



## Characteristics of Thrillers

1. **PACING** – Thrillers move at a rapid pace, driven by the danger or threat of danger faced by the protagonist. Although some are densely written and the action may be more cerebral than physical, their building intensity makes them compelling page-turners.
2. **STORY LINE** – These cinematic stories center on the plot and the action generated by the intricately involved narrative. There is often a political focus with either national or international ramifications, and hot topics from the news are frequently explored. Conspiracies thrive here. Protagonists face frightening perils, physical and emotional, and violence or the threat of violence propels the story line.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – Protagonists are usually strong, sympathetic characters, whether heroes or antiheroes. Secondary characters are less well developed and may even be caricatures. Protagonists often operate alone, as they can never be certain, in their worlds of betrayal and deception, whom they can trust.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – Extensive details and technical language related to each occupation are vital, and they are woven into the story in a way that does not detract from the pacing. They offer the reader an insider's view of that profession.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – The tone of Thrillers is often dark, and gritty details contribute to this mood. Spoofs may produce a lighter but still menacing tone.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – The language of Thrillers reflects the jargon of each profession. Styles range from elegantly literary to more informal and conversational.

## Adrenaline Genres

### Thrillers Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	David Baldacci	
	Barry Eister	
	John Grisham	
	Lisa Scottoline	
FANTASY:	John Twelve Hawks	
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Ken Follett	
	Martin Cruz Smith ( <i>Stallion Gate</i> )	
HORROR:	Dean R. Koontz	
	John Saul	
HUMOR:	Marne Davis Kellogg	
	Donald Westlake	
INSPIRATIONAL:	Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins	
	Frank Peretti	
	Joel C. Rosenberg	
LITERARY:	Daniel Silva	
	Scott Turow	
MULTICULTURAL:	Barbara Parker	
MYSTERY:	John Lescroart	
	Stuart Woods	
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	John le Carré	
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Robin Cook	
	Gayle Lynds	
SCIENCE FICTION:	Greg Bear	Lincoln Child
	Clive Cussler	
TRUE CRIME:	Joseph Wambaugh	
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Marne Davis Kellogg	Lisa Scottoline



## Adrenaline Genres

### Authors BEYOND the Thrillers Genre

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ADRENALINE:	Clive Cussler Patrick Robinson
HISTORICAL FICTION:	David Liss
HORROR:	Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child
MYSTERY:	W. E. B. Griffin (Badge of Honor series) Dennis Lehane Kathy Reichs Randy Wayne White Kate Wilhelm
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	Jeffery Lindsay
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Nora Roberts Elizabeth Lowell
SCIENCE FICTION:	Orson Scott Card (Ender series) William C. Dietz Neal Stephenson

