

JEFFREY ALAN SCHECHTER'S

MY STORY
CAN BEAT UP
YOUR STORY!



LUNCH SERIES



PART I

SOME CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Got into the WGA with action films such as **BLOODSPORT II**, **THE TOWER**, and **STREETKNIGHT**.
- Optioned and rewrote **LITTLE BIG FOOT** for Working Title Films
- Rewrote **THE AMAZING PANDA ADVENTURE** for Warner Brothers
- Original writer for **DENNIS THE MENACE STRIKES AGAIN**.
- Script doctor on **IT TAKES TWO**.
- Sold spec screenplay **STANLEY'S CUP** to Walt Disney Pictures in a deal worth over a million dollars.
- Rewrote **I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS** for the Walt Disney Company
- Wrote the TV movie **BRINK!** for the Disney Channel. WGA nominee.
- Wrote **BEETHOVEN'S 3RD** for Universal Studios.
- Diversified into animation, live-action television, writing dozens of episodes for series such as **THE FAMOUS JETT JACKSON**, **ANIMORPHS**, **MARTIN MYSTERY**, **TOTALLY SPIES**, **TEAM GALAXY**, **GET ED**, **FREEFONIX**, **DI-GATA DEFENDERS**, **HOT WHEELS BATTLE FORCE 5**, and **JANE AND THE DRAGON**.
- Wrote two Care Bears CG movies. WGC Nominee for **THE BIG WISH MOVIE**
- Two Emmy nominations for writing/story editing on **STRANGE DAYS AT BLAKE HOLSEY HIGH** for NBC/Discovery Channel.
- Diversified into drama with the Hallmark Channel TV movie **OUT OF THE WOODS**.
- Co-created several TV series including **OVERRULED!**, currently airing on the Disney Channel and **STARZ**. Gemini Award for producing.
- Co-wrote the hockey film **BREAKAWAY**
- Wrote the 4-hour miniseries **EXPLODING SUN** for Muse/Sonar Entertainment

EPISODIC TELEVISION

Written -- 81 1/2 hours
Story Edited -- 160 1/2 hours



Writers Guild
of Canada

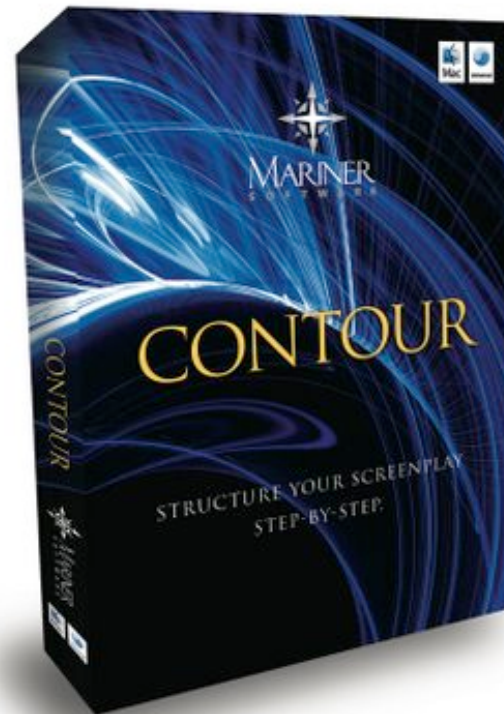
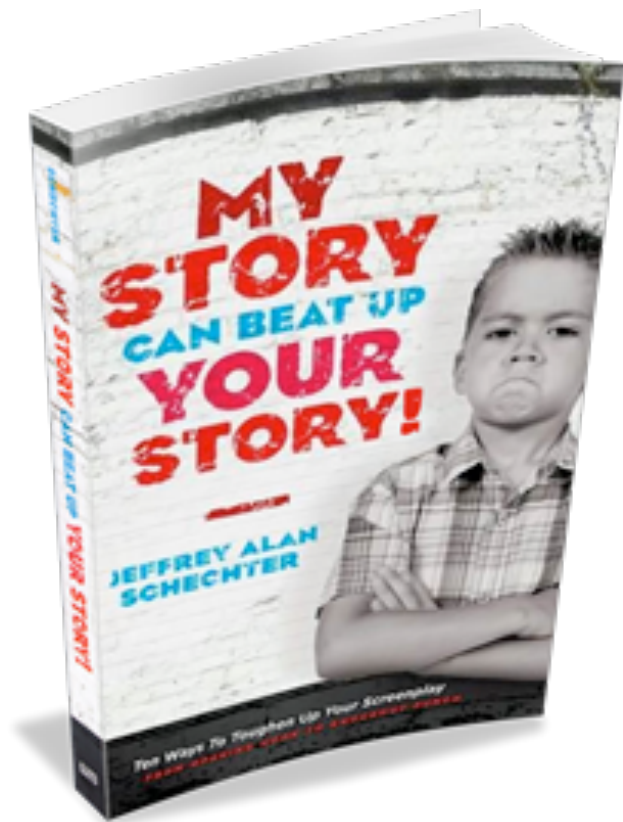


