

Episode62 The Element of Supernatural Across Genres

HOW THE SUPERNATURAL CHANGES BY GENRE

Horror: THE EXORCIST, CONJURING

- Purpose: Fear of the unknown
- Represents: Loss of control, death, guilt
- Rule: Keep mystery, don't over-explain

Audience wants: tension, dread, unease

Drama: WHAT DREAMS MAY COME, CITY OF ANGELS

- Purpose: Emotional metaphor
- Represents: grief, memory, unresolved feelings

Audience wants: catharsis, connection

Romance: GHOST, HEAVEN CAN WAIT

- Purpose: Fate, destiny, soul connection
- Represents: "meant to be"

Audience wants: emotional intensity plus magic

Thriller: THE SIXTH SENSE, THE SHINING

- Purpose: Doubt and ambiguity
- Represents: Is it real or not?

Audience wants: tension plus uncertainty

Comedy (Hidden Gold) SHAWN OF THE DEAD, BEETLEJUICE, GHOSTBUSTERS

- Purpose: Contrast
- Represents: absurdity of normal vs supernatural

Audience wants: surprise plus relatability

Rules Matter

Even supernatural worlds need logic:

- What can/can't happen?
- What are the consequences?

Inconsistency breaks immersion FAST

Meaning is more important than the Cool Factor

Ask: "What does this supernatural element represent?"

Examples:

- Ghost equals guilt
- Magic equals control or power
- Time travel equals regret

Tone Must Match Genre

A ghost in:

- Horror equals terrifying
- Romance equals comforting

- Comedy equals awkward

Less is More (Most of the Time)

Especially in horror & thriller:

- Suggestion > explanation

Audience Awareness

You need to know:

- Are they here to feel safe?
- Be scared?
- Cry?
- Escape?

The supernatural should SERVE that emotional goal

HOW TO GET INTO YOUR AUDIENCE'S HEAD

Here's a simple trick you can share on your podcast:

Ask 3 questions:

What does my audience fear?

What do they long for?

What do they believe (or want to believe)?

Then align your supernatural element to that.

Remember Audience Psychology

- What your audience *feels*
- What they *want* from it