

Outline of *Misery*, Stephen King.

Questions: hints without explanations, unresolved conflicts.

Answers: environments, words and persons introduced.

Plot: what happens, which persons participate, resolved conflicts.

What would an outline for *Misery* look like? What can I learn about writing novels from this novel?

Page	Ch.	Questions	Answers	Plot
1	I			
3	1	What are those sounds?		
3	2	What happened?	Darkness before, Paul.	Pain, Haze, Near death, A woman who stinks, Shattered legs, Annie Wilkes, Number-one fan
6	3		Paul writes novels	Darkness, Pain, Haze
7	4		About Annie	
9	5	Why isn't he in the hospital?	2 weeks ago, Show storm, Paul drove off the road, More about Annie.	
14	6		More about the accident, Paul has "killed" the favorite of Annie: <i>Misery</i> , Paul before the accident, Finishing not- <i>Misery</i> -book, Annie saving Paul	
18	7			Annie reads <i>Misery</i> -book, Annie found new book and gets permission to read it
20	8			Drifting, Thinking
21	9		Annie was a nurse	Annie doesn't like the new book and gets angry
23	10			Annie punishes Paul

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26	11			Planning, The new book in danger, Understanding Annie
32	12			Nightmare
33	13			Annie knows Misery is dead and is angry, Annie leaves
37	14			Paul in pain / hungry / thirsty / withdrawal, Looking at the shattered legs, 51 hours
40	15			Annie comes back
41	16			Paul's new book and some matches
42	17	Will Paul burn the book?		Burn your book Paul
45	18			Paul obeys
46	19			Burning, Then drugs
48	20			Eating soup, Sitting up
50	21	Annie bought him a present?		
50	22			They can't be searching for Paul yet, Learning about Annie
58	23			A typewriter, Write a new book Paul
61	24		Annie is <u>not</u> a writer	Paul prepares, Annie does not intend to let Paul go ever
64	25			Getting into a wheelchair
65	26			Paul dreams
66	27			Paul will live until the book is written, A change for something
66	28	Will Paul's car thaw out soon?		Sitting by the window
69	29	Making Annie believe Paul is a friend?		Asking for good typewriter paper, Not friends

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76	30			While Annie buys paper Paul tries to secure a bobby-pin and unlock a door
81	31			Tries to get out through the door
82	32			Punished by Annie
82	33			It was just a dream, Tries to reach the pills, And to get back, Or to a phone, A ceramic penguin is knocked over and put right again, The phone doesn't work, And then back!
91	34	Is the penguin right? Can he hide the extra pills?		Paul gets back
94	35			Annie, No suspicions so far
96	36			Hiding the pills
99	II			
101	1			Chapter 1 of new book
105	2			Annie doesn't like chapter 1
112	3		Paul is addicted to the pills	A plan to quit the pills
115	4	Can Paul write a better chapter 1?		
118	5			Having an idea
123	6			Chapter 1-6: a new try
148	7			Annie likes this try, Annie suggests what may happen next and Paul doesn't reject it to her face, Paul discovers marks left behind from his excursion to get pills
151	8	Why did the car visit?		Annie handcuffs Paul because a car is coming, Annie sees to it that the car leaves again in a hurry

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154	9			Annie is behind with her taxes because she forgot, Paul butters her up
158	10			Paul gives her money for tax
160	11			Annie is out and Paul washes off the marks
162	12			Paul writes a lot
167	13			Annie is first happy then depressed
170	14			Paul gets into the wheelchair by himself, Annie punishes him
171	15	What will he eat the next few days?		Annie brings a trapped rat and kills it, She wants to kill Paul and herself too, Paul talks her out of it, She leaves for a while
176	16		What Annie does while depressed, A tour of the house	Paul escapes, Not
183	17			Paul raids the pantry
184	18		Annie's past is full of dead people	
201	19			New plan: Paul will kill Annie
202	20			Annie's pig is hungry, Paul writes and plans Annie's death, Annie sneaks back and sedates him
206	21	What is it Annie has on the floor? What did she plan for Paul?	Paul's car is "gone", Annie knows Paul has been out of his room, Details about one of Annie's