

Create
Passion and Conflict



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Many writers shy away from writing intense or passionate scenes because they can be difficult to write. I am a strong advocate for having a really good understanding of your own characters prior to writing these intense scenes because without having a clear idea as to the direction of the storyline or how the characters are going to react if you place them in an unexpected romantic clinch, then it is going to make writing these scenes so much harder.

If you consider that when you have an argument with a loved one, you often instinctively feel or anticipate what they are going to say ahead of time, and this is because your sense of familiarity makes it easier to know what they are thinking at any given time, helping you to understand why they react in a certain way. This is because you may know them almost as well as you know yourself.

If you have children, then you will have no doubt experienced the same thing with them during any times of conflict, you know them so well that their actual responses can be playing in your mind prior to them even uttering a word.

Just consider how much easier it will be to write those typically difficult scenes in the future if you can really bond with your characters in the first instance and maintain that rapport as they develop. If this sounds a little crazy that I am suggesting you treat these characters as if they are living breathing entities, then think about it for a moment, whilst we all know that these characters are born out of our own imaginations and therefore do not exist outside of the paper they are written on, the reality is that you can breathe life into them so much whilst you are developing your story that, they do indeed feel real.

If you have ever created a scene where your character dies and you have felt the raw pain of grief rip through you as you watched them breathe their last, then congratulations, you are on the right track to creating believable and inspirational characters and becoming a writer of substance. Emotionally connecting to your character will help you to comprehend their thought processes (as you see it) and you can really get under their skin. Adding scenes of some intensity will enrich the story and keep reader interest strong.

Creating a character profile is so important but creating a character profile that is rich in information will stand you in good stead as you develop that character yet further and these profiles can be built upon substantially as the character grows. It is a good idea to keep a hard copy of the profile on your desk so that as new ideas spring to mind, you are able to add a simple note or refer to the profile to check your facts.

In addition to you being able to create a powerful character through an in-depth profile, just remember that those creations will naturally interact within your story and this will automatically cause friction, passion, love, lust, sadness or even fear and this adds continuously to their extensive make-up. The events that they experience too can also make a character act differently.

Picture the following:

Amanda is an athletic 15 year old, head and shoulders above everyone else in her class. She has always enjoyed her height and build, feeling a sense of superiority over the other girls who are shapeless and immature by comparison. Amanda has a weakness however, she is infatuated with Gareth, a tall, handsome and clever student who is destined for academic greatness, or so the class feels... Amanda has never felt this way before, these sudden feelings have hit her like a ton of bricks and for once she feels vulnerable to the point of following him everywhere.

Her heart began thudding underneath her rib cage; Gareth was walking towards her, his tousled brown hair glinting copper in the summer sun. Breath drawn in sharply, she watched as his exaggerated swagger brought him to her side in a soft fluid motion, a multitude of romantic scenarios racing through her mind, this was it; he was actually coming to ask her out. A moment of panic engulfed her as she realised

that she couldn't think of a single intelligent thing to say. He placed his hands on her shoulders, leaning forward, his fringe brushing against the paleness of her forehead.

"You have to stop this Amanda, it's embarrassing" He paused to look over his shoulder at his friends, then returned to gaze into her horrified eyes as reality dawned " You're stalking me and I'm getting a hard time over it. I'm not interested in you as anything more than a friend maybe. You're just not my type"

Somehow Amanda made it to the girl's toilets before being violently sick. How stupid had she been to think that someone so amazing would fancy her. As she retched again, Amanda suddenly hated her body and shape in a way that she hadn't known was possible, of course Gareth would want some dainty little female on his arm, not her, a giant!! Suddenly she hated Gareth for hurting her so badly and making the whole world witness her shame.