

Novel Format

NOVEL FORMAT

About This Template

By default, when compiled (**File > Compile...**), this project will generate a document in the standard manuscript format for novels. Settings are also provided to make it easy to compile to a paperback-style PDF for self-publishing or an ePub or Kindle ebook.

How To Use This Template

- Inside the “Manuscript” folder, create a new folder for each chapter and title each folder with the name of the chapter. If you don’t intend to use chapter names, just use something descriptive that tells you what the chapter is about. (You do not need to—and indeed shouldn’t—title the folders “Chapter One” and so on, because chapter numbering will be taken care of automatically during the Compile process.) The first chapter folder has been created for you with the placeholder title “Chapter”.
 - **Note:** The “Manuscript” folder is what we refer to in the documentation as the “Draft folder”. It’s just been renamed “Manuscript” in this template.
- Create a new text document for each scene inside the chapter folders. (Upon export, scenes will be separated with the “#” character for standard manuscript format and with a blank line for other formats.)
- Information about characters can be placed in the “Characters” folder, and information about locations can be placed in the “Places” folder. (These are just regular folders that have had custom icons assigned to them using the **Documents > Change Icon** feature.)
- Character and setting sketch sheets have been provided which can be used for filling out information about the people and places in your novel. These are located in the “Template Sheets” folder.
 - You should not edit the documents in the “Template Sheets” folder directly unless you wish to change the templates (which you are free to do—you may wish to customise the sketch sheets or get rid of them entirely).
 - To create a new character sheet, click on the Characters folder (or wherever you want to create your new character sheet) and from the **Project** menu, select **New From Template > Character Sketch**. This creates a new character

sketch document for you to edit and fill in with your character details. You can create setting sketch sheets in the same way.

- Alternatively, you can just click “Add”, or hit **Ctrl+N**, with the Characters or Places folders selected.
- You can view character and setting sketches in the Inspector as follows:
 1. Select the “Bookmarks” pane in the Inspector.
 2. If necessary, click on “Document Bookmarks” at the top and switch to “Project Bookmarks”.
 3. Click on the dropdown arrow next to the “Characters” or “Places” folders in the Bookmarks list and choose the sheet you wish to view.
- A “Notes” folder has been provided for project-level notes. This has been set as the default Bookmarks folder in **Project > Project Settings...**, so that when you create a new document from the Bookmarks sidebar in a Quick Reference panel, the document will be added to this folder.

Compiling

Title pages and front matter are all provided in the “Front Matter” folder (between the “Places” and “Notes” folders). Different front matter is used for different formats.

Tip: You can open this document in a Quick Reference window and have it open alongside the compile dialog if you need to refer to these instructions while compiling.

To compile to standard manuscript format

1. Edit the “Title Page” document inside the Front Matter/Manuscript Format folder to ensure that it contains the correct information (by default it will use the Author Information supplied in **File > Options...**).
2. Go to **File > Compile...**
3. Next to “Compile for”, select “Print”, “PDF” or one of the rich text file formats such as RTE, Word or OpenOffice.
4. Select either “Manuscript (Courier)” or “Manuscript (Times)” from the list of formats on the left (note that this list changes depending on the file format you have chosen).
5. Ensure that the “Add front matter” button is ticked under the contents list on the right and that the “Manuscript Format” folder is selected in the pop-up button next to it. (This has already been set up for you.)
6. Click on “Compile”.

To compile to paperback PDF format

1. Edit the front matter pages contained inside the Front Matter/Paperback folder.
2. Go to **File > Compile...**
3. Next to “Compile for”, select “PDF”.
4. Select “Paperback (5.06" x 7.81")” from the list of formats on the left.
5. Ensure that the “Add front matter” button is ticked under the contents list on the right and that the “Paperback” folder is selected in the pop-up button next to it. (This has already been set up for you.)
6. Click on “Compile”.

