

Taking A Journey Together: Story Arcs and Your Reader

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Basic Elements

- Timing – When things happen according to the conventions of your genre
- Sequence – The logic of your characters actions
- Resolution – Not only the end of the story, but the way the story ends

Timing

- Genre specific
- Difference between timing and pacing
- Difference between itinerary and story

Sequence

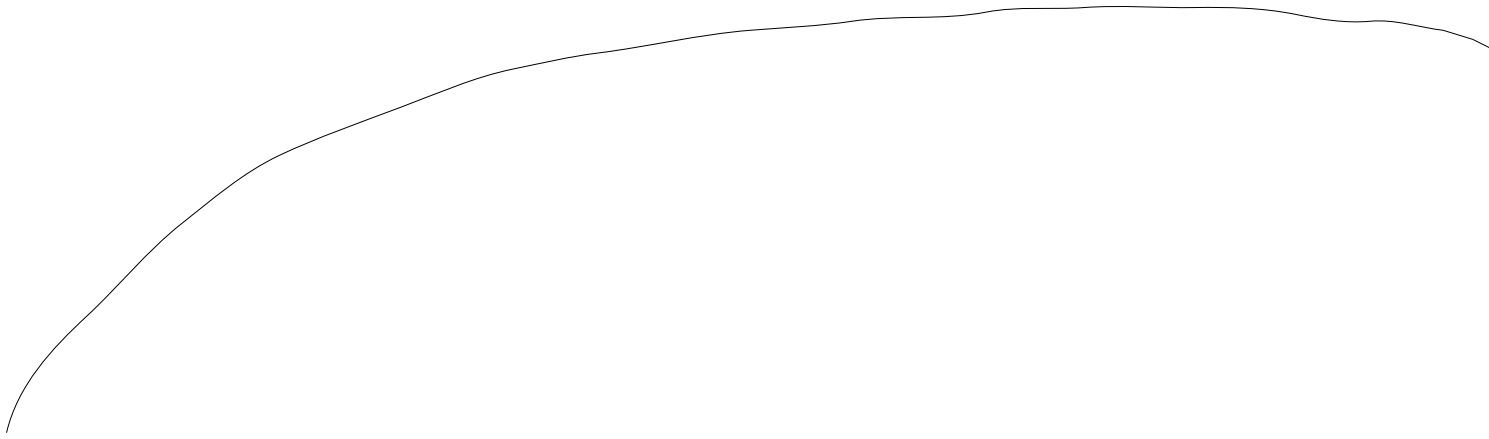
- Must be logical
- Think “because then” not “and then”

Resolution

- Think of the emotional impact you want to have on your reader
- Remember the conventions of your genre

