THE NEWEST & BEST

SPY FICTION BOOK

OR

(YOUR OWN ORIGINAL TITLE)

BY

(YOUR NAME OR COVER NAME)

SPY

SPY FICTION AUTHOR GUIDE

So you want to write a spy fiction story or book. How to get started? Well...we've got you covered. There are specific "main ingredients" you'll need for your story and then there's the "bells and whistles" or the extra imaginative aspects that you'll add in as you write.

To get started on your story, we've outlined some thinking and planning tools that might help you organize your thoughts and get your creative juices flowing. You can flesh out each section in any order you see fit. You may want to think about where your story takes place before you know anything about the main character – so feel free to skip around in this template.

MAIN CHARACTER

You may want to start with the **MAIN CHARACTER** or your story's protagonist. The reader may see every action through the eyes (and brain) of this person (or animal?) and therefore, you need to get to know them – or get creating them.

Main Character's Name:

Gender: M / F / Other

Age:

Height:

Hair color and style:

Eye color and expression:

His or her voice (tone, accent, etc.):

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His or her walk and way of moving:

Profession and/or area of study if a student:

Hobbies:

Daily habits:

Health or illness:

Favorite color:

Favorite belongings:

Personal style/tastes in music, etc.:

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Where does your main character live?

What does their house/room look like?

Family background and hometown:

General behavior and outlook on life:

Main goal in life (what your character wants to achieve more than anything else):

Biggest problem in life:

Your character's best friends (if any):

Your character's worst enemies (if any):

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SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

In addition to a main or central character, there's often key **SUPPORTING CHARACTERS** in every spy story. Fleshing these people out will help you define the details of your story and the people or animals who your reader will "meet" in their journey.

USE THE TEMPLATE BELOW TO BRAINSTORM ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS FOR YOUR STORY.

Character's Name:

Gender:

Age:

Physical Description:

General behavior and outlook on life:

Main goal in life (what this character wants to achieve more than anything else):

Biggest problem in life:

Relationship with main character:

Relationship with other characters:

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LOCATION

Using sources of inspiration (maps, photos), describe the environment or **LOCATION** of your story in as much detail as possible. Since this is fiction, it's okay to use your imagination! Put your main character in an environment that feels interesting and "real" to the reader. You may need to do research to truly understand your setting and get the finer details woven into your story.

If this is a very realistic setting, where does it take place (city, country, etc.)?

If this is an imaginary place, what is it called?

What is the weather like?

How does this setting look? Is it ugly or beautiful? How so?

List a few objects, people, vehicles, or structures your character might see in this environment:

What does this place smell like?

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How does your main character FEEL when he or she is in this setting?

Does your main character know this setting well, or is he or she learning about the environment?

Is this environment safe or dangerous? If it's dangerous, how so? (Note: some element of danger makes for a more interesting story!)

Mode of transportation in this place (how does your character get around?)

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GADGET

Every good spy needs a **GADGET** or two to help them on their mission. Perhaps you will want to create a never-before-seen gadget for your spy. You might also research gadgets used by real spies in the past to draw inspiration.

INCREDIBLE SHRINKING BUGS

Listening devices have transformed over time from the size of an adult's fist to that of a pencil eraser. We can only guess how small they are today!

Where would your spy place a bug? What kind of information would they overhear?

FOUNTAIN PEN CAMERA

Most phones come with cameras, but they also carry a security risk. Hiding cameras in everyday objects avoids the risk of hacking and allows spies to take covert photos.

Describe an object where your spy could place a camera. What are they hoping to take a picture of?

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COURIER SHOES WITH CONTAINER

Concealments allow spies to hide information and equipment, but they must choose concealments carefully. One out of place object could blow their cover.

What accessories would your spy use as a concealment device? What would they hide?

POCKET LOCK PICKING KIT

Lock picking is a specialized skill. Using different picks and tension tools, a trained spy can open most common locks.

Describe a situation where a lock picking kit would come in handy for your spy. Are they breaking in or breaking out?

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PLOT/ACTION

Okay now it's time for the nitty gritty. What is the **PLOT** of your story? You need to define the main action or mission and the problems and challenges that your character(s) will encounter. This is where the **ACTION** gets formulated and comes to life. If you're looking to mirror reality, you may need to do some research on real spy missions and real spies. This could inspire your story and help you to understand what spies do, think and feel as they run missions. The next few pages will help you decide what you want your story to be about.

Consider the plot of your story. What is your character's main objective in the story?

Where will your main character go, and what will he or she do?

Is there a problem that they are trying to solve? If so, what will the solution be?

What is the greatest danger your main character faces?

Will there be a climax to the story? If so, what will it be?

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PLOT CHART

Before you start writing, it helps to outline the main parts of your story. Below is a chart that many writers use to help them create a compelling story. You can add your own notes to the chart below if you want!

MAIN PROBLEM/CONFLICT:

1. BEGINNING OF STORY:

» Introduce main character(s)

» Describe setting

» Introduce main problem

2. RISING ACTION:

» What events might lead to the main problem or cause conflict?

3. CLIMAX:

» What is the most suspenseful or exciting part of your book!

4. FALLING ACTION:

» What events might lead to the solution of your problem?

5. END OF STORY:

» How is your problem resolved?

» How does your story end?

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PLOT OUTLINE

Use the following pages to plot your novel in greater detail. You don't have to use an outline, but some writers find it helpful. Once you have the outline, start writing your first draft!

WRITER'S BLOCK RESCUE NOTE: If you get stuck, revisit your character and setting notes. Go back and spend more time reflecting on your characters and writing about their backgrounds. Ask yourself: how will this character try to solve the biggest problems he or she faces? You might also be inspired by doing research on your setting to inspire ideas for your plot. Go to the library and look for books, magazines, or websites about the setting you have selected.

BOOK JACKET "BLURB" (If you looked at the back cover of this book, how would your story be described? Write a brief, interesting description of your plot below to help focus your work.)

CHAPTER 1

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

CHAPTER 2

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

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CHAPTER 3

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

CHAPTER 4

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

CHAPTER 5

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

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CHAPTER 6

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

CHAPTER 7

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

CHAPTER 8

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

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CHAPTER 9

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

CHAPTER 10

Where is the action taking place?

Who is in this scene (which characters)?

Notes on what happens:

ADDITIONAL CHAPTERS (IF NEEDED):

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Finished your spy fiction masterpiece? Time to start designing a dynamic cover that will grad your reader's attention. Maybe you're still looking for inspiration? Sketching out some cover ideas might inspire your story writing.

POSSIBLE TITLE IDEAS:

THREE TIPS FOR CREATING A GREAT TITLE:

» Short- Stick to five words or less

» Attention Grabbing- Unique and able to stand out from the crowd

» Informative- Hints at what the book is about without giving everything away

CREATE COVER ART THAT COMPLEMENTS YOUR TITLE:

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