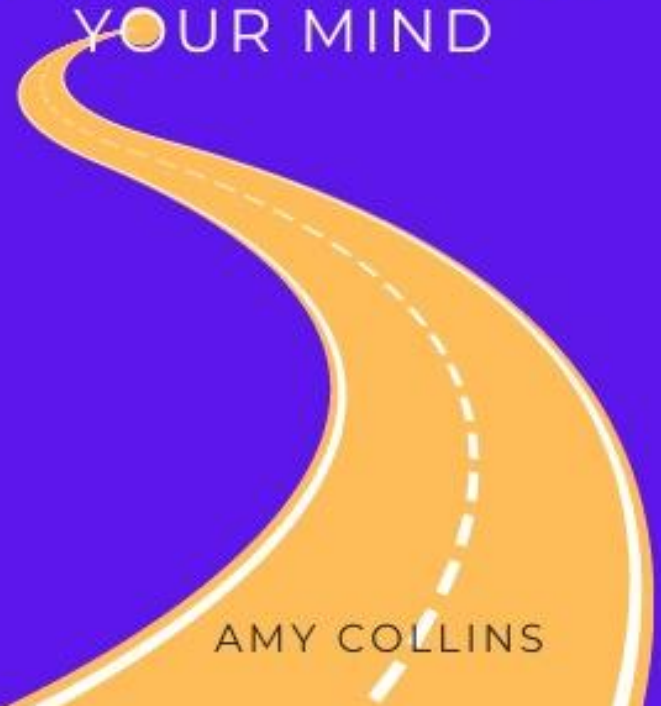
WRITING A PLOT SYNOPSIS

WITHOUT LOSING YOUR MIND



AMY COLLINS

Things to Think About

WHAT IS THE THEME?

Stories have big central themes. Good triumphing over evil? Power of love? Meaning of life?

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

What is the "deal"? Will the protagonist save the world/find love or happiness/get justice?

WHAT MAKES YOUR CHARACTERS APPEALING and WORTH OUR TIME?

What makes your characters unique and relatable?

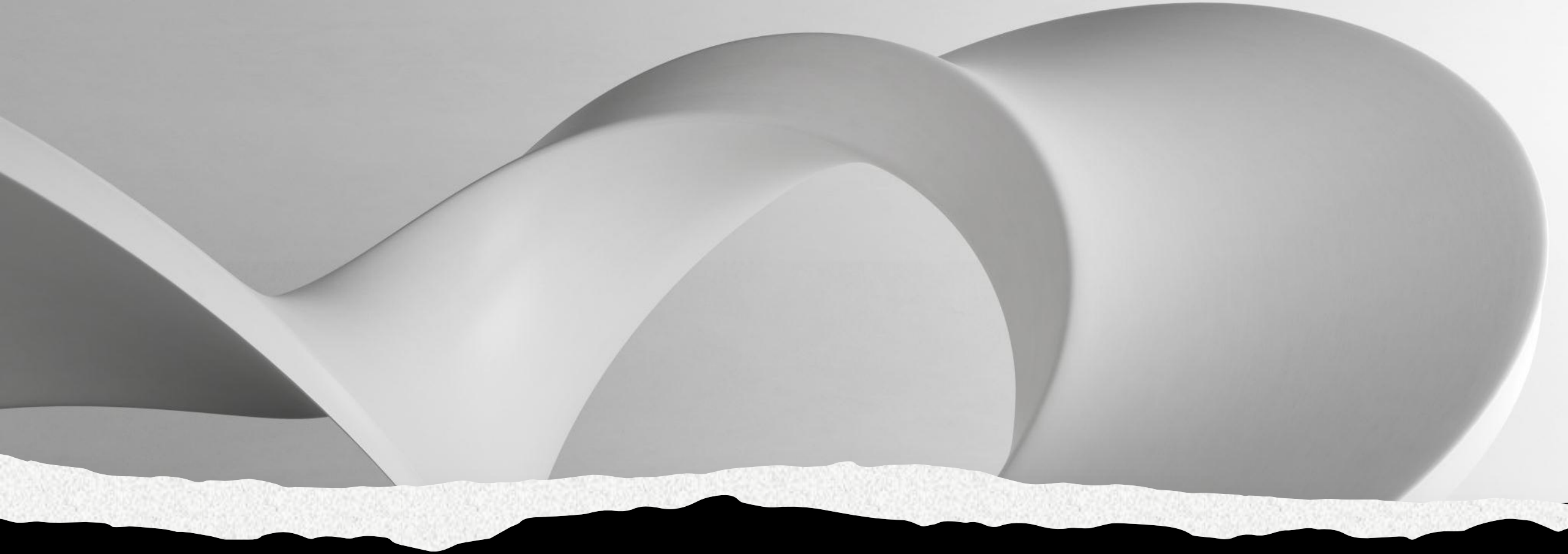
Beginning , Middle, Crisis, Resolution and Ending. (NO SECRETS… HIDE NOTHING)

Jane Friedman Quote:

“Don’t confuse the synopsis with sales copy, or the kind of marketing description that might appear on your back cover or in an Amazon description. You’re not writing a punchy piece for readers that builds excitement. It’s not an editorial about your book. Instead, it’s an industry document that helps an agent or editor quickly assess your story’s appeal and if it’s worth them reading the entire manuscript.”