To compile to ebook format

1. Edit or remove the dedication page contained inside the Front Matter/Ebook folder. Feel free to add any other front matter documents as required.
2. Import a cover image.
 - You can store this anywhere, but it makes sense to place it in the “Ebook” front matter folder. A placeholder cover image is already provided—you will want to delete that once you have imported your own.
 - Be sure to check online for recommended image sizes and file format, because the recommendations are constantly changing. The sample cover image provided is 2,500 x 1,563 pixels.
3. Go to **File > Compile...**
4. From the “Compile for” menu, select one of the ebook formats.
 - To create an ePub file, choose either of the “ePub Ebook” formats.
 - To create a Kindle file, choose the “Kindle Ebook” format.
5. Select “Ebook” from the list of formats on the left.
6. If you have front matter documents other than the cover image, ensure that the “Add front matter” button is ticked under the contents list on the right and that the “Ebook” folder is selected in the pop-up button next to it. If you don’t have any front matter documents, you can un-tick “Add front matter”. (Un-ticking this does not affect the cover image.)
7. Above the contents list in the rightmost header bar are six buttons. Click on each of them in turn to go through the various available settings, changing what you need. In particular:
 - Fill in the metadata such as author name and book title.
 - Ensure your cover image is selected and shown.

8. Click on “Compile”.

Making Changes

There are various minor changes you can make to tweak this template so that it better suits your needs, as follows:

Project and author name: The default book title and author name used in headers and elsewhere can be edited in the metadata pane of Compile (click the tag icon in the rightmost header bar of the Compile panel).

Chapter subtitles: By default, Compile for this template is set up so that chapter numbers are added but not chapter titles. If you want to include the title of the chapter folder in Compile:

1. Click on “Assign Section Layouts” at the bottom of the Compile panel.
2. Select “Chapter Heading” in the list on the left.
3. Select a different layout on the right, such as “Chapter Title”. (These layouts determine how each part of your manuscript looks in the compiled text.)

Font: You can override the font used throughout a compiled document. At the top of the “Section Layouts” pane in the centre of the Compile panel, change the “Font” setting.

Note that fonts are not included in ebooks, however—e-readers choose their own fonts (and you would need to pay a hefty fee for a licence to embed a font in an ebook). The “Font” setting is therefore not available for ebook formats.

Page size: The “Paperback” formats are set to create a PDF with a page size of 5.06" x 7.81" or 6" x 9", which are two of the formats you can use with Amazon's CreateSpace and are popular sizes for trade paperbacks. You can create your own paperback format using a different page size as follows:

1. Right-click on the “Paperback (5.06" x 7.81")” format in Compile's “Formats” list.
2. Select “Duplicate & Edit Format...”. The compile format designer window will open.
3. In the “Format Name” text field at the top, change the name to something meaningful (e.g. “Paperback (5.5" x 8.5”)”) and select “My Formats” as the “Save To” location.
4. Select “Page Settings” in the sidebar.
5. Click on the “Page Setup...” button.

6. In the “Page Setup” panel that appears, ensure “Custom” is selected in the “Paper Size” menu and click the “...” button.
7. Enter a new paper width and height. (Do not worry about setting the margins here; if you want to change these for the compile format, do so after the next step by clicking the “Margins” button just below “Page Setup...”.)
8. Click “OK” and then click “OK” again.
9. Click “Save” in the Compile panel. This will return you to the main Compile preview. You now have a variation of the paperback format using a different page size that you can use at any time with any project.

Making your own special folders: The “Characters” and “Places” folders are just regular folders that have been set up in a particular way; you can create other folders that work in a similar manner.

1. To create a folder with a custom icon, add a new folder, place it where you want it, ensure it is selected, and then go to **Documents > Change Icon** to choose a different icon.
2. To create your own template sheets, create a new document inside the “Template Sheets” folder and set it up however you want (e.g. add text, change the title or icon, set default metadata and so on). Now this document will be available as the basis for creating new documents from the **New From Template** menu.
3. To make it so that adding a new document to the folder created in (1) always results in a document based on the template set up in (2), select the folder and go to **Documents > Default Template for Subdocuments**, then choose the template document you created.

