

# Genre: Thriller\*

How will the protagonist deal with evil forces in everyday life?

<b>Genre</b>	Thriller focuses on the protagonist defeating the evil antagonist to restore safety.
<b>Subgenres</b>	Child in Jeopardy, Espionage, Financial, Hitchcock, Journalism, Legal, Medical, Military, Political, Psychological, Serial Killer, Woman in Jeopardy.
<b>Expectations</b>	<b>Focus:</b> Attain <b>safety</b> by <b>defeating the evil antagonist</b> . <b>Values:</b> Range between <b>damnation (worse than death) and life</b> . <b>Emotions:</b> Feel <b>excitement</b> . <b>Climax:</b> Protagonist experiences <b>damnation or life</b> based on subgenre.
<b>Conventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The antagonist's (i.e., villain's) object of desire (i.e., MacGuffin).</li><li>- A series of false clues (i.e., red herrings) that mislead story's hero.</li><li>- The villain makes the hero's plight personal and painful.</li><li>- The hero must act by a deadline but fails, wasting scarce time.</li></ul>
<b>Scenes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A trigger event that highlights hero faces a master villain.</li><li>- Someone voices praise for the villain's intellect, power, or results.</li><li>- The table turns, and hero becomes the victim.</li><li>- At the climax, the hero is at the mercy of the villain.</li><li>- A false ending.</li><li>- A true ending and the outcome is based on the subgenre.</li></ul>
<b>Characters</b>	<b>Protagonist:</b> A character with traits from the Action genre. <b>Antagonist:</b> An evil villain with traits from Horror who committed a crime. <b>Others:</b> Various characters based on the subgenre.
<b>Plot</b>	<b>A:</b> A crime forces hero to seek safety by defeating evil villain.
<b>Subplot</b>	<b>B:</b> (Subplots vary based on chosen subgenre.) <b>C:</b> <b>D:</b> <b>E:</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>External:</b> Damnation vs. Life (Life prevails when hero outwits evil villain). <b>Internal:</b> Varies by subgenre. <b>Philosophical:</b> Varies by subgenre.

\*This profile was inspired by Shawn Coyne and the editors at [storygrid.com/thriller-genre/](http://storygrid.com/thriller-genre/).