Today we will agree to:

- Write in third person
- Set up the conflict and stakes
- Walk through the story, hitting only the biggest turning points
- Show how the protagonist grows and changes
- Tell how the antagonist ends up



Your Main Plot from beginning to end

Or

Your Main Character from beginning to end

Cramming Everything About Your Story Into Your Synopsis Will Not Entice Agents or Editors to Read Your Book

Avoid “And Then… And Then… And Then….

Keep It Simple

Amy Collins amy@amysadvice.com

Synopsis

Who Is Your Main Character?

Characteristics that make them interesting and worth reading about

What Is Their "Deal?"

What is the situation they are in when we meet them?

What Is Their "Deal?"

Who are they (inside) when we first meet them?

Who and Where are the MC At The End of the Book?

How have they changed?

What is their “deal” now?

Touch Point

What is one main plot moment that is responsible for that change?

Touch Points

Name Another

Touch Points

Now Name Another

Key Characters vs. Side Characters

Who Or What Is Their BIGGEST Enemy?

Bad Guy?

Nemisis?

Issue?

Who or What Do They THINK is Their BIGGEST Enemy?

Key Characters?

Are they “key” to any of the main plot points?

What entity or system are they struggling against?

Is there tension and conflict in your story?

What specific choices do they make?

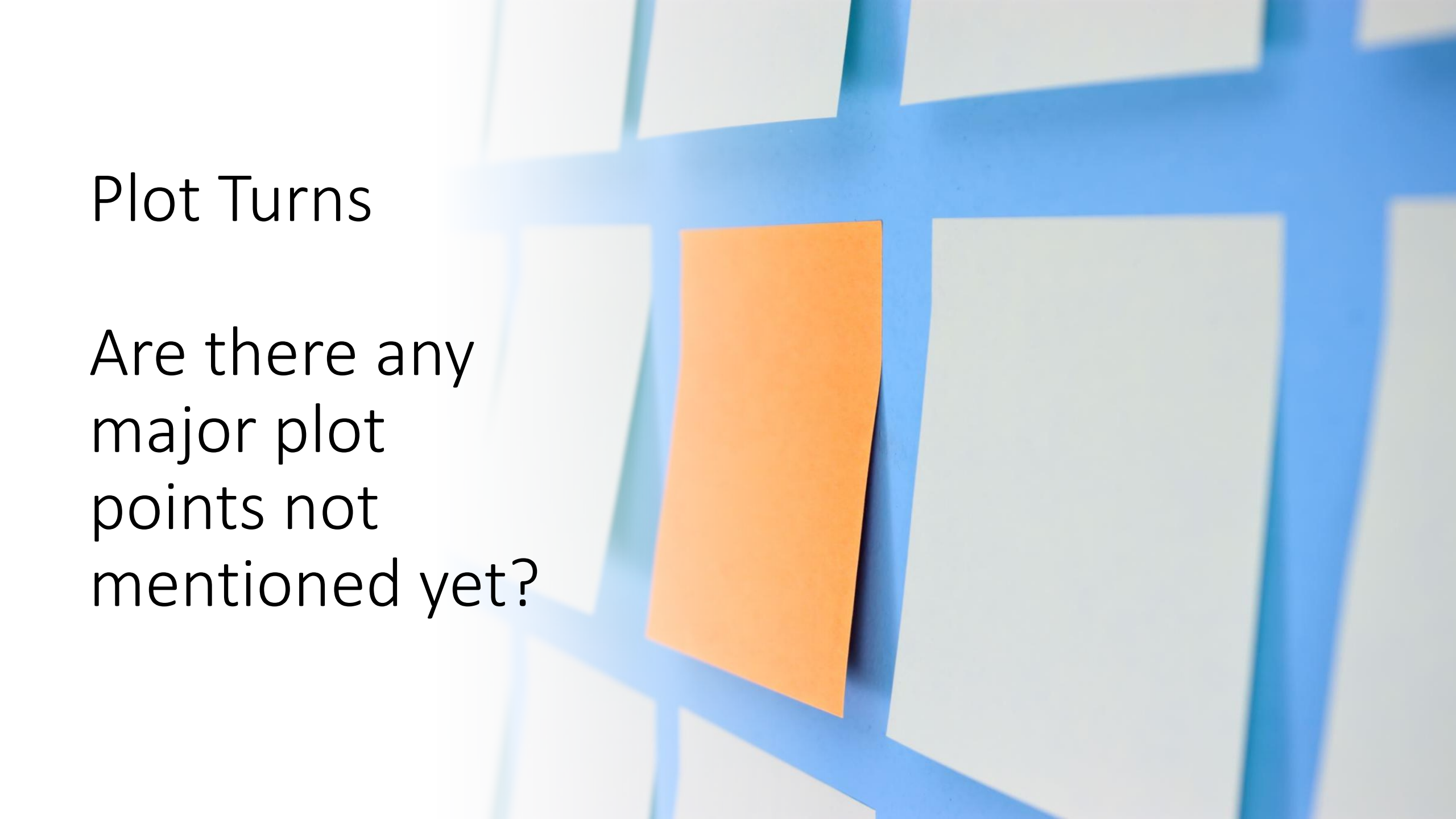
Do they have agency? Or are they being swept along?

