



A BLUEPRINT FOR PLANNING A MYSTERY NOVEL

PREMISE: SUPPOSE ... AND WHAT IF ...

PROTAGONIST: THE MYSTERY SLEUTH

Name:

Reason for getting mixed up in investigating crimes:

Physical appearance:

Present status and ambitions:

Background:

Talents and skills:

Personality:

Tastes and preferences:

THE CRIME(S)

	CRIME 1	CRIME 2	CRIME 3
Crime scenario: Victim, modus operandi, scene of the crime			
What appears to have happened			
What really happened			
Why this crime matters to this sleuth			

THE VILLAIN

Name:

Thumbnail sketch:

Apparent motive:

How this character justifies the crime(s):

VICTIMS

Victim's name:

Thumbnail sketch:

What put this victim in harm's way:

Secrets:

Victim's name:

Thumbnail sketch:

What put this victim in harm's way:

Secrets:

INNOCENT SUSPECTS

Suspect's name:

Relationship to victim:

Thumbnail sketch:

Apparent motive:

Secrets and lies:

Suspect's name:

Relationship to victim:

Thumbnail sketch:

Apparent motive:

Secrets and lies:

Suspect's name:

Relationship to victim:

Thumbnail sketch:

Apparent motive:

Secrets and lies:

SETTING

Time: year, season,
concurrent events

Location: geographic locale,
exteriors, interiors

Context: institutions
and activities that
provide the backdrop

THE PLOT: MAIN TURNING POINTS

Dramatic Opening	Description:
Out-of-Whack Event	Description:
End of Act I Plot Twist	Description:
Middle of Act II Plot Twist	Description:
End of Act II Plot Twist	Description:
End of Act III Climax	Description:
Subplots	Description:

WORKING TITLE
