

Example: HOOK Story Beat and Thriller and Mystery Genre's Key Scenes and Conventions

Title	SCENE (Int...)	SCENE (POV)	NOTES (Card)	GENRE (Key Scene)	GENRE (Convention)	SCENE (ISSUES/ACTIONS)
 2 *  S3: Killings Are Routine (Bar Rant)	+3	Detective Ed Morris	CARD: Detective Ed Morris unfazed by the murder, rants in bar two blocks from murder scene, talking about how killings are routine in Chicago. The scene hints that Morris is on the take, living a lifestyle a detective could not afford (e.g., yacht, moving to Florida).	 THRILLER: Someone states external theme. - Life prevails over damnation when the protagonist outwits evil villain. - Damnation reigns when protagonist fails to exercise gifts.		
 3 *  S1: Kyle Reports Fraud [FB]	+3	Kyle West	Kyle West, VP over Finance, uncovers a real estate fraud and hands a report to his boss, Allen Tantros, outlining suspicions.	 1. THRILLER: Bond readers to the hero.  2. THRILLER/MYSTERY: Hint at the MacGuffin.	 THRILLER: Master Villain's MacGuffin hinted at from the start.	[Flashback – This scene takes place BEFORE the shooting.]
 4 *  S1: Tantros Fires Kyle [FB]	+1	Kyle West	CARD: Tantros can't risk exposure and the loss of millions, so he hires Jack Wilkes to kill Kyle West.		 THRILLER: MacGuffin: The master villain's MacGuffin expands to include fraud, cover-up, AND murder.	[Flashback – This scene takes place BEFORE the shooting.] MOTIVATION: Pure greed and self-preservation.
 5 M0: Kyle Regrets Reporting Fraud [FB]	0	Kyle West	CARD: Kyle mulls if reporting fraud got him added to the Reduction In Force (RIF). He invites fiancée, Cathy Trent, to dinner to delay wedding.			[Flashback – This scene takes place BEFORE the shooting.]
 6 *  S1: Tantros Hires Killer [FB]	+2	Allen Tantros	CARD: Tantros can't risk exposure and the loss of millions, so he hires Jack Wilkes to kill Kyle West.		 THRILLER: MacGuffin: The master villain's MacGuffin expands to include fraud, cover-up, AND murder.	[Flashback – This scene takes place BEFORE the shooting.] MOTIVATION: Pure greed and self-preservation.
 7 M0: Kyle Defers Wedding [FB]	+3	Kyle West	CARD: Kyle and Cathy discuss the job loss, but he's unsettled when Cathy seems as if she doesn't care.			[Flashback – This scene takes place BEFORE the shooting.] ► Make sure this is an emotional RED FLAG that Cathy does not care in the actual scene text.
 8 *  S1: Killer Botches Hit [FB]	+5	Jack Wilkes	CARD: Jack Wilkes lines up the shot but kills Cathy when Kyle stoops to pick up the dropped engagement ring.	 THRILLER: Hired killer Jack Wilkes bungles the hit (third of inciting crimes), killing Kyle West's fiancée, Cathy Trent.		[Flashback – This scene takes place BEFORE the shooting.]
 9 *   S1: Boss Orders Wreck	+3	Allen Tantros	CARD: Tantros plans Kyle will leave Chicago to handle parents' estate when they're killed in car wreck.	 MYSTERY: To recover from bungling the kill of Kyle West, Jack Wilkes appeases Allen Tantros by agreeing to murder Kyle's parents for free, which will force the whistleblower to leave Chicago and cause the fraud case to fail.	 MYSTERY: Interaction between master villain Allen Tantros and hired killer Jack Wilkes hints that the assassin's MacGuffin is more than pure money. Wilkes has a reputation as the best hired killer with a lifetime success rate of 100%.	[Realtime - A return to current day and this scene takes place AFTER the shooting.]
 10 *  M0: Parents Travel	+5	Kyle West	CARD: Kyle visits with his dad by phone as parents drive to Cathy's funeral, but the phone goes dead after his dad talked to mom, loud pop, and her scream.	 MYSTERY: Recap of the victims so far in the story are Cathy Trent (Kyle's fiancée), Chad West (Kyle's father), and Heather West (Kyle's mother).		[NOTE: In the scene, remind readers of who is who, especially the victims and their roles in the story.]

