

TRACKING NARRATIVE DRIVE: REAR WINDOW - SUSPENSE												
A Story: Lars Thorwald Crime Story B Story: Love Story												
Scene #	SCENE / EVENT	A STORY Lars Thorwald Crime Story	B STORY Jeffries and Lisa Love Story	Miss Lonely Heart	Miss Torso	Musician	Newlyweds	Balcony Couple with Dog	NARRATIVE DRIVE	Parceling out the information - stakes raised? complications progressing?	QUESTIONS RAISED?	QUESTIONS ANSWERED?
ACT 1												
WED AM 1	Jeff loses an assignment	Establishes Lars and nagging wife.	Jeff sees Thorwalds as epitome of married couples - marriage isn't for Jeff. He's all about his career.						suspense	We get a little bit of information about Jeff and each of the neighbours we'll follow throughout the film. Jeff is a voyeur. As a professional photographer, he observes life through a lens and photographs what other people are doing. He's not doing the activities himself. Now, injured, he continues to observe the world through a pane of glass (and later through his camera lens).	Who are all these people? What do they have to do with Jeff? Will Miss Torso realize how much Jeff watches her? Does Jeff do anything but sit and watch his neighbours?	The neighbours' stories unfold slowly over the course of the film. It also takes the whole film to realize that while his leg is broken Jeff doesn't leave his apartment.
2	Stella's first examination	Stella gives the audience a heads up wrt what will happen. <i>I can smell trouble right here in this apartment. First you smash your leg and then you get to lookin' out the window - see things you shouldn't see. Trouble.</i>	Jeff tells Stella he doesn't want to marry Lisa Freemont.				Newlyweds rent apartment and Jeff sees a happy version of marriage. Direct contrast to the Thorwalds.		suspense	Jeff fills us in on why he doesn't want to marry Lisa, and he has a point. Stella also has a point.	Will Jeff and Lisa get married?	Never stated outright, but it's assumed they will.
WED PM 3	Supper with Lisa (neighbours' stories cont'd)	Thorwald cares for wife who doesn't appreciate his effort. In fact, she mocks him.	Lisa wants Jeff to leave his job and work from NYC. She's a powerful and influential business woman. Jeff has no interest in settling down. The neighbours reflect Lisa and Jeff's relationship and thoughts about love and marriage.	Miss Lonely Heart pretending to have a date. An image of what Jeff's life will be like if he doesn't get married. Jeff toasts Miss Lonely Heart; they have more in common that he'd care to admit.	In stark contrast to Miss Lonely Heart, Miss Torso is a very popular woman. Jeff sees the scenario unfolding as though Miss Torso is lucky and happy. Lisa recognizes it for what it is; juggling wolves. She can see that Miss Torso doesn't love any of those men, even though they're clearly enamoured with her.	Lisa loves the music. Jeff uses it to highlight trouble in their relationship.			suspense (we don't know any more than Jeff whether this relationship will succeed or fail - he's said the right thing to do is break up, but he hasn't done it yet and doesn't show any signs of it)	Establishes the point of conflict in the relationship. The lovers are on totally different pages. Miss Lonely Hearts is very lonely indeed, and Jeff has compassion for that.	Will Jeff settle down? Will Lisa realize that Jeff likes life on the road?	Last scene of the film. Jeff looks pretty happy to be with Lisa and Lisa recognizes that Jeff is who he is.
4	After Dinner Argument	a woman's scream in the dark and the sound of glass breaking	Jeff explains to Lisa why it won't work between them. He's focused on their differences.						suspense	Jeff has a point and Lisa knows it. Here we find out what Jeff really wants; it's not to break up with Lisa (which is why he hasn't done that yet), it's to keep things status quo.	Will Lisa accept Jeff's status quo suggestion? Will they stay together or fall apart? Who screamed? What does it mean?	Q answered in scene 15 - Lisa invites herself over for the night. From Jeff's reaction and his comment about her making trouble, it's clear that this hasn't happened before. The status quo will not do for Lisa. It takes the whole film to confirm who screamed and what it means.
ACT 2												
5	Watching the neighbours	Thorwald leaves his apartment several times throughout the night carrying his sample case.			Miss Torso comes home, fending off unwanted male attention.	comes home drunk - frustration with the song he's writing		comic relief - couple getting caught in the rain, working as a team.	suspense	Thorwald is acting suspiciously. Jeff's curiosity is raised.	What's Thorwald up to? Will the musician ever get the song written (the song that Lisa says seems to be written for them)? Was Lisa right about Miss Torso and the kind of life she leads?	These questions are answered at the end of the film.
