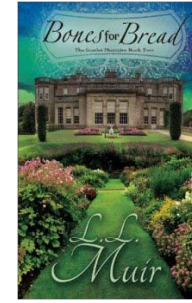


How to Build a Romance Subplot

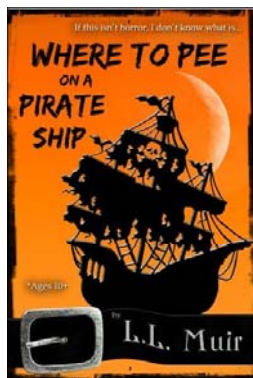


Muir & Brown

LL Muir



LL Muir



Hey, Lesli, what would be fun?



My Precious

Belladonna Baggins

And **Thorin** (they're even about the same size!)

To him, **she's incompetent**

To her, **he's a royal jerk** (like literally)

There's even another guy who gives her a ring



Technique 1

Calculate the number of . . .

Novel

= ?

Technique 1

Calculate the number of events

Novel

= Events


Technique 1

Calculate the number of events



Novel

Main Plot
Subplot

Key 1
You are NOT building a plot



Key 2
Tents and castles are not the same



Romance Stories
Suspense, Anticipation, & Melting



Technique 2
MC MOTHR CAR

MC

- A main character we can get behind

MOTHR

- **M**ystery, **O**pportunity, **T**hreat, **H**ardship, **R**elationship
- Big obstacle: opposition, underdog

CAR

- Concrete Goal
- Action (struggle)
- Resolution

Technique 3

The 3 Parts - Relationship

Trouble

- Main character we can get behind
- Signal romantic possibility
- Show the big obstacle
- Reason can't or won't walk away, concrete goal

Struggle

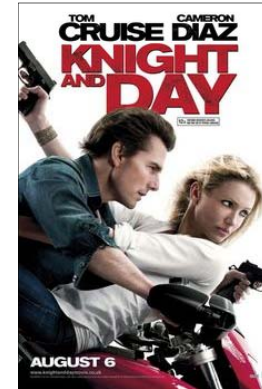
- They build and undercut emotional attraction
- Physical attraction grows
- Admission & admiration, Decision & declaration
- Black moment

Resolution

- Climax
- HEA
- Confirmation of HEA

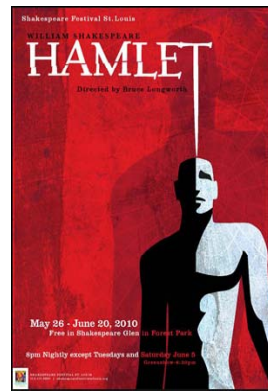
Technique 4

What's Cool?



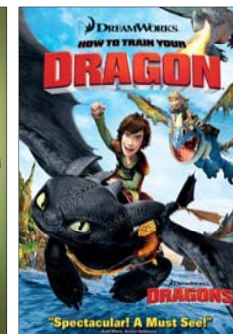
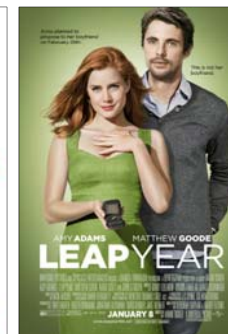
Technique 5

Specific MOTHR Patterns



Technique 5

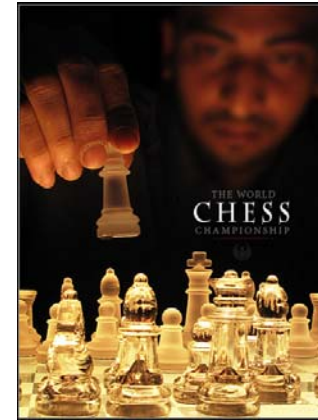
Specific MOTHR Patterns



Technique 5 Specific MOTHR Patterns



Technique 6 Play Both Sides



Technique 7 Make it Hard!



Him admiring her
Her thinking he isn't a jerk

The Story Cycle