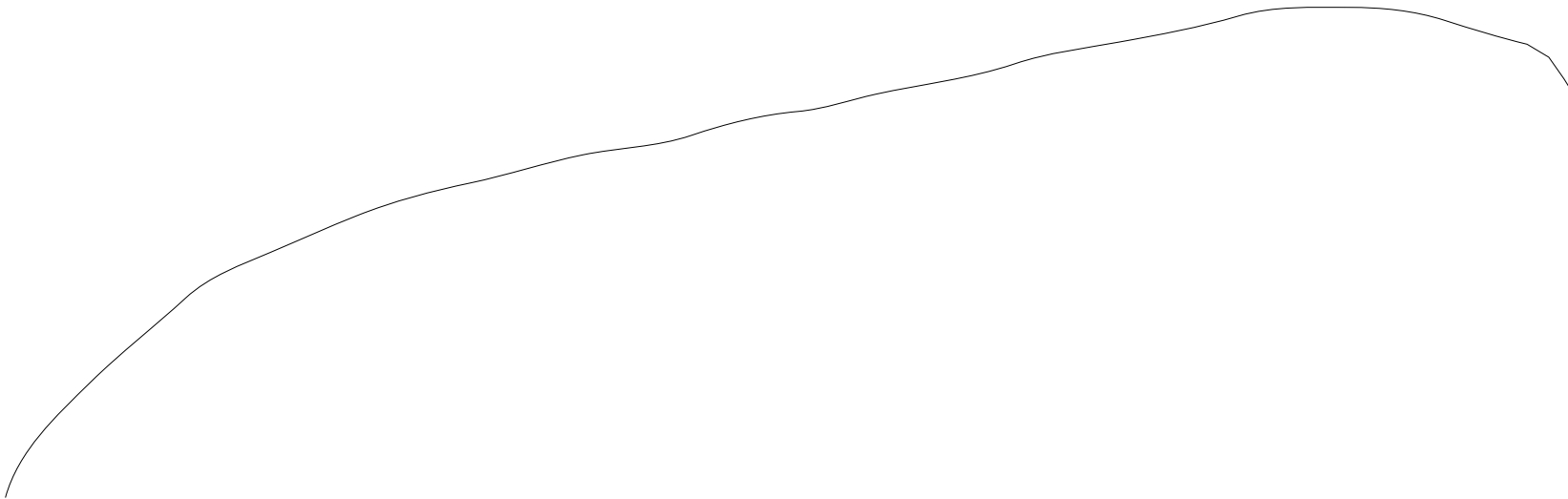
Comedy Arc

- Starts okay, a rise, a resolution



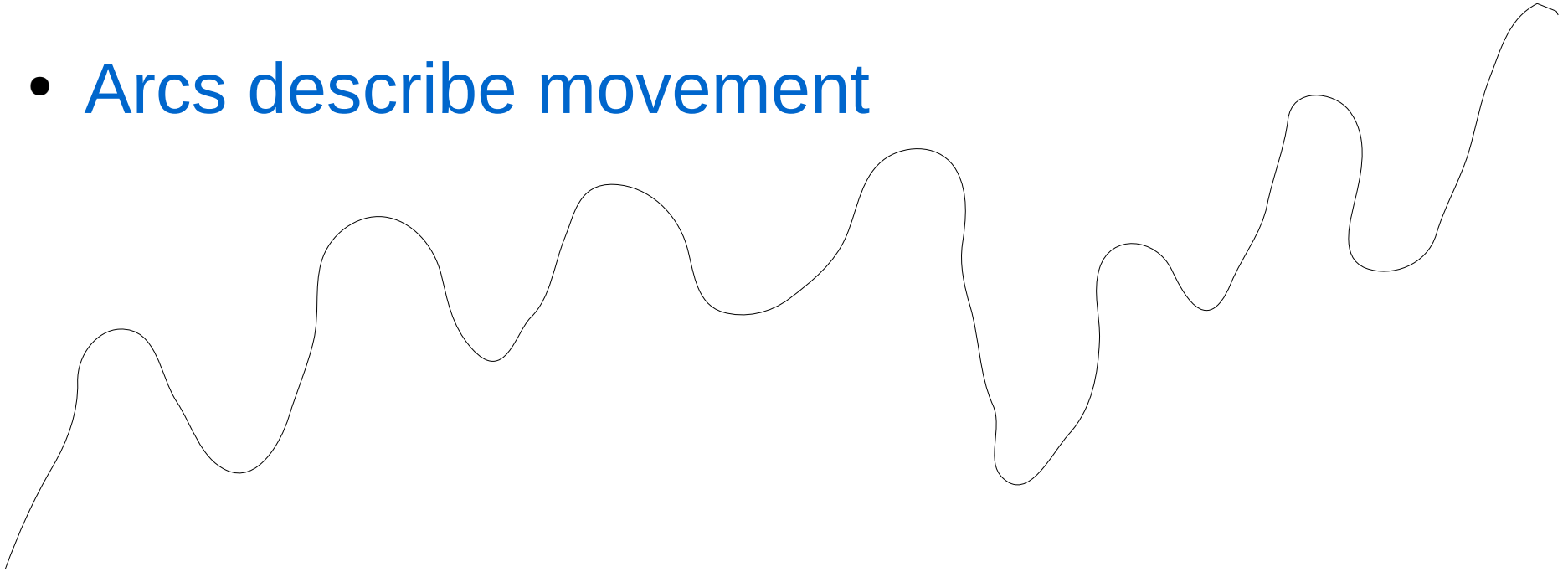
Romantic Comedy

- Starts okay, big rise, a little fall



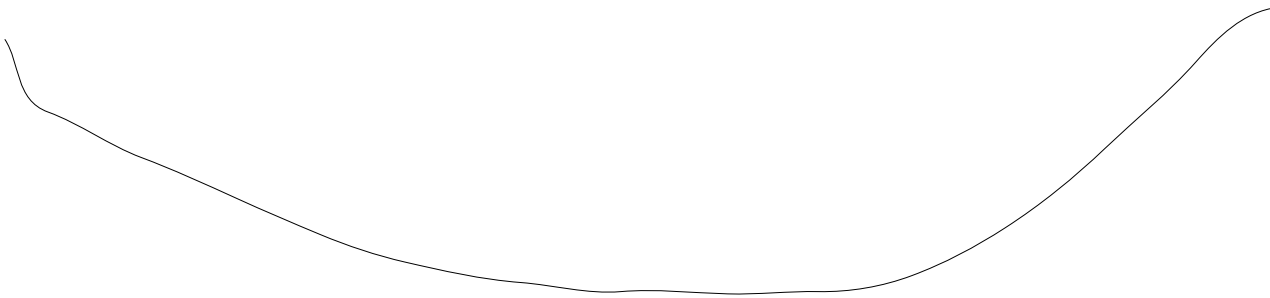
Tension and Arcs

- Arcs describe movement



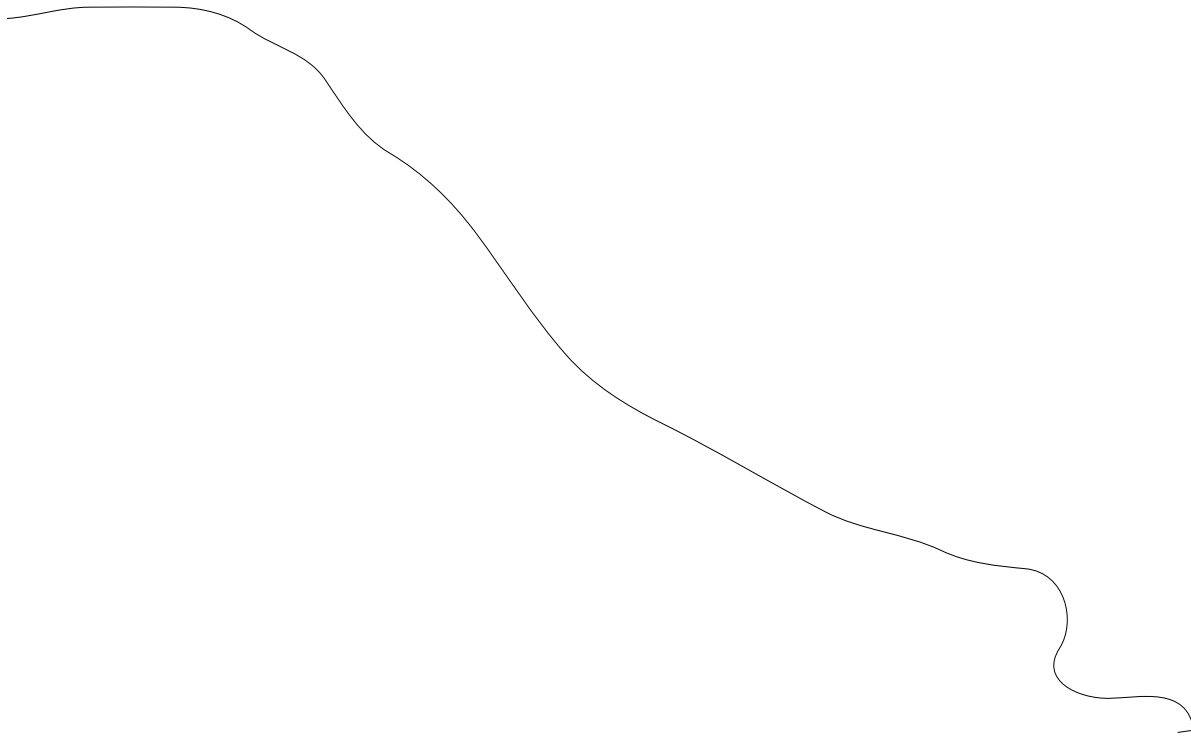
Horror Arc

- Starts, drops, maybe rises



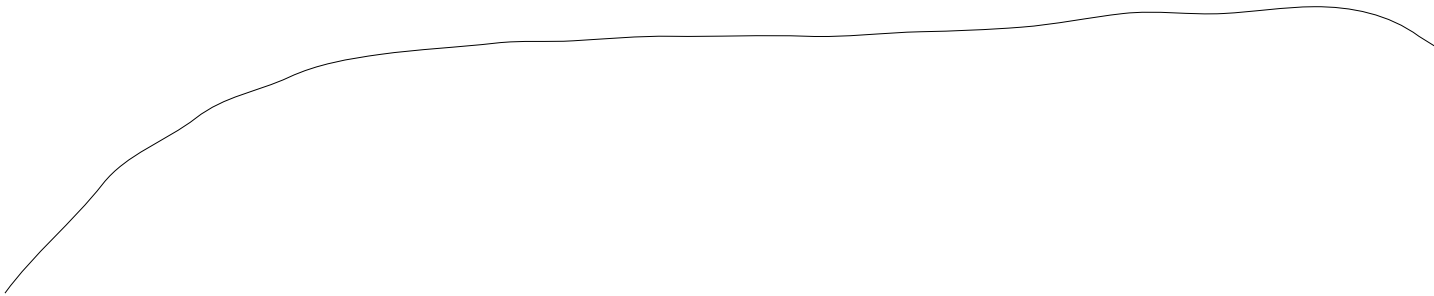
Tragedy Arc

- Don't get too attached to any given character



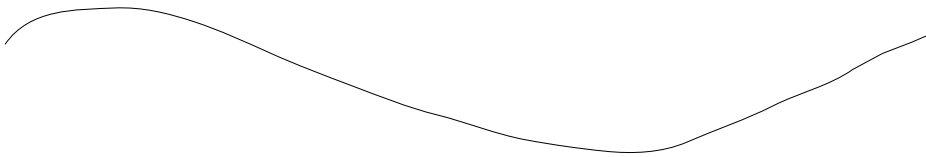
Nonfiction - Encouraging

- Personal essay and memoir emphasizing triumph over adversity
- Humor, amazing facts, news of the weird
- Blogs with a call to action



Nonfiction – Tragic, Cautionary

- Cautionary tales by their nature follow a downward arc
- Try to find something hopeful for an epilog



Plot Twists

- Be mindful of your genre's conventions
- Apparent endings as a way to define your style

Getting Off The Stage

- Genre-appropriate
- Ending for all time, or just for this book?
- What do you want the reader to feel at the end?

The Value of Story Arc

- You will understand yourself as a writer
- You will understand your genre
- You will learn about logic in story-telling
- You will get the vision in your head on the page

My Favorite Books

- Story Genius: How To Use Brain Science To Go Beyond Outlining And Write A Riveting Novel
Lisa Cron
Ten Speed Press, 2016
- Blockbuster Plots
Martha Alderson
Illusion Press, 2004

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- Lanilongshore.wordpress.com
- [Death By Chenille \(Smashwords\)](#)
- [When Chenille Is Not Enough \(Smashwords\)](#)
- [The Chenille Ultimatum \(Smashwords, Amazon\)](#)