



Characteristics of Suspense

1. **PACING** – The action usually takes place within a narrow time frame, often in only a few days, and the reader is made aware of the danger to the protagonist early on.
2. **STORY LINE** – Stories follow a similar pattern, with unexpected danger from an unknown source intruding into the protagonist's normal life. The resolution is brought about through a confrontation between the hero or heroine and the villain, and the protagonist survives.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – The reader empathizes with the protagonist and his peril. However, the reader often follows the antagonist's thoughts and actions, too, and thus knows more than the protagonist.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – While some authors create elaborate backgrounds and establish a strong sense of place, with others the tension and building suspense are more important than setting. Softer-edged Suspense tends to focus more on descriptions of characters, while hard-edged Suspense features gritty depictions of crime scenes.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – A dark, menacing atmosphere is essential and underscores the danger to the protagonist. As the story unfolds, tension grows, and the reader, because he knows the danger, feels this uneasiness and uncertainty even before the protagonist senses anything is amiss.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – In the genre's distinctive style, the action begins early, often in a prologue or first chapter that sets up the danger and leaves readers anticipating the final confrontation. Then the plotline skips back in time and builds to that point, with suspense mounting and pacing increasing on every page.

Adrenaline Genres

Suspense Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	Jeff Abbott Jeffery Deaver James Grippando
GENTLE:	Mary Higgins Clark
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Matthew Pearl
HORROR:	Greg Iles John Saul (<i>Perfect Nightmare</i>)
HUMOR:	Dean R. Koontz (Odd Thomas series)
INSPIRATIONAL:	Ted Dekker
LITERARY:	Laurie R. King
MULTICULTURAL:	James Patterson (Alex Cross)
MYSTERY:	David Hewson John Sandford
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	Chelsea Cain Laurie R. King Dean R. Koontz
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Lisa Gardner
TRUE CRIME:	Sarah Lovett



Adrenaline Genres

Authors BEYOND the Suspense Genre

ADRENALINE:	David Baldacci Steve Berry John Case Matthew Reilly John Rollins
FANTASY:	John Connolly (<i>Book of Lost Things</i>) Raymond E. Feist Robert Jordan
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Matthew Pearl
HISTORY:	Erik Larson
HORROR:	Dean R. Koontz
MYSTERY:	Edna Buchanan Diane Mott Davidson Kerry Greenwood Laura Lippman George Pelecanos
NATURAL HISTORY:	Richard Preston (<i>The Hot Zone</i>)
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	Peter Abrahams Carol Goodman Jeffrey Lindsay
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Linda Howard Iris Johansen Elizabeth Lowell J. D. Robb
SCIENCE FICTION:	Catherine Asaro Frank Herbert