FEATURES & TV MOVIES

- 7 Family Features
- 5 Animated Features
- 4 Action Features
- 4 Comedy Features
- 1 Sci-Fi Action Feature
- 3 Family TV Movies
- 2 Drama TV Movies
- 1 Action TV Movie
- 1 Comedy TV Movie
- 1 Action/Fantasy Miniseries
- 1 Western Miniseries
- 1 Sci-Fi Miniseries
- 1 Million Dollar Spec Screenplay
- 1 Zombie Western TV Movie

What do they all have in common?

Everything I write utilizes and is informed by the same principles you will learn in these three workshops.



SHAMELESS PLUG ALERT

4 Questions

3 Acts

4 Archetypes

1 QuickPitch

What Must Your Story Do?

“Enable a **sympathetic** character to overcome **a series of increasingly difficult, seemingly insurmountable** obstacles and achieve a **compelling** desire.” (Michael Hauge)

The Four Questions

1. Who is your Hero?

A sympathetic person

2. What is your Hero trying to accomplish?

3. Who is trying to stop your Hero?

4. What happens if your Hero fails?

How to Make Your Hero Sympathetic

Suffers Undeserved Misfortune

Pets the dog

(Hero is nice to animals, kids, or old people)

Hero is quirky and/or cool.

Top 40 Movies

Domestic Box Office, Non-Sequel

Avatar	Alice in Wonderland (2010)
Titanic	Forrest Gump
Star Wars	Transformers
E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial	Iron Man
The Lion King	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
The Hunger Games	The Lord of the Rings
Spider-Man	Independence Day
Finding Nemo	Pirates of the Caribbean
The Passion of the Christ	The Sixth Sense
Jurassic Park	Up

Inception	I Am Legend
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	The Blind Side
Home Alone	Monsters, Inc.
The Hangover	Despicable Me
Shrek	Batman (1989)
The Amazing Spider-Man	Night at the Museum
The Incredibles	Men in Black
How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Raiders of the Lost Ark
Jaws	Cars
Star Trek	Bruce Almighty

The Four Questions

1. Who is your Hero?

A sympathetic person

2. What is your Hero trying to accomplish?

A compelling goal

3. Who is trying to stop your Hero?

4. What happens if your Hero fails?

**How do you make
sure your goal is
compelling?**

**Give it a human face
through a Stakes
Character!**

The Four Questions

1. Who is your Hero?

A sympathetic person

2. What is your Hero trying to accomplish?

A compelling goal

3. Who is trying to stop your Hero?

A powerful, committed Villain

4. What happens if your Hero fails?

How to Make Your Villain Unsympathetic

Causes Undeserved Misfortune

Kicks the dog

(Villain is nasty to animals, kids, or old people)



“Can you people not see that I'm busy? I'm working. This is my office. Do I come to your office and ask for an autograph? I don't think so. Jesus. What an ugly dog.”

