

PAGE-TURNING TECHNIQUES

"One rule of screenwriting: does the reader want to turn the page?"

LESLIE DIXON

Utilize these techniques to craft a "page-turning" screenplay.

- Cliffhangers:** End scenes with suspense or tension.
- Character Depth:** Create unique, multi-dimensional characters.
- High Stakes:** Make the outcome important for your characters.
- Promises & Payoffs:** Set up early promises and deliver satisfying payoffs.
- Conflict:** Include obstacles in every scene.
- Clear Goals:** Give your characters clear, compelling goals.
- Relatable Themes:** Use themes that resonate personally with readers.
- Emotion:** Elicit strong emotions with key story moments.
- Dynamic Dialogue:** Keep dialogue sharp, distinct, and full of subtext.
- Visual Writing:** Use compelling, visual descriptions.
- Dramatic Irony:** Use dramatic irony to create tension and engage readers.
- Twists:** Surprise readers with unexpected plot developments.
- Time Pressure:** Add a ticking clock or deadline to increase urgency.
- Fast Pacing:** Keep scenes and dialogue concise and impactful.

THE SCRIPT READER