Working with chapters instead of scenes: By default, this project is set up so that you write each scene as a separate text document. If you don’t like to break things up quite that much and would prefer to write an entire chapter in each text document, make the following changes:

1. Rename the “Scene” document to use your chapter title and move it so that it is on the same level as the “Chapter” folder rather than being inside it.
2. Create a new text document for each chapter.
3. Go to **Project > Project Settings...** and select “Section Types”.
4. Select the “Default Types by Structure” tab.
5. Delete “Level 1 files” and “Level 2 files and deeper”.
6. In the “Section Type” column, change the setting for “All files” to “Chapter”, then hit “OK”. This tells Scrivener that all your files contain chapter text, not scenes. Compile

has already been set up to apply the right formatting to the section types defined here.

Using a custom table of contents in ebooks: When exporting to ebook format, Scrivener automatically generates a table of contents. If you would like to customise what appears in the contents, follow these instructions:

1. Create a document for your table of contents inside the Front Matter/Ebook folder.
2. Name the document “Contents”.
3. With the “Contents” document open in the editor, select **Navigate > Editor > Lock in Place**. The editor header will turn pink to indicate the lock, and you will be able to work in the binder without affecting the editor.
4. In the binder, select the documents you would like to appear in the table of contents (hold down **Ctrl** to select more than one document).
5. For a simple flat list, drag the selected documents into the editor and drop them in the empty “Contents” document. Alternatively, if you would like the table of contents indented to match the binder structure, select **Edit > Copy Special > Copy Documents as Structured Link List** and then click into the text of the “Contents” document and hit **Ctrl+V** or use **Edit > Paste**. The documents you wish to appear in the table of contents will now appear as a list of links.
6. If you wish to centre the table of contents, select the text and centre it.
7. In the Inspector, change the “Section Type” of the “Contents” document to “Table of Contents”.
8. Remove the editor lock by toggling **Navigate > Editor > Lock in Place** or deselecting the option from the menu that appears when right-clicking the document icon in the editor header.

Now, when you compile, your custom “Contents” document will be used instead of the automatically-generated one. The titles in the links of the “Contents” document will automatically be updated to match those of the final compiled ebook.

Sample Documents

The “Sample Output” folder inside the Research folder contains examples of documents that have been created by compiling from this template. “Standard Manuscript” shows the results when compiling to “Manuscript (Courier)”, and “Paperback Novel” shows the results when compiling to “Paperback (5.06" x 7.81")” format with chapter subtitles included, as described in Making Changes, above.

Final Note

Scrivener project templates are flexible and are not intended to restrict you to a particular workflow. You can change, delete or move the files and folders contained in the template to suit how you work.

Like all templates in Scrivener, this project was originally created from the “Blank” template. We’ve simply added a few folders and set everything up in ways that should be useful to novel writers. Everything you can do with this project, you could equally do by creating a “Blank” project and setting it up yourself.

You can create your own templates by setting up a skeletal project with the files, folders and settings you would like to use for new projects and using **File > Save As Template...**

SECTION - COVID SUMMER

SECTION - LOVE HARD

6,000 words.

steph

Your address

Your phone number

Your e-mail address

(Your agent's name)

(Your agent's address)

COLETTE GRAPHIC NOVEL

by

We have a silly lie where I come from. We believe the cold makes us tough instilling in us a resilience as enduring as the permafrost and a work ethic like the steadfast pines under snow.

It doesn't, really.

It's a gentle deception, a lullaby, an anthem.

All lies are intended to make us feel more comfortable and safe. We drape it around our shoulders against a bitter cold.

Lies are tender guardians, they cradle you in a familiar embrace. I hope you find your roots there, flourish and thrive, nurtured in the soil of what you know.

That you believe in.

Truth on the other hand, truth is a traveling companion. One who teases you with a letter from a foreign country, one that whispers from beyond the threshold of the known, where the soul ventures forth in search of something more profound than the lulling serenity of the familiar.

It is the voice of the sea, a shout big and strong, screaming and screaming. And the thing it is screaming is, yooooou... with shit instead of brains... life is immense... can you understand that?

The truth may travel it may even grow, but it is unchanging.

I've often thought about the balance of these two forces in our lives – like watching the northern lights that your Morfor so dearly wanted to see, a mesmerizing dance of light and darkness.

Lies and truths. We learn, we grow, and we find solace in knowing that both have their rightful place in the vast landscape of our existence.

Like anything in life it depends on your perspective And that's where you have your own superpowers.