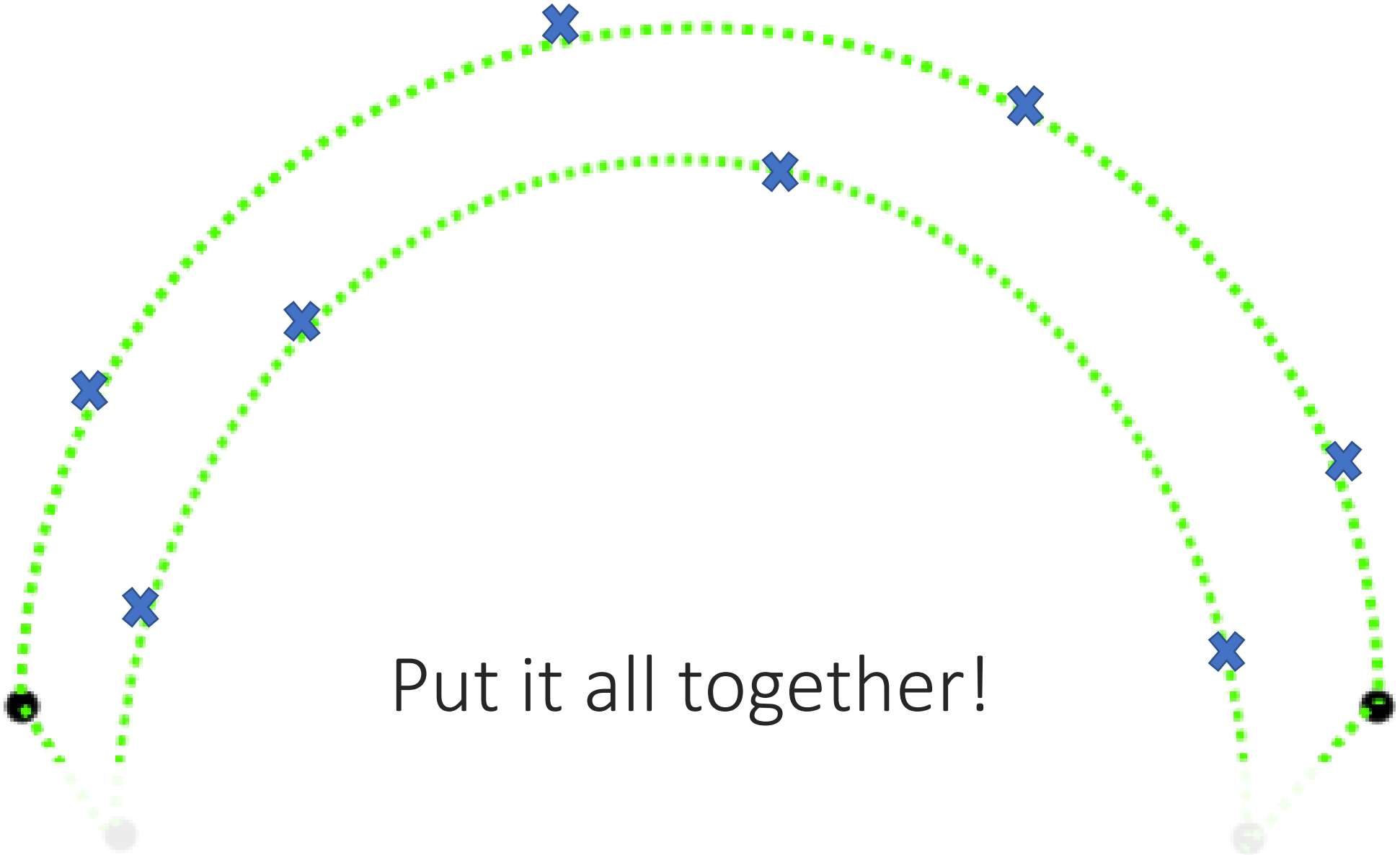
What Happens To The Real Enemy?

