

-MY POOR NERVES -

Desire + Danger

After the first three chapters, your book has gone from the beginning to the middle. What should the beginning of your story establish, to keep Reader turning the pages?

Your story needs desire and danger. Both of them.

Let's continue the tale of John (from a different freebie called Start in the Middle), a Catholic priest who got into a bar fight in chapter one.

Chapter two: John enters the kitchen of his parish to get bandages for his hand. A lunchbox in hand, a pretty red head enters the kitchen, declares herself a former nurse, and wraps his hand. She is also the new church secretary, and new to town. Hand bandaged, John returns to his office and receives a call from the mother of the man John got into a fight with. She's desperately embarrassed and wants to know how to help her drug addicted son. John, a former addict himself, tells her some resources, including one he oversees.

Chapter three: Three days after the fight, elderly members of the church barge into John's office and tell him they have requested him to be removed, as they heard he was in a bar fight and do not want their church to have a sordid reputation.

*John's desire: help the community and start a new life
The danger to achieving that desire: a threat to the hope he wants to bring*

Could this be resolved in chapter four? Yes, but you must establish a new danger immediately afterward. You must *create suspension*. Keep the reader asking questions.

Reader asking questions = Reader turning pages

Did you know?

These are on the rubric I use for my editing services! You don't need an entire book written. Just the first three chapters is all I edit! Follow the QR code to my website, fill out the questionnaire, and I'll put the kettle on.