For many people that flag represented Peace. Good people who had hope in their hearts and a kind of humble optimism that they were earnestly bursting to share with the world.

But I never saw that in my lifetime. [switch camera angles]

The mythology we inherit depends on which side you're on.

Even though I was not there to watch you grow, know that you have always been in my heart, a constant presence that no border could ever diminish.

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They will raise you to think like them to love it there.

They will tell you to worship that flag in school

But you don't have to. In my view. You are not one of them
You have a choice and you are part of a different community
The human community.

You are welcome here.

From my perspective you were stolen from that community. And you are always welcome back. But you have to fight for that yourself. And against the psychotic selfishness of that place that stole you from me.

It's all about perspective. And that's where you have your own superpowers.

For many people that flag represented Peace. Good people who had hope in their hearts and a kind of humble optimism that they were earnestly bursting to share with the world.

But I never saw that in my lifetime.

Like anything in life it depends on your perspective

And perspective always depends on which side you're on [switch camera angles]

this is in the bookmarks folder

GFHFGDFGDHF GDHFD DFGHFGDHF GDHFGDHF GDHFDGHFGDHF GDHFGDHF GDH
FDGHFGHFGD GFDHFGD FGDHDF

Sample Output

Character Sketch

Character Name

Age • Location

Role in Story:

Goal:

Physical Description:

Personality:

Occupation:

Habits/Mannerisms:

Background:

Internal Conflicts:

External Conflicts:

Notes:

Setting Sketch

Name of Setting

Location

Role in Story:

Related Characters:

Season:

Unique Features:

Description:

Sights:

Sounds:

Smell:

Notes:

THEMATIC CORK BOARD & BEATS

For many people that flag represented Peace. Good people who had hope in their hearts and a kind of humble optimism that they were earnestly bursting to share with the world.

Good people who worked to share their good fortune and bounty.

But I never saw that in my lifetime.

Like anything in life it depends on your perspective

And perspective always depends on which side you're on [switch camera angles]

Dear Judge Rubin,

I am writing this letter in wholehearted support of Stephan DuVal in his ongoing child custody case. My name is George Skzypniak, and I have had the privilege of calling Stephan one of my closest friends since our high school days. Over the decades, our bond has only deepened, and I can speak with confidence about the character and qualities of Stephan.

Knowing Stephan for such a long duration has given me numerous opportunities to observe and appreciate his dependability and dedication. Among the many friends and acquaintances from our high school years, Stephan stands out as one of the most solid and reliable individuals I've known. He has an innate sense of doing what's morally right, often going out of his way, even if the path isn't the easiest.

Throughout our years of friendship, Stephan has been a pillar of support for me, especially during the early days of my startup business. His assistance in various projects, irrespective of their complexity or demand, speaks volumes of his commitment and loyalty.

One of the things that I've always admired about Stephan is his desire and preparedness to start a family. The passion and excitement with which he

approached the prospect of fatherhood were evident. He read extensively, saved, and planned to provide the best for his child. It's heart-wrenching to witness the challenges he's faced, especially considering how earnestly he had embraced the dream of fatherhood.

I distinctly remember the day when I first heard Colette's voice over the phone. The moment she called Stephan "dada" was incredibly touching. It was evident, even from that brief interaction, how much she loved Stephan and the bond they shared. Last summer, I had the chance to see them together, and their connection was palpable.

Based on my personal experiences and observations, I believe that Colette will immensely benefit from having Stephan in her life. He is not just a reliable friend to me but a loving and dedicated father to his daughter. The stability, love, and care that he offers are unparalleled, and I sincerely hope that Colette gets the opportunity to grow up with her father's continued presence and influence.

Should you have any further questions or require additional insights into my experiences with Stephan, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours sincerely,

George Skzypniak

AMERICA is sitting at the bar, minding his own business.

A raucous group is sitting at a table behind them. Afghanistan, a bottle gets thrown, hits the bar.

The bottle hits the counter and a piece of glass hits America in the EYE!

Oh shit, the whole world comes around in sympathy. "I'll call an ambulance, stay calm"

USA rages, gets up and starts smashing the table, the group starts fighting. The crowd is watching. USA "Give me that guy. No negotiations" A guy (Taliban)

says- "ok ok, wait, can you prove it was this guy"?