“Tin Cup” (1996)

Written by John Norville and Ron Shelton

The Four Questions

1. Who is your Hero?

A sympathetic person

2. What is your Hero trying to accomplish?

A compelling goal

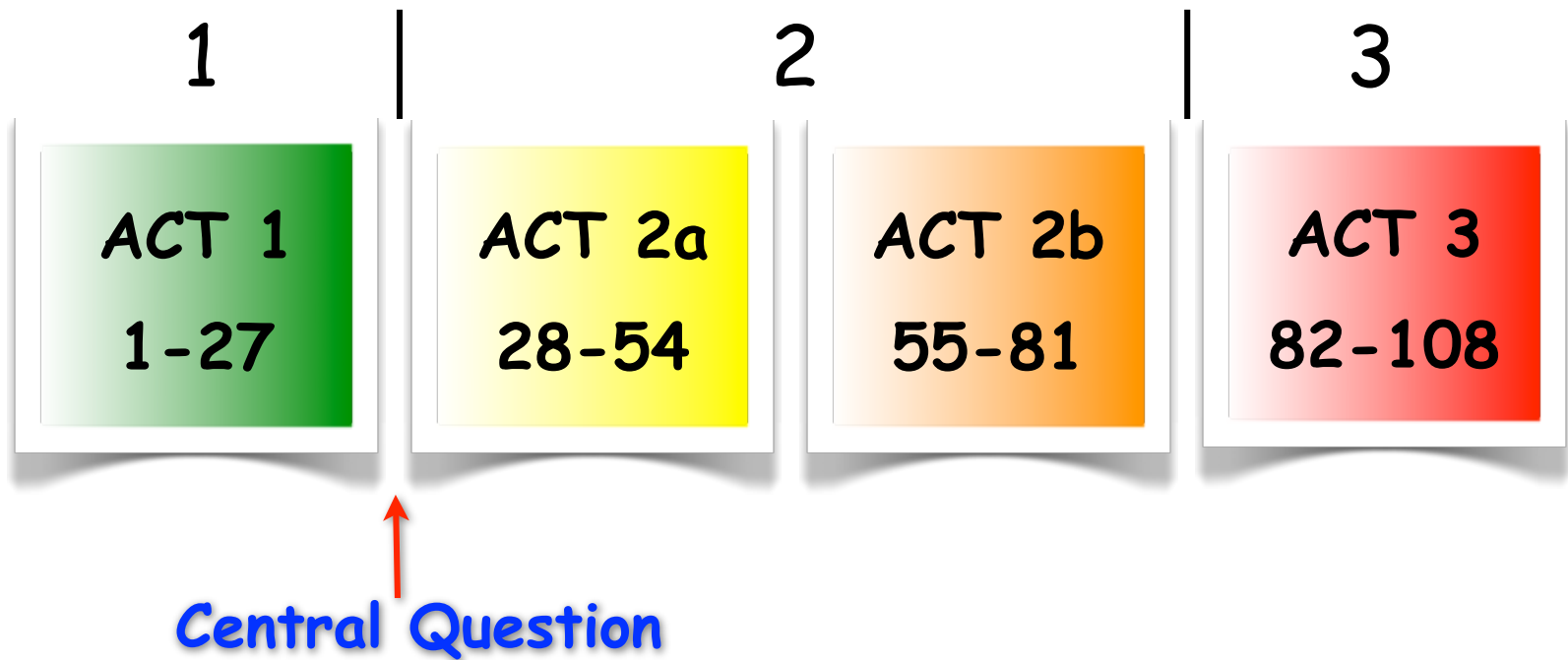
3. Who is trying to stop your Hero?

A powerful, committed Villain

4. What happens if your Hero fails?

A life or death consequence

3 Acts



What is the "Central Question?"

The **Central Question** is the question that, once it's answered definitively "yes" or "no", the movie is over.

What is the "Central Question?"

STAR WARS -- Will Luke destroy the Deathstar, save the Princess, and become a Jedi like his father?

What is the "Central Question?"

DARK KNIGHT-- Will Batman defeat the Joker, get Rachel to love him, and finally be the Hero?

What is the "Central Question?"

SKYFALL-- Will Bond defeat Silva, save 'M', and prove that he still has what it takes to be 007?

What is the "Central Question?"

THE INCREDIBLES-- Will Mr. Incredible defeat Syndrome, learn to work with and trust others, and put his family over his superhero aspirations?

**A Good Central Question
has three parts:**

1. Physical

Means alot to alot

2. Emotional

Means alot to a few

3. Spiritual

Means alot to the Hero

STAR WARS -- Will Luke destroy the
Deathstar (**PHYSICAL**), save the Princess
(**EMOTIONAL**), and become a Jedi like his
father (**SPIRITUAL**)?

