







**YOU MISS IT**

BY ROBERT MCKEE

It's been said that the best way to learn how to write fiction is to read it. That's true, but it's not enough. You must also learn how to analyze what you read. You must learn to identify the elements of good writing and to understand how they work together to create a story that moves us.

One of the most important elements of good writing is character. A character is more than a person; he or she is a complex individual with a past, a present, and a future. He or she has goals, fears, and motivations. He or she reacts to situations in unique ways. He or she is flawed, yet still admirable. He or she is sympathetic, yet still mysterious. He or she is unpredictable, yet still relatable.

Another important element of good writing is plot. Plot is the sequence of events that drive the story forward. It's the what-happens-next factor. It's the reason why we keep reading. It's the reason why we care about the characters. Plot is the backbone of the story, the skeleton that holds it up.

But plot alone is not enough. You must also have conflict. Conflict is what drives the plot. It's what creates tension and suspense. It's what makes the story interesting. Conflict can come from within the character, from external forces, or from other characters. It can be physical, emotional, or intellectual.

Finally, you must have setting. Setting is the time and place where the story takes place. It provides the context for the characters and their actions. It helps to establish the mood and atmosphere of the story. Setting can be a simple room, a vast landscape, or a complex society.

When you read a good story, pay attention to these elements. Observe how they work together to create a compelling narrative. Try to understand the writer's choices and intentions. This will help you to become a better writer yourself.

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