USA "When I said no negotiations, I meant no negotiations." He starts to beat up everyone, except one guy "I'm on your side"

USA: "Are you with me?"

CANADA, AUSTRALIA, BRITAIN, Yes,
Rest of NATO. Sure, but can we have a plan for this?

World: "This is going to be a mess" Can someone talk to him? Ok lets make a plan to fix this after it's over.

USA "I'm just getting started"

IRAQ "Shit he's after me"

Everyone's out now but Britain and Australia. "Don't forget Poland"

What's going on here?

Guys stop, this isn't right. This war is Illegal. The U.S. sought a second United Nations Security Council resolution to authorize military action against Iraq

USA: "CUBA, hold these guys for me"
CUBA Jesus.

"What the fuck America" slow your roll"

USA leaves pakistan with a black eye, "jesus man"

The whole bar is a mess, everyone is ashen.

Afghanistan table is asking "Hey man, can you help us fix the table?"

America grabbing whiskey from the bar "I'm off guys, great night, I built a better bar at my house anyway."

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Britain and Australia Join
Poland
Spain (left in 2004)
Italy
Denmark
Japan
Portugal
Czech Republic
Hungary

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=80482&page=1#:~:text=Oct.,Laden%20and%20stops%20air%20attacks.>
ABC NEWS 14OCT2001

NATO officially joined the war effort in Afghanistan on October 4, 2001, when the organization invoked Article 5 of the NATO treaty for the first time in its history.

November 13, 2001: The city of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, fell to forces belonging to the Northern Alliance. This marked a significant step in the U.S.-led coalition's efforts to remove the Taliban from power.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1378, adopted unanimously on 14 November 2001, after reaffirming all [resolutions](#) on the situation in [Afghanistan](#), including resolutions [1267](#) (1999), [1333](#) (2000) and [1363](#) (2001), the Council affirmed that the United Nations would play an important role in the country and called for the establishment of a transitional administration leading to the formation of a new government.^[1]

"There's no discussions. I've told them what they need to do," Bush said today, hammering away at the same theme he has often repeated over the last month. "When I said no negotiations, I meant no negotiations."

NATO officially joined the war effort in Afghanistan on October 4, 2001,

THE CHAT GPT version:

Certainly! Here's a playful narrative of the events of 9/11 and the subsequent response, personified as if the USA and the involved countries were people having a conversation at a bar:

USA: Hey everyone, gather around. So, I was just minding my own business on September 11, 2001, when these terrorists flew planes into the Twin Towers in New York City. It was a shocker, let me tell you.

UK: Oh my, that's terrible! Are you okay?

USA: Not really, mate. I was furious. Those were my iconic skyscrapers! Anyway, I called my buddy NATO to back me up, and we all agreed that this was an attack on all of us.

NATO: Yeah, we couldn't let that slide. Article 5, remember? An attack on one is an attack on all. We're in this together.

Canada: Count me in too! We've got your back.

France: Absolutely, mon ami. Terrorism is a threat to all of us. We'll stand united.

Germany: Agreed, we can't let these acts of violence go unpunished.

USA: Thanks, pals. So, we put our heads together and went after the Taliban in Afghanistan, where those Al-Qaeda terrorists were hiding. Operation Enduring Freedom, they called it. We kicked down their doors and said, "No more hiding, you're done!"

Afghanistan: Wait a minute, I didn't sign up for this chaos. You came in guns blazing and turned everything upside down!

USA: Sorry, Afghanistan, we had to get the bad guys. But don't worry, we'll help you rebuild and find some stability.

Iraq: Hey, don't forget about me! You thought I had weapons of mass destruction, but I didn't. Next thing I know, you're invading my space. Not cool.

USA: Oops, my bad. Sorry, Iraq. That was a mix-up. But hey, we're here now, so let's try to sort things out.

International Community: Whoa, hold up! This is causing a lot of tension. We're worried about the collateral damage, civilian casualties, and the rise of insurgency.

USA: Yeah, it got a bit messy, but we're trying to help Iraq find its footing again.

World: Well, you better figure it out. This is causing ripples everywhere.