DARK KNIGHT-- Will Batman defeat the
Joker (**PHYSICAL**), get Rachel to love him
(**EMOTIONAL**), and finally be the Hero (**SPIRITUAL**)?

SKYFALL-- Will Bond defeat Silva (PHYSICAL),
save 'M' (EMOTIONAL),, and prove that he still
has what it takes to be 007 (SPIRITUAL),?

THE INCREDIBLES-- Will Mr. Incredible
defeat Syndrome (**PHYSICAL**), learn to work
with and trust others (**EMOTIONAL**), and put
his family over his superhero aspirations?
(**SPIRITUAL**)

The Four Archetypes

1. Orphan Hero is a real or figurative Orphan
2. Wanderer Hero sets out on a journey to resolve Central Question
3. Warrior Hero fights unsuccessfully to resolve Central Question
4. Martyr Hero must be willing to sacrifice self to resolve Central Question

Four Archetypes



Name this movie...

"When Carl, a childless, heartbroken widower is threatened with being sent to a retirement home, he escapes in his beloved home propelled by thousands of balloons and with Russell a fatherless boy accidentally along for the ride. Landing near his life's dream destination, Carl and Russell discover a rare bird as well as Muntz, Carl's childhood adventuring idol, only to discover that Muntz is a malicious man who is willing to do anything to capture the bird and redeem his own tarnished name. Carl and Russell barely escape Muntz, and Carl sacrifices the house, the last connection he has to his wife to save the lives of the bird and Russell."

What does the QuickPitch do for you?

It tells you if your story can go the distance.

It lays out your entire story based on the
4 Archetypes.

The QuickPitch Formula

"When a TYPE OF PERSON has/does/
wants/gets A, (s)he gets/does/tries/learns B,
only to discover that C now happens,
and (s)he must ultimately respond by doing D."

"When a TYPE OF PERSON has/does/

wants/gets A,

Orphan - Act 1

(s)he gets/does/tries/learns B,

Wanderer - Act 2a

only to discover that C now happens,

Warrior - Act 2b

and (s)he must ultimately respond by doing D."

Martyr - Act 3

The QuickPitch

“When Carl, a childless, heartbroken widower is threatened with being sent to a retirement home, he escapes in his beloved home propelled by thousands of balloons and with Russell a fatherless boy accidentally along for the ride (A - Orphan - Act 1). Landing near his life’s dream destination, Carl and Russell discover a rare bird as well as Muntz, Carl’s childhood adventuring idol (B - Wanderer - Act 2a), only to discover that Muntz is a malicious man who is willing to do anything to capture the bird and redeem his own tarnished name. Carl and Russell barely escape Muntz (C - Warrior - Act 2b), and Carl sacrifices the house, the last connection he has to his wife to save the lives of the bird and Russell (D - Martyr - Act 3).”

When a poor artist wins a ticket to America on the Titanic, he saves the life of a beautiful society girl who is trapped in a loveless engagement (ORPHAN). The artist and the girl spend time together and fall in love (WANDERER), only to discover that the Titanic has hit an iceberg and is now sinking. The artist must get the girl away from her fiancé and off the ship to safety (WARRIOR), however she refuses to leave without him so he must figure out how to save both of their lives (MARTYR)

After hardened MI6 agent James Bond is shot on a mission and presumed killed he takes the opportunity to disappear; a man damaged both physically and emotionally. Bond rejoins MI6 after discovering that MI6 and 'M' are being targeted, and is dispatched to find the man behind the plot (ORPHAN). Bond finds the man, a former MI6 agent named Silva, and successfully captures him only to discover that being caught was part of Silva's plan. Silva escapes and is now on the loose in London where he has easier access to 'M' (WANDERER). Bond pursues Silva, and after saving 'M' from an attempted assassination Bond kidnaps 'M' and takes her to Skyfall, his old family estate in Scotland (WARRIOR) in order to lure Silva and make an heroic stand to defeat Silva and save 'M'.

**TO BE
CONTINUED...→**

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YOUR STORY!**



LUNCH SERIES



PART 2