

Episode 74 – THINK LIKE A SCREENWRITER

THINK LIKE A SCREENWRITER

- Reading a Movie Like a Detective.
 - STOP watching movies passively. START studying screenplays.
 - READ. STUDY. WATCH. REPEAT.
 - What's the filmmaker trying to make you notice? What are they hoping you'll overlook?"
- How does it get a reader EMOTIONALLY INVESTED?
 - Scene pacing
 - Building tension
 - Emotional highs and lows
 - Character goals
 - Conflict
 - Why some endings linger for years

Train Your Creative Brain: EXERCISES

Observation Drill: Spend five minutes in a coffee shop and write down:

- Five unique people
- Their habits
- Their clothing
- What you think they do for a living
- No judging, just observing.

The "What If?" Chain – like: What if your phone rang... and it was yourself calling from tomorrow?:

- DON'T STOP THERE!
- What if nobody believed you?
- What if tomorrow-you was lying?
- What if answering changed the future?

Within minutes you've got the seed of a screenplay.

Character Notebook:

- Create one new character every day.

- Not just a name. Give them:
 - A secret
 - A fear
 - A contradiction
 - One strange habit
 - Something they desperately want

Idea Generation Game:

- Pick three random words: Elevator. Birthday. Crow
- Force yourself to connect them into a story.
- This trains your brain to build unexpected connections

Increase the Stakes:

- Take a boring scene, like someone ordering coffee. Then add:
 - They're being followed.
 - They have only two dollars left.
 - They have a gun in their pocket.
 - They're meeting someone who betrayed them.
 - Suddenly the same scene becomes compelling.

Originality Exercise:

- Ask: What's the obvious version? Then deliberately reject it.
- Changing perspective transforms a familiar premise.