USA: Got it. We're working on it. But hey, let's not forget, we've made progress against Al-Qaeda. We got Osama bin Laden!

Pakistan: Yeah, but you didn't tell me you were coming over. It's complicated, you know?

USA: Sorry, Pakistan. We just wanted to be thorough. We're all in this together against terrorism.

World: Okay, just remember, diplomacy and cooperation are key.

USA: You're right. We'll try to mend fences and promote peace. We've all learned some lessons through this.

Afghanistan: Yeah, and don't forget about me. I need some help rebuilding after all of this!

USA: Absolutely, Afghanistan. We're committed to helping you get back on your feet.

World: Let's raise a toast to a safer and more united future. May we learn from the past and build a better world together!

Cheers! 🍷

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With the USA as a conversation at a bar

Sure, here's a narrative with a different tone, reflecting a less favorable portrayal of the U.S. and including mention of the use of torture:

USA: Hey folks, gather 'round. So, on September 11, 2001, some planes crashed into my buildings. Pretty messed up, right?

UK: Oh my, are you alright?

USA: I mean, it was my towers that got hit. But you know me, I never let things

slide. I started waving the big stick and called it a "War on Terror."

NATO: Oh, here we go again. "An attack on one is an attack on all," right? We're your posse, aren't we?

Canada: Yeah, yeah. We'll back you up, as always.

France: Oh joy, more American bravado. Fine, count us in too.

Germany: Alright, alright, let's not get too carried away with the cowboy act.

USA: Ha, you know how I roll. So, I invade Afghanistan, saying it's about Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Operation Enduring Freedom, they called it. Just a little regime change, no biggie.

Afghanistan: Hold on a second! You stormed in here, disrupted everything, and now you're acting like the hero?

USA: Oops, sorry not sorry. We had some issues to sort out.

Iraq: Oh, you don't even remember me, huh? You thought I had weapons of mass destruction, which I didn't. And you invaded me, leading to chaos and destruction.

USA: My bad, blame it on bad intelligence. But hey, we brought you democracy!

International Community: Seriously, USA? Your interventions are causing more problems than they're solving. Torture, civilian casualties, and insurgencies everywhere!

USA: Yeah, well, you know how it is. We got a little carried away. But don't worry, we're all about freedom and justice.

Pakistan: Uh, excuse me, but you were doing secret drone strikes in my territory without telling me. Not cool.

USA: Gotta do what I gotta do, right? Besides, I had to find that Osama bin Laden guy.

World: Ugh, typical. Unilateral actions, questionable tactics, and then claiming to be the savior. We're tired of this.

USA: Hey, we got him in the end, didn't we? A bit of waterboarding and some torture, and we got the info we needed.

World: Seriously? You're bragging about that?

USA: Well, you know, desperate times and all that.

Afghanistan: And while you're busy patting yourself on the back, don't forget you left us in ruins. Rebuilding, anyone?

USA: Yeah, yeah, we'll get to it eventually. Don't rush us.

World: Look, let's not glorify this mess. It's time to clean up and find more peaceful ways to address conflicts.

USA: Alright, alright, fine. We'll try to be a bit more diplomatic, I guess.

World: Raise a half-hearted toast to hoping for better decisions in the future.

Half-hearted clinking of glasses. 🍷

I used to love war. In my imagination jet fighters would crack open the perfect summer skies at a lake called Cache lake.

I would spend nearly half the summer place where my family has been going for four generations.

The lakes in southern Ontario aren't blue like the ones in the Rockies, they are black, deep lakes that make a puzzle of the hilly land.

The lake plays tricks on you, such as when you're swimming beneath deep water and look down to see a light emanating from the empty bottom. Like a wispy green sun buried barely under the unseen mud on the lake bottom.

You want so badly to chase that light, touch the bottom. As you dive into the thermocline and cold water permeates panic into you and you feel the sunlight squinting in the deeper water. Your goggles start to press into your eyes uncomfortably and you pull them down to your neck. You pause to squeeze your nose and equalize the pressure in your ears. You want that bottom and you pull it towards you with a few strong strokes. Then it you hit it. Your perogee. You can't go any further. Your body has done the math, and your desire for that green light has been outmatched by the squeezeing need for air and the feeling of the distance that separates you from breath. But the fear of emptiness still consumes you when you leave the lake. You so badly want to touch something where the limits of your body and the word leave you with nothing.

