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The Art of Plotting: Add Emotion, Suspense, and Depth to your Screenplay

Linda J. Cowgill
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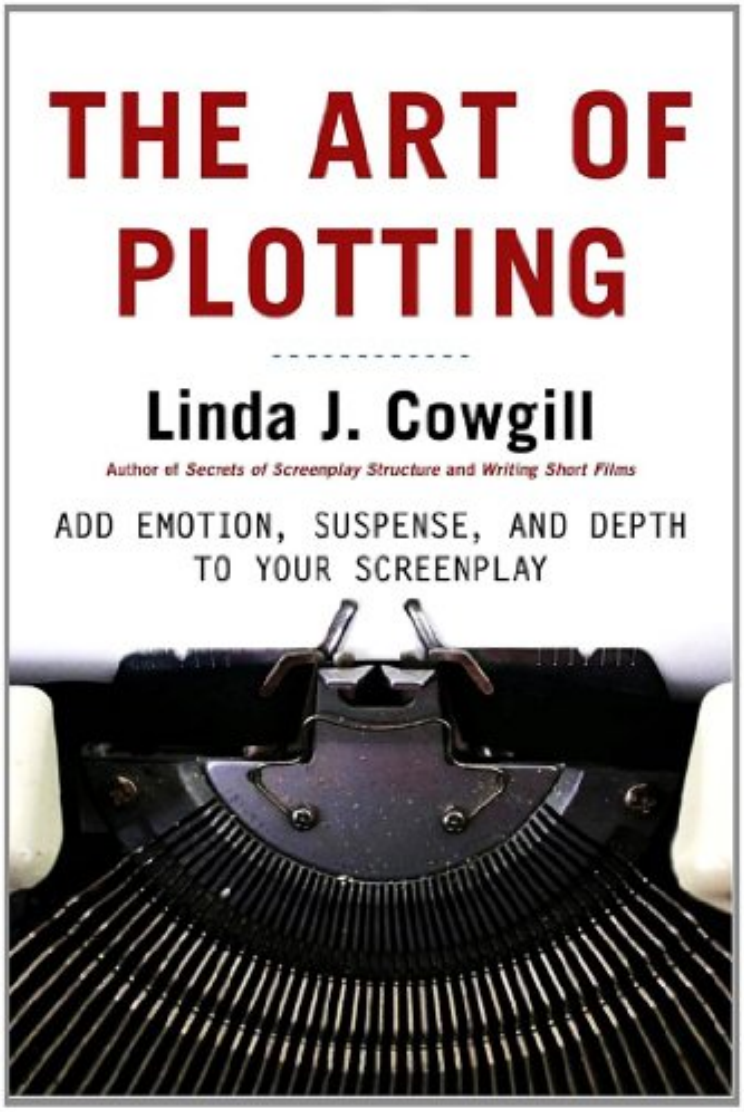

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Linda J. Cowgill : The Art of Plotting: Add Emotion, Suspense, and Depth to your Screenplay before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Plotting: Add Emotion, Suspense, and Depth to your Screenplay:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Opened my EyesBy Nicole J BarrettI like how the author gives examples of how amateur writers write versus how great writers write. Whether in reference to scenes, characters or

other elements of screenwriting process, she gives examples of the tools great writers use and ideas that drive their writing as opposed to new writers throughout the book. This was particularly helpful to me because I noticed that the way I write tends to mimic more of what a new writer does even though I've been writing for years. The author gives very specific ideas and tools to keep in mind that can help guide your writings. Though I've read books about screenwriting for years, I've never come across or retained important ideas like film segments. I've always been disappointed when reading books about story structure and plot because they tend to make it seem too confusing and mysterious. This author simplifies the process of writing plot in an easy way that I can understand and appreciate.25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. What makes a good plot - here's the book with the answersBy Jeffrey L. ArmbrusterOk, I've been writing scripts for decades now. What's the common complaint generations of script readers and producers make: Anybody can come up with an exciting idea, or a powerful hook. Anybody. And there are tons of ideas out there - just open a newspaper! The problem is execution - keeping a 90 to 120 page script exciting. We can all write 10 or 20 pages of exciting scenes - but most of us run out of gas. In one word, plot. The plot goes no where, or gets boring. How do you keep the plot interesting, emotional? Plot is the entire focus of Linda Cowgills's book, and she presents 180 pages of ideas and suggestions on how you can keep your entire plot exciting, eventful and emotional.Answer this question - what's the difference between conflict and complication? Which one keeps the plot moving?Table of contents:1 - The Three Requirements of Drama2 - Plot: Event and Emotion3 - The Role of Conflict4 - The Principles of Action5 - The Tools of Plotting6 - The Sequence of Story7 - The Real Art of Plotting8 - Common Problems in Plot Construction9 - Tools for AnalysisGreat book. Highly recommended.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. another really good oneBy DagwoodI am a consumer of screenwriting books, and those by Linda Cowgill stand at the top rank of them for a lot of reasons. Other people also like her other book "Secrets of Screenplay Structure," so go ahead and read those reviews for a more throrough view of why it's good. I've read "Secrets" so many times now that I'm tired of it, but I only read it multiple times because it was very useful to me. This newer one "The Art of Plotting" goes over some of the same points, but it's shorter and more to the point, wading through fewer film examples, and so it's quicker for a reader to get the gist. Somehow Cowgill presents very useful information in a non-annoying writing style. So, I recommend both of her books to those who are in the need of screenwriting guidance.

The Art of Plotting is a complete, clear guide to creating compelling plots for film. Integrate plot, characterization, and exposition to make stories real. Learn with examples from new and classic movies examine great plots in action. Plot must be as much about the emotions of the characters as it is about the events of the story. Thats the message of The Art of Plotting, which teaches screenwriters how to integrate plot, characterization, and exposition to make stories compelling. Using examples from recent and classic movies, author Linda J. Cowgill demonstrates how the plot springs naturally from the charactersand how that technique makes audiences connect with the story on a more intimate level. Examples include American Beauty, Shakespeare in Love, Erin Brockovich, Spider-Man, Chinatown, Jaws, and more. Easy exercises reveal common plot problems and help writers overcome them. Clear and easy to understand and to use, The Art of Plotting shows exactly how great plotting evolves from characters caught in life-changing conflictsand how to create great plots driven by that idea.

About the AuthorLinda J. Cowgill, author ofWriting Short FilmsandSecrets of Screenplay Structure, currently heads the screenwriting department at the Los Angeles Film School. She has written for film and television, and taught at the American Film Institute, Loyola Marymount University, and the Boston Film Institute. She has presentedThe Art of Plottingseminar in Los Angeles, New York, and Miami.