

Analyzing the Scene

A STORY EVENT is an active change of life value for one or more characters as a result of conflict (one character's desires clash with another's).

A WORKING SCENE contains at least one Story Event. To determine a Scene's Story Event, answer these four questions:

1. What are the characters literally doing?

Jessie breaks into an Elite's apartment and robs it. Her conspirators (Mark, Libby, and Balaam) help her remotely.

Deleted: is breaking into

Deleted: robbing it

Deleted: are helping

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

They are working to avoid discovery.

Deleted: together to steal credits. When Jessie downloads all of the credits is the Story Event.

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie and the group's tension escalates as she makes her way to the apartment and goes through the various road blocks until she is finally able to log in and steal all of the credits.

Deleted: grows

Failure to success.

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Failure to success.

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Jessie climbs the ladder into the apartment building.

Progressive Complication: Jessie can't find the panel to login to the grid.

Crisis: Best bad choice. Jessie could bail on the job and lose the opportunity to steal the credits or she can press on, keep looking for the panel, and risk getting caught as a result.

Deleted: ls

Deleted: they

Deleted: stays

Deleted: s

Deleted: but could

Climax: Jessie connects with Balaam and gets the location of the panel.

Resolution: Jessie steals more credits than any other previous job.

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Mayor Charles captures and confronts Jessie, making her an offer he thinks she won't refuse.

Deleted:

Deleted: on her stealing

Deleted: He has a conversation with her that leads to him inviting her to the preparing.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Mayor Charles blackmails Jessie.

Deleted: builds his case against Jessie by exposing what she's done and using that to invite her to the preparing.¶

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie went from feeling great because she had accomplished her goal to terrified because she had been caught.

Free to captive.

Deleted: Successful

Deleted: caught

After Mayor Charles invited Jessie to the preparing, she turned him down.

Captured to Rebelious.

Deleted: Afraid

Deleted: defiant

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Captured to Rebelious.

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Deleted: Afraid to defiant.¶

Inciting Incident: Mayor Charles confronts Jessie after she's stolen the elite credits.

Deleted: invites Jessie to join him in the living room.

Progressive Complication: Mayor Charles lays out all of the trouble that Jessie is in and offers a way out of her predicament.

Deleted: .

Crisis: Best bad choice. Jessie has to choose between going to Aeta – where she believes she will never return from – and staying home and facing the punishment for what she has done.

Deleted: Mayor Charles invites her to the preparing.

Climax: Jessie rejects the offer to go to the Preparing to face the consequences.

Deleted: turns down

Deleted: .

Resolution: Mayor Charles lets the Elites wake up and attack Jessie.

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Jessie escapes the apartment building. She runs down the stairwell and makes her way through the field hands until she goes down the escape hatch.

Deleted: is

Deleted: ing

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Jessie is running away from reality.

Deleted: trying to escape getting captured by Mayor Charles and the Elites...

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie is at risk for physical harm and then escapes.

Deleted: We'll track the life value for

Deleted: in this scene.

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Trapped to free.

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Mayor Charles lets Jessie fend for herself under the assault of the elites.

Deleted: go.

Progressive Complication: Jessie can't figure out a way to get the door hatch in the floor open with so many field hands around.

Crisis: Best bad choice. Try to escape another way or bring attention to herself by making space for the hatch.

Climax: Jessie pushes a woman out of the way, which creates the space for her to open the hatch.

Resolution: Jessie escapes down the hatch.

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Jessie makes her way through the streets of New York City to the rat's hideout. Libby and Max are trying to assess and minimize the fallout.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Jessie is trying to hide and pretend everything will be fine.

Deleted: get safely to a version of her home. Libby and Mark are trying to keep them all safe.

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie is forced to accept reality.

Deleted: We'll track the life value for Jessie.

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Exposed to [In Denial](#) to Exposed

Deleted: Safe

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Jessie makes it back onto the streets after escaping the apartment building.

Progressive Complication: All of their credits were removed from the [rats'](#) account and their location [is](#) exposed.

Deleted: wa

Crisis: Best bad choice. Does Jessie stay and try to avoid the punishment or leave and try to fix it.

Climax: Jessie leaves the hideout to turn herself in.

Resolution: (Comes after the scene [offstage](#)) Jessie is arrested.

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Jessie waits for the Shaming and discusses it with her father who is trying to talk her into going to Aeta. Mayor Charles leads her to the center of Time Square where he shaves her heads and plugs up the implant in her skull so she can't login to the grid anymore.

Deleted: out of it

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Jessie's father and Mayor Charles are trying to level with Jessie.

Deleted: trying to convince her to go to Aeta for the Preparing.

Jessie is stubbornly sticking to her guns.

Deleted: refusing because she wants to stay home and is afraid of what will happen if she goes

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie's naivete shifts into painful understanding.

Deleted: We will track the life value for Jessie in this scene....

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Proud to Humiliated.

Deleted: Caught to Punished

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: It is time to do the Shaming.

Progressive Complication: Mayor Charles makes one last plea for her to avoid the Shaming and go to Aeta for the Preparing.

Crisis: Best bad choice. Jessie must accept the Shaming or go to Aeta for the Preparing.

Deleted: t

Climax: Jessie chooses to go through with the Shaming and stay in New York City.

Resolution: Jessie endures the Shaming and is picked up by two people right at sunrise.

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Jessie wakes up among the Numbered and Eighty-three walks her through getting ready to leave for the day.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Eighty-three mentors the newbie Jessie.

Deleted: is forcing Jessie into action instead of letting her sit in her misery.

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie moves from alone to "just another numbered."

