some dimension. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:58 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: [@paperbatty](#) My pleasure. Thanks for joining in! [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:59 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT [@alphabete](#): [@Selorian](#) Maybe a good exercise is to sketch out the plot from the villain's POV, to add some dimension. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:59 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: [@alphabete](#) Good tip! [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:59 am](#) **[alphabete](#)**: [@Selorian](#) I'll be keeping an eye out! Thanks so much and I'll miss your chats. [@paperbatty](#) now we can go forth and villainize! [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:00 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Ok, time to get kids ready for bed. Thanks for the chat! I'll post a transcript tomorrow on my site, watch for the tweet! [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:01 am](#) **[paperbatty](#)**: [@alphabete](#) Let's meet back here for another [#thrillerchat](#).

[1:01 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: [@alphabete](#) Thank you! If no one steps up to take over, I may do a couple more. We'll see. Glad to have you! [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:04 am](#) **[alphabete](#)**: [@paperbatty](#) I'm all about that! I'm going to follow you too, for easy stalkins :) [#thrillerchat](#) is awesome, even when I'm just reading it.