THURS AM 6	Thorwald leaves with woman in black	not a scene, but worth highlighting because it's the only time we move to dramatic irony in this story.							Dramatic irony - Thorwald leave with the woman in black. Jeff doesn't see it because he's asleep.	We know something Jeff doesn't know. This makes us question Jeff's later assumptions and increases narrative drive. As he continues to insist that something nefarious is going on in the Thorwald apartment, we're wondering whether he's on to something, or if he's been sitting around and spying on his neighbours too long.	Who is the woman? Where are they going?	It's assumed that the woman is Thorwald's mistress (Jeff mentions it in scene 22, and Lisa references it in scene 15, but it's never confirmed.)
7	Stella's second visit	Jeff voices his concern that something suspicious is going on at the Thorwald residence. Jeff breaks out the telephoto lens and sees Thorwald wrap up a knife and a saw in wrapping paper							suspense	Blinds drawn most of the day. No sign of the wife.	What is the dog digging up in the flower bed? Why is Thorwald wrapping a knife and a saw in newspaper? Why is he wiping down his sample case? Why was the jewelry out of the case?	These questions are answered at the end of the film.
MIDPOINT SHIFT 8	Lisa's second visit	Jeff has all kinds of questions about what's going on at the Thorwald apartment.	Another point of conflict in the relationship: Lisa thinks Jeff is overreacting, but Jeff's convinced that something is afoot at the Thorwald residence. However, when Lisa sees the truck tied up, she's unsure.						suspense	A trunk tied with heavy rope, the wife's bed rolled up. No sign of the wife.	Is Jeff right? Is there something going on at the Thorwald place? Or, is his imagination running away with him? We saw Thorwald leave with a woman in black. If Lisa is starting to suspect something, maybe a crime has happened. But then again, she's so in love with Jeff, maybe she's placating him.	The question of whether Jeff is right or not is answered in pieces throughout the film. The first hint that we get is when Thorwald opens the letter in scene 21. Another hint comes in scene 22 when Thorwald agrees to meet Jeff at the hotel. But the question isn't properly answered until scenes 28 (HATMOV) and 30 when Thorwald confesses to the police. We know Lisa is in full agreement with Jeff in scene 15 when she sides with Jeff against Doyle.
9	Lisa investigates for Jeffries	Thorwald's identity (name and address) is revealed.	Lisa is helping Jeff. Either she believes something is going on in the apartment, or she's humouring him.						suspense	The name of the white-haired man who is acting suspiciously. Lisa, whether she believes Jeff or not, is willing to help him.	Why is Thorwald sitting in the dark? Does Lisa believe Jeff now?	We never know why Thorwald was sitting in the dark. We know Lisa believes Jeff in scene 15.
FRI 10	Jeffries calls Detective Doyle	Stella provides the "good laugh" to help ease the tension a bit.					Husband is worn out. Wife calls, husband obeys. Supports Jeff's idea of marriage that even if it starts out great, it'll end in being nagged.		suspense	Jeff works all the time - even on his days off. Stella seems to enjoy the gruesome details, Jeff does not.	Does Stella believe that a murder has occurred, or is she teasing Jeff?	We know Stella believes Jeff in scene 21 when she agrees with Lisa about the wedding ring.
11	Lars sends trunk away	Thorwald ships the trunk, then makes a call. Stella misses the name of the freight truck, so Jeff is none the wiser.							suspense	Thorwald is getting rid of the trunk. Thorwald is speaking to someone long distance.	Why is Thorwald shipping the trunk? What's in it? Where is it going? Who is Thorwald calling?	We never know for sure who he's calling, although Jeff surmises it's his girlfriend/mistress. Doyle tells us what's in the trunk in scene 16.
12	Detective Doyle visits Jeffries	Doyle represents the viewer. He asks all the questions that the viewer has and has all the doubts. He has a point. Thorwald protects the flower bed.							suspense	Doyle plants doubt in viewer's mind, but will investigate.	Did Thorwald kill his wife? Both Jeff and Doyle have credible arguments. What is the dog digging up in the flowerbed? Thorwald is gentle with the dog - could he have possibly killed and dismembered his wife?	This takes the whole film to answer.

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13	Detective Doyle reports to Jeffries	Jeff realizes that he missed something when he fell asleep - he didn't see Thorwald's wife leave at 6:00am the previous day. He doesn't really believe that proves Thorwald's innocence though. Jeff proves to be a better detective than Doyle when he recognizes that the superintendent and tenant observations are weak. That said, Doyle is a professional and Jeff is, as Doyle says, an amateur sleuth.	Jeff chastises Doyle for ogling Miss Torso. He has no problem doing it since he's single, but he believes it's inappropriate for a married man.						Dramatic irony ends here as Jeff learns about the woman in black.	Jeff is very smart - first clue that he's a better detective than Doyle. There's something in the flower bed.	What is that postcard about? Anna might be Mrs. Thorwald's name, but did she mail it or did Thorwald mail it to cover his tracks? Does he have an accomplice? If the woman in black isn't Mrs. Thorwald, who is it. Who does Thorwald call? Does he have a girlfriend who is an accomplice? (This could be why Mrs. Thorwald laughed at him in scene 3.	We never know why a postcard was sent for sure, or who really sent it. We also never really know who the woman in black is, or whether Thorwald had a mistress.