How do they end up at the end of the story?

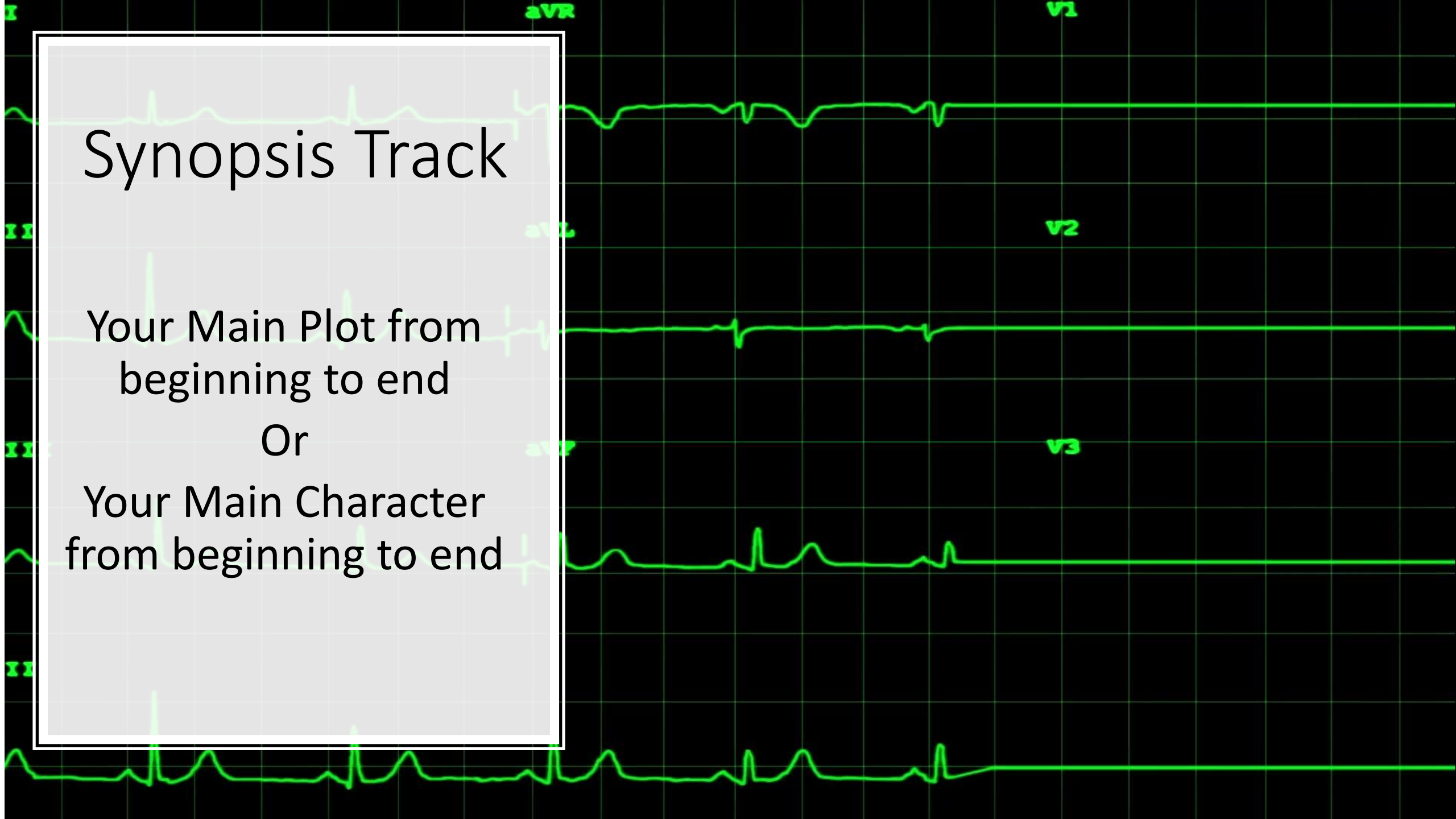
Plot Turns

Are there any major plot points not mentioned yet?





Put it all together!



Synopsis Track

Your Main Plot from beginning to end

Or

Your Main Character from beginning to end

The Process

- This is just a first draft
- Include descriptions ONLY WHEN IMPORTANT
- Spend the next week revising.
- Set it aside for a few days
- Share with others for feedback
  - Do they have questions?
  - Did any part confuse them?
  - Did they get bored and start skimming at any point?

Please Visit Me at

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