

## 43 - ANATOMY OF A THRILLER

### THRILLERS:

- There are many kinds of thrillers
  - Whodunit?
    - KNIVES OUT/MURDER MYSTERY
  - Person in Jeopardy.
    - THE NET
  - Action.
    - MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
  - Investigative.
    - SE7EN
  - Horror.
    - LONGLEGS/THE SIXTH SENSE
  - Subtle
    - WOMEN ON THE TRAIN
- SPECIFIC ELEMENTS NEEDED – FEATURE OR PILOT
  - Vulnerable leading character
  - Personal Connections to plot
  - Red Herrings
  - Dead bodies
  - Life or Death Stakes
  - Obstacles become personal
  - Building in tension
  - Fast first act, deeper second act, short final act
  - HAVE A CLIMACTIC POINT
  - SECRETS
    - Give the to everyone – the bigger the better
    - HARLEN COBEN examples
  - MYSTERY
    - Must be a winding web
    - Reverse engineer it
    - WE SHOULD NEVER SEE IT COMING
      - SOTL example
  - TWISTS
    - DON'T MAKE THE MOVIE ONLY WORK IF THE TWIST HAPPENS
    - Keep us guessing
    - Subvert expectations
  - Closer to 90 pages than 120
  - STUDY THRILLER NOVELS – Write your scenes like chapters
  - Look at the script from every character's point of view – they all have a story/secrets/hiding something.

ONLY go with the ending that BLOWS YOU AWAY.

STUDY STUDY STUDY!