14	Jeff observes neighbours - calls Detective	Thorwald returns to apartment	Jeff feels the need to explain to Mrs. Doyle that Thorwald is a man. He has concerns about his friend's roaming eye. This demonstrates Jeff's idea that a married man should not look at other women. Mrs. Doyle either doesn't know her husband looks at other women, or she doesn't care.	Miss Lonely Heart goes out to dinner.	Practices with partner and ballet teacher.	Entertaining guests.			suspense	Doyle has investigated Thorwald. Doesn't sound like anything nefarious has happened. Jeff learns that he missed something.	Where is Miss Lonely Heart going? Who is she meeting? Is she meeting someone or is she hoping to meet someone? Why is Thorwald packing? Where is he going? Who is Thorwald calling? Why does he have his wife's purse? Why is he going through it? Why doesn't Mrs. Thorwald have her wedding band? Could they have split up and Jeff's assumptions are all wrong? If they split up, why did she send him a postcard? Why does Thorwald hide the purse under his clothes.	The questions about Miss Lonely Heart are answered in scene 17. We know Thorwald is packing because he's going to leave in scene 19. Doyle says it's a domestic dispute in scene 16.
15	Lisa stays for the night	Thorwald goes out. Lisa provides insight into the handbag.	Lisa clearly isn't angry anymore. She and Jeff are working as a team. Jeff is very impressed with her. Lisa stays for the night.			Lisa loves the song and marvels at the romance of it all. Jeff makes a joke of it.	Harry still can't have his cigarette. His wife calls again and he obeys.		suspense	Lisa is nobody's fool. She knows what she wants and knows how to get it. Jeff is a bit of a sitting duck.	Lisa has already been established as an intelligent woman. So, is she right about the handbag? Was the woman in black Mrs. Thorwald?	We never know about the women in black. Lisa is proven right in stages - just like Jeff is proven right in stages.
16	Case Closed, according to Doyle	Doyle dismisses Lisa's ideas. Evidence suggests Mrs. Thorwald did get on a train and that she and her wife have split up.	Jeff warns Doyle not to judge - twice. He's protective of Lisa. He also believes Lisa's conclusions. They're function as a team now.						suspense	Lisa is confident - she stands up to Doyle, is not embarrassed about him seeing her overnight bag and lingerie. Thorwald put a woman on the train. The trunk contained Mrs. Thorwald's clothes.	Was that Mrs. Thorwald on the train? Is this really about a domestic argument? Was it really Anna Thorwald who picked up that trunk?	We know it wasn't Mrs. Thorwald on the train or picking up the trunk because by scene 21, it's becoming clear that Jeff is right.
17	Rear Window Ethics	Jeff and Lisa believe that Doyle is right and that Mrs. Thorwald is alive. Lisa closes Jeff's blinds.	Both Jeff and Lisa are heartbroken over what happens to Miss Lonely Heart; they're brought even closer together.	Miss Lonely Heart is assaulted.					suspense	Jeff has very fixed ideas re relationships. Lisa is 20 years his junior, yet he judges Miss Lonely Heart for dating a young man.	Will Miss Lonely Heart get raped? Will she be able to defend herself? Will she ever find love?	We see Miss Lonely Heart save herself in this same scene. It's not until the final scene that we see her finally find love with the musician.
ACT 3												
18	The dog is dead	Thorwald is the only person who doesn't react to the woman's scream and dog's death.	Lisa seduces Jeff.						suspense	Everyone reacts to the scream except Thorwald. Suspicious.	Who killed the dog? And, why?	We never know for sure, but in this scene Jeff believes Thorwald killed the dog. In the last scene we learn that Thorwald did indeed have something buried in the flowerbed.
SAT 19	Thorwald prepares to leave	Thorwald prepares to leave his apartment	It's the morning after. Lisa and Jeff are very much a team.						suspense	Stella relishes the gory details. Lisa does not. Thorwald continues to behave in a suspicious way.	What does Jeff see on the slide? What's the big deal about the flowers?	These questions are answered in the same scene.
20	The letter	Jeff makes direct contact with Thorwald via a letter.	Jeff is very impressed with Lisa. He admires her bravery.	Miss Lonely Heart prepares an overdose.					suspense	Thorwald might have killed his wife - his reaction to the letter isn't as puzzled as it would be if he was innocent.	Will Lisa get caught? What will Thorwald make of the letter? How will he react?	Questions answered in scene 24.
