

RESCUING YOUR PLOT

- 51 A walk-on gets hit by a speeding bus, gets up, dusts themselves off, and walks away.
- 52 Hit shuffle on your music player of choice and base the chapter on the first song title that comes up.
- 53 Have your characters play “Duck, Duck, Goose.”
- 54 Have your characters intercept a secret message.
- 55 Go to the NaNo “Characters and Plot Realism” forum, and include an element from the post at the top.
- 56 Open the nearest book at random, point to a line, and use that as a basis for the next scene.
- 57 Open the Bible, point to a verse, and have one of your characters quote it.
- 58 Have a bank robbery interrupted by a second bank robbery in the same bank.
- 59 Have your characters play “I Have Never” or some other drinking game.
- 60 Have your characters play a game of “the dozens” — “Yo mama so fat ...”
- 61 Have your villain and main character run into each other by accident, in public, and have to be nice to each other.
- 62 One of your characters has an odd but all-consuming phobia.
- 63 Include a polar bear somewhere that a polar bear absolutely would not be.
- 64 Your character opens a book at the library and finds a message asking for help.
- 65 Your character opens a fortune cookie and finds a message asking for help.
- 66 A hurricane hits your setting. It is named the same thing as one of your characters, who complains.
- 67 One of your characters gets pregnant.
- 68 Have a character say too much while talking in his sleep.
- 69 Have one of your characters get arrested for a crime that happened long ago, unrelated to your plot.
- 70 Have your characters accidentally enter an establishment they wouldn’t usually (gay bar, biker bar, rodeo event).
- 71 Have a character receive a box in the mail full of stuff from random people they don’t know.
- 72 Have a tough, macho character receive an ugly present from his mother.
- 73 Your characters are trapped by a freak storm inappropriate for the season.
- 74 Your main character trips, falls, and is unconscious all day. The other characters talk about him behind his back.
- 75 Your villain falls in love with a secondary character.
- 76 A foreigner shows up and tries to tell your characters something important, but doesn’t speak their language.
- 77 Your characters have for breakfast whatever you ate most recently.
- 78 Your characters are kept awake all night by loud noises. They get giggly and share secrets.
- 79 A cute little kid shows up and latches on to your MC. You have to get rid of the kid without killing him/her.
- 80 Have a villain character shows up who shares the name of one of your main characters. They both get mad.
- 81 One of your characters bets another to do some unusual, difficult feat.
- 82 Whatever happened in your last chapter sparks a flashback to a similar event in your MC’s childhood.
- 83 A spaceship crash-lands right in front of your characters. At least they think it’s a spaceship. It might be a hoax.
- 84 Your characters’ path is blocked by a construction crew. They have to go another direction.
- 85 One of your characters goes into a fugue state and disappears.
- 86 Have a sale at your main character’s favorite store. The objects he buys will cause him bad luck.
- 87 Include your favorite teacher from childhood as a minor character.
- 88 Include your least favorite teacher from childhood as a minor character.
- 89 Your characters accidentally start a fire while playing with candles.
- 90 A walk-on character shows up again and reveals a crucial secret.
- 91 Your main character dreams about one of your other characters.
- 92 Have your characters find a mysterious, ancient coin.
- 93 A storm forces your characters to take shelter someplace creepy.
- 94 Two characters who hate each other are forced to share a cramped space (car, hotel room, elevator).
- 95 Your main character inadvertently offends a minor character by forgetting his/her name.
- 96 The last inanimate object you mentioned suddenly breaks.
- 97 The character who most recently spoke comes down with laryngitis and can’t talk for the next chapter.
- 98 A beetle flies into a character’s hair and everybody freaks out.
- 99 A character accidentally swallows a bug. “Extra protein,” another character comments.
- 100 Your main character decides to write a novel someday.