

CWC-MARIN PRESENTS

When Plots Collide

Create Suspenseful Page-Turners by Weaving Multiple Storylines

JOHN BYRNE BARRY

Sunday, October 22, 2017 • 2 pm

Book Passage • 51 Tamal Vista Blvd • Corte Madera

There's an old storytelling adage that you should get your protagonist stuck in a tree and then throw rocks at him. Keep the trouble coming, and your readers will keep turning the pages.

One way to ramp up the suspense is to create storylines that follow other characters, who grapple with their own hungers and hurdles, but also throw rocks at your protagonist. So even when your protagonist is offstage, his or her problems continue to pile up.

John Byrne Barry, CWC–Marin board member and webmaster, is author of *Wasted: Murder in the Recycle Berkeley Yard* and *Bones in the Wash: Politics is Tough. Family is Tougher*. His novels are “page-turners with a conscience” — the plots race like a rollercoaster, while the characters face tough moral choices. He's currently working on a family thriller about euthanasia.

He'll be mapping out plot structure using Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* as well as his own *Bones in the Wash* as examples. (You don't need to have read those books.) Bring your plot ideas as there will be time to help make your book more suspenseful.



Opening Act 1 pm — Share Your Inciting Incident

If you're writing fiction, you need to know what your inciting incident is. Share it with fellow writers and get feedback.

MEETINGS: \$5 MEMBERS • \$10 NON-MEMBERS

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