21	The handbag	A happily married woman would never leave her wedding band behind.	Jeff continues to admire Lisa - he recognizes that she, and Stella, are taking the chances.						suspense	Jeff is more comfortable observing people and life. Stella and Lisa are women of action - they'll interact and live life.	What is the deal with the handbag? Is the ring evidence or not? If they've had a fight Mrs. Thorwald might leave the ring behind. If Mr. Thorwald killed her, would he have taken her ring off and kept it? If so, why?	Doyle agrees to investigate the rink in scene 27.
22	Digging up the flower bed	Thorwald admits his guilt.	Jeff more impressed with Lisa than ever. He's also very scared for her when she climbs the ladder. His feelings for her are genuine. He fears losing her.						suspense	Thorwald agrees to meet the caller. This is an admission of guilt. Thorwald is a murderer - he killed his wife and the dog. The ladies will be in real danger if they get caught digging up the flower bed.	Will Thorwald pick up the phone? Will he agree to meet the caller? Will the musician ever finish that song? Will they find anything in the flower bed? Will Miss Lonely Heart be ok? Why is Lisa going into the apartment? Why is Stella leaving her alone?	Thorwald-related questions answered in this scene. Musician question answered in the final scene of the film. Miss Lonely Heart question answered in final scene.
23	In the apartment	Lisa finds the jewelry	Jeff is afraid for Lisa's safety.	Miss Lonely Heart goes back to the pills.					suspense	Jeff and Stella get sidetracked by Miss Lonely Heart's fate.	Will Miss Lonely Heart take the pills? Will the police get to her in time? Will Lisa get caught in the apartment.	Miss Lonely Heart questions answered in this scene. Qs re Lisa answered in scene 25.
24	Thorwald returns	Lisa is caught.	Jeff is beside himself with fear. He understands what it would mean to lose Lisa. Jeff is helpless.						suspense	Thorwald is violent.	Will Lisa get caught? If Thorwald sees her, what will he do? Will the police arrive in time? Will Thorwald kill Lisa?	Questions answered in this and next scene.
25	Police arrest Lisa.	Police arrest Lisa, but leave Thorwald.	Jeff feels relief. Lisa might be arrested (and charged with B&E), but at least she's away from Thorwald. Jeff acknowledges Lisa's intelligence - getting arrested will get her out of there. He immediately makes plans to bail her out.						suspense	Lisa has Mrs. Thorwald's ring. Thorwald discovers that Jeff has been spying on him.	Why is Lisa talking to police? Why doesn't she leave? Why doesn't she turn Thorwald in? Does Thorwald know who has been spying on him? What will he do when he finds out?	We never know why she didn't turn Thorwald in. We know Thorwald's plans in scene 28.
26	Thorwald leaves apartment	Jeff doesn't see Thorwald leave apartment.							dramatic irony: Jeff is looking for money to bail out Lisa and doesn't see Thorwald leave his apartment.	Stakes are raised. Thorwald knows Jeff has been watching him. Thorwald is on his way, but Jeff doesn't know it.	Where is Thorwald going?	Answered in scene 28.
27	Doyle calls Jeff	Doyle agrees to check out Jeff's ring theory.	Stella leaves with bail money. Doyle also helps Lisa.						suspense	Jeff lays out new evidence for Doyle.	Why did Mrs. Thorwald call her husband if she sent him a postcard?	It's confirmed in next scene that it wasn't Mrs. Thorwald who called.
28	Thorwald's visit (HATMOV)	Thorwald calls and Jeff inadvertently reveals that he's been observing him. Doyle has enough for a search warrant. Thorwald confesses to the police.	After Jeff's fall his only concern is for Lisa's safety. He tells her he's proud of her.						suspense	Thorwald did indeed kill his wife.	What will Thorwald do now that he knows Jeff's identity? How will Jeff defend himself? Will Thorwald kill Jeff too? Why does Thorwald want the ring? Will the flashbulbs help buy Jeff enough time? What happens when he runs out of bulbs? Did Lisa and Doyle hear Jeff's shout? Will they get to Jeff's apartment in time to help Jeff? Will any of the neighbors come to Jeff's aid? When Jeff falls, how hurt is he?	We know what was in flower bed. We know that Thorwald did indeed kill his wife.
29	Resolution	Thorwald's apartment is being painted for new tenants.	Jeff and Lisa together. Lisa will take an interest in Jeff's world, but would really prefer her own world of fashion. Jeff is happy, even with two broken legs.	Miss Lonely Heart finds love with musician.	Stanley, Miss Torso's love, has returned home from military service.	Musician has finished his song and it has been released.	Husband has quit job - wife is not happy, regrets marriage. They're arguing.	Couple have a new dog.	tying up loose ends.	Jeff looks pretty happy. Will he and Lisa get married? Probably, yes.		