

## RESCUING YOUR PLOT

- 1 Kill a main character.
- 2 Send your characters on a journey.
- 3 Have your characters lose an important item.
- 4 Have a character go crazy.
- 5 A volcano erupts nearby.
- 6 Your characters stumble on a party.
- 7 Your characters throw a party.
- 8 Your character gets drunk.
- 9 Your character gets drunk and blabs a secret.
- 10 Switch to the villain's point of view.
- 11 Add a love interest.
- 12 Add a new character.
- 13 Your main character trips and breaks his/her arm.
- 14 Characters argue over grammar.
- 15 Have a character exclaim, "There is no spoon!"
- 16 Write a scene that takes place in a bowling alley.
- 17 Have a character who wears glasses break them.
- 18 Reference yourself participating in NaNoWriMo.
- 19 Kill a mime.
- 20 Use a trilobite in your novel.
- 21 Send in the ninjas!
- 22 Add a one-night stand.
- 23 Get your characters lost in the forest.
- 24 Your main character's mother dies.
- 25 Two characters kiss.
- 26 One character walks in on two others having sex.
- 27 A supporting character has a heart attack and dies.
- 28 Your main character loses money at poker.
- 29 Everyone gets food poisoning.
- 30 Everyone gets the plague.
- 31 Include a character who obsessively collects random objects.
- 32 A character's long-lost sibling turns up.
- 33 A male character finds out he is the father of a teenager who shows up.
- 34 A CIA agent tries to kill a character.
- 35 The characters find a suitcase full of money.
- 36 Have a character find a dead body in the trunk of his/her car.
- 37 Include the phrase: "I saw this in a porn movie once."
- 38 Go grab a random album and use song titles as chapter titles.
- 39 Include any of the games you may see on an episode of "Whose Line is it Anyway?"
- 40 Have a character willfully remove his/her own limb.
- 41 Include a brawl in a non-contact sport, e.g. tennis, croquet, cricket, ice-skating, etc.
- 42 Include a llama in some way.
- 43 Include a terrible accident involving a rubber chicken.
- 44 Have the villain and hero be ex's — boy/girlfriend, fiance(e)s, spouses, anything.
- 45 Write an entire chapter in which two characters do nothing but pare potatoes.
- 46 Have a character literally die of too much homework.
- 47 Include a soapbox moment about a subject you feel strongly about that has absolutely nothing to do with the plot.
- 48 Have a scene where a character suffers from a mishap with a bendy straw.
- 49 A herd of 100 bison stampede through your novel.
- 50 Your characters are surrounded by a cloud of butterflies.

### RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR

Instructions: Close your eyes, look away, or take your glasses off. Jab something pointy at this grid. Take note of the number you pointed at. Repeat. You now have a two-digit number. If it's 00, count it as 100.

4	2	0	0	9	3	5	7	1	1
9	8	7	7	0	5	3	4	1	5
4	2	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	6
8	2	6	4	7	6	0	9	6	0
3	2	1	5	2	5	8	7	2	9
1	2	0	7	8	5	8	6	9	8
9	1	8	7	3	0	6	3	0	6
3	6	0	9	4	9	2	4	9	5
6	4	6	6	4	1	5	8	6	1
2	2	3	1	5	4	3	9	4	3
3	7	3	1	8	9	8	0	7	0
5	7	2	4	4	1	5	8	9	3
6	7	8	4	9	2	7	5	8	2
8	2	5	6	4	1	3	0	2	5
7	6	7	4	9	1	9	5	7	8

## RESCUING YOUR PLOT

- 51 A walk-on gets hit by a speeding bus, gets up, dusts themselves off, and walks away.
- 52 Hit shuffle on your music player of choice and base the chapter on the first song title that comes up.
- 53 Have your characters play “Duck, Duck, Goose.”
- 54 Have your characters intercept a secret message.
- 55 Go to the NaNo “Characters and Plot Realism” forum, and include an element from the post at the top.
- 56 Open the nearest book at random, point to a line, and use that as a basis for the next scene.
- 57 Open the Bible, point to a verse, and have one of your characters quote it.
- 58 Have a bank robbery interrupted by a second bank robbery in the same bank.
- 59 Have your characters play “I Have Never” or some other drinking game.
- 60 Have your characters play a game of “the dozens” — “Yo mama so fat ...”
- 61 Have your villain and main character run into each other by accident, in public, and have to be nice to each other.
- 62 One of your characters has an odd but all-consuming phobia.
- 63 Include a polar bear somewhere that a polar bear absolutely would not be.
- 64 Your character opens a book at the library and finds a message asking for help.
- 65 Your character opens a fortune cookie and finds a message asking for help.
- 66 A hurricane hits your setting. It is named the same thing as one of your characters, who complains.
- 67 One of your characters gets pregnant.
- 68 Have a character say too much while talking in his sleep.
- 69 Have one of your characters get arrested for a crime that happened long ago, unrelated to your plot.
- 70 Have your characters accidentally enter an establishment they wouldn’t usually (gay bar, biker bar, rodeo event).
- 71 Have a character receive a box in the mail full of stuff from random people they don’t know.
- 72 Have a tough, macho character receive an ugly present from his mother.
- 73 Your characters are trapped by a freak storm inappropriate for the season.
- 74 Your main character trips, falls, and is unconscious all day. The other characters talk about him behind his back.
- 75 Your villain falls in love with a secondary character.
- 76 A foreigner shows up and tries to tell your characters something important, but doesn’t speak their language.
- 77 Your characters have for breakfast whatever you ate most recently.
- 78 Your characters are kept awake all night by loud noises. They get giggly and share secrets.
- 79 A cute little kid shows up and latches on to your MC. You have to get rid of the kid without killing him/her.
- 80 Have a villain character shows up who shares the name of one of your main characters. They both get mad.
- 81 One of your characters bets another to do some unusual, difficult feat.
- 82 Whatever happened in your last chapter sparks a flashback to a similar event in your MC’s childhood.
- 83 A spaceship crash-lands right in front of your characters. At least they think it’s a spaceship. It might be a hoax.
- 84 Your characters’ path is blocked by a construction crew. They have to go another direction.
- 85 One of your characters goes into a fugue state and disappears.
- 86 Have a sale at your main character’s favorite store. The objects he buys will cause him bad luck.
- 87 Include your favorite teacher from childhood as a minor character.
- 88 Include your least favorite teacher from childhood as a minor character.
- 89 Your characters accidentally start a fire while playing with candles.
- 90 A walk-on character shows up again and reveals a crucial secret.
- 91 Your main character dreams about one of your other characters.
- 92 Have your characters find a mysterious, ancient coin.
- 93 A storm forces your characters to take shelter someplace creepy.
- 94 Two characters who hate each other are forced to share a cramped space (car, hotel room, elevator).
- 95 Your main character inadvertently offends a minor character by forgetting his/her name.
- 96 The last inanimate object you mentioned suddenly breaks.
- 97 The character who most recently spoke comes down with laryngitis and can’t talk for the next chapter.
- 98 A beetle flies into a character’s hair and everybody freaks out.
- 99 A character accidentally swallows a bug. “Extra protein,” another character comments.
- 100 Your main character decides to write a novel someday.