WHERE I WAS, WHO I WAS, What my dreams where. What I believed would be the most stable way to raise a child; cynicism about divorce rates and weather love creates stable environment for raising a child or all that passion, when we lose it, we use that to attack each other; in our newfound emptiness we seek to hurt the other person rather than seeing the higher purpose of caring for the child. I was wrong about that, but we are allowed to be wrong at some times.

Working on the Flash, a TV show about a man United Nations agency solves all his problem's by running really fast.

When youre dating at a mature level its not just about impressing someone. Youre trying to see if you're compatible. You are talking about your good traits and your flaws. Realizing you're not compatible early on can be just succesful as realizing you are.

“Sdsad”

“For instance I find it hard to set a work life balance. I cant fit duvet covers well. You have to be honest with them because if you date your issues eill become their issues. Ill struggle with that duvet cover every two weeks until I fix it or not. And ill have to slide my whole body in there to get it to fit right, and when im in there ill probably have to chase you around the house like dime floral print ghost”

Lkk;jkl;ljk;

L;kl;lk;

SUPPORTING JENICA

Erin Richard’s (maiden name Stevns) kids kids were attending a birthday at Dragon’s Hollow. I met her there with you. She was drinking wine out of her purse. A bit strange but honestly I needed a friend at the time. She picked you up

and held you which was both scary and wonderful. She was going to provide a safe harbour for our family.

You made it very clear to me. You wanted to go to the carousel at Dragon's Hollow. I think it was the first time I had ever taken you there. I was still cynical about these things. It seemed like a nostalgic thing, or a money grab from the outside.

The carousel is beautiful. It is all wooden hand carved parts with beautiful hand painted wooden Horses of all different types. Hand painted frescos of the people who funded and volunteered to build the thing. Big gears turned and the whole thing was a little tuned down. Low key.

You always wanted the “Mermaid Horse” the one with the armor scales painted on. I guess you thought it looked like a fish.

I held on to you in front of me while you grabbed the pole. We went up and down with the turn of the giant mechanical wheel and all the cogs that made the whole thing go. Your hair was soft and fine and getting wild. You felt so tiny in my arms and yet so big at the same time. You were getting bigger each time I saw you. Then, at once magical moment you turned to me and said “daddy, I love you.” It still remains one of the happiest moments of my life. Of

The next time you wanted the Dragon Horse.

I was so proud when I found that you could sit on the horse all by yourself. I was so nervous strapping you with just that long leather belt. The kind old man who works there was nice enough to show me how to double loop the belt so that you could be held in.

I rode beside you, with my hand inches from your back. I was so proud of you for being so brave and confident. I was a little sad that perhaps this was not your first time on the carousel but those thoughts don't linger long when I'm around you. I loved these moments, watching you while the world blurred around. It's us, in our bubble, It's you experiencing a thrill. It's one of my favourite memories of you.

Of course your favourite horse after that was always “paint” it was a rainbow coloured horse with green spots and a bright yellow mane.

Part of who you are is what lives on in the hearts and memories of other people. In that sense, with all the days that Collette would grow up and live her life without me there. She was killing me. In the sense that Colette would have formed memories of her father. Those moments never happened. For generations those stories and that love was lost.

Jehanne, you are my rock. I would not be writing right now if it were not for you. Thank you my love. You're my muse, my inspiration and a wellspring of joy and laughter in my life.

I wish you were awake right now because I want to kiss you. Also because have to pee. But you are sleeping in the aisle seat and I love watching you be so peaceful.

Sometimes when I think of being stopped at the border I think of the checkpoints the Americans would set up in Iraq. In the chaos of that war they would divide up that country and separate families from each other.

Sometimes these checkpoints were difficult to make out given the language barrier and the rush of it all. Families. Whole families would turn a corner and come upon these barricades only to be met by jumpy soldiers with powerful rounds who would turn their cannons on these cars. Families, whole families of fathers, mothers and children of all ages died in these moments. Again and again.

And these men and women came home. They were called brave, they were called heroes and thanked for their service.

These are your neighbours.