Deleted: We will track the life value for Jessie in this scene...

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Resistance to Acceptance

Deleted: ing Action

Deleted: Following Orders

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Jessie wakes up among the Numbered.

Progressive Complication: Eighty-three opens the door to leave.

Crisis: Best bad choice. Does Jessie stay by herself in this strange place or follow Eighty-three?

Climax: Jessie follows Eighty-three.

Resolution: Jessie leaves the Numbered's den.

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1. What are the characters literally doing?

All of the Numbered are making the way to their assigned places. Jessie follows Eighty-three to an apartment building and starts helping her clean up after the Elites.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Eighty-three is showing Jessie [the ropes](#).

Deleted: what she is in for by living with the Numbered.

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie succumbs to the Numbered way of things.

Deleted: We will track the life value for Jessie in this scene.

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Rebelious to Accomodating

Deleted: Confusion

Deleted: Denial

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Jessie and Eighty-three board the train car.

Progressive Complication: Jessie is confronted with the reality of her job as a Numbered.

Deleted: finally understands that

Deleted: is to clean up after the fields hands and Elites.

Crisis: Irreconcilable Goods. Jessie can refuse to do her chores and make life worse for eighty three or she can do them and make life worse for herself.

Deleted: Best bad choice

Climax: Jessie reluctantly starts the chores.

Resolution: She spills a bed pan and unplugs one of the Elites.

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The unplugged Elite attacks Jessie. Eighty-three saves her and they get the woman plugged back in and clean up the mess.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Putting out the fire of an unexpected event.

Deleted: They are cleaning up the mess left behind by Jessie's mistake....

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie begins to realize how dangerous plugged in people are when they're pulled out of the virtual reality and then gets the full scope of her sentence.

Deleted: We will track the life value for Jessie in this scene...

Deleted: .

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Ignorance masked as sophistication to Truth

Deleted: Reluctance

Deleted: to Defiance.

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: The unplugged woman attacks Jessie.

Progressive Complication: Eighty-three will not be straight with Jessie about what her full punishment is.

Crisis: Best bad choice. Jessie can go along with Eighty-three or she can refuse to move until she has answers.

Climax: Jessie refuses to move until she has answers.

Resolution: Eighty-three tells Jessie the full punishment she is under.

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Jessie is creeping through the city is she can go home and be with her father and mother.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Jessie is running away from her problems.

Deleted: trying to go home.

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie's moves from petulant to enlightened.

Deleted: We will track the life value for Jessie in this scene...

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Escaped to Caught

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Jessie leaves the Numbered's den to escape home.

Progressive Complication: Her father tells her she can't stay

and must go back to the Numbered.

Crisis: Best bad choice. Does Jessie keep pushing her father to let her stay and risk him turning her in or go back to the Numbered.

Climax: Jessie keeps arguing to stay.

Resolution: Eighty-three and two other Numbered show up at the apartment to bring her back.

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1. What are the characters literally doing?

Jessie tries to get her father to let her stay, but then escapes and runs when she realizes that's not an option. Her father is trying to get her to leave. Eighty-three tries to collect Jessie to take her back.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Jessie is refusing to face facts.

Deleted: avoiding the consequences of her decisions.

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie's hopes that her father will protect her are dashed.

Deleted: We will track the life value for Jessie in this scene. ¶

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

A Part of Something to All Alone to A Part of Something

Deleted: Hiding to Found

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Eighty-three tries to get Jessie to come with them.

Progressive Complication: If Jessie stays hidden then their lights will turn red and something very bad will happen.

Crisis: Best bad choice. If Jessie stays hidden, she won't be stuck with the Numbered but something clearly bad will happen, but if she comes out of hiding she will be stuck with the Numbered again.

Climax: Jessie comes out of hiding.

Resolution: Jessie, Eighty-three, and Sixty-one start running towards safety.

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1. What are the characters literally doing?

Jessie, Eighty-three, and Sixty-one are running through the city to get back to the safety of the subways.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

They are trying to [save themselves from pain](#).

Deleted: avoid having their lights turn red

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

All of the characters move into physical vulnerability.

Deleted: We will track the life value for Jessie in this scene

Deleted: .

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Danger to Safety to Unconsciousness

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Eighty-three decides on the direction to go.

Progressive Complication: Jessie gets free of the razor wire but Sixty-one is still stuck.

Crisis: Best bad choice. If Jessie and Eighty-three leave him behind, they'll make it safely but he might not. If they stay and help him, none of them may make it.

Climax: Jessie decides to go with Eighty-three and leave Sixty-one behind.

Resolution: Sixty-one almost dies.

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1. What are the characters literally doing?

Jessie is sitting with Sixty-one while he wakes up. They discuss Sixty-one's past in Aeta.

2. What is the essential action of what the characters are doing in this scene?

Jessie is nursing sixty-one.

Deleted: wants to find out if Sixty-one knows anything about Randy.

3. What life value has changed for one or more of the characters in the scene?

Jessie is learning key backstory about sixty-one and the structure of the society.

Deleted: We will track the life value for Jessie in this scene.¶

4. Which life value should I highlight on my Story Grid Spreadsheet?

Despair to Hope.

HOW THE SCENE ABIDES THE FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF STORYTELLING

Inciting Incident: Sixty-one wakes up.

Progressive Complication: Sixty-one says that he was in Aeta for the last Preparing.

Crisis: Irreconcilable goods. Jessie can keep letting Sixty-one ramble or try to get him to tell her about Randy.

Climax: Jessie tries to get him to tell her about Randy.

Resolution: Sixty-one refuses to talk about it and gets up to start the chores for the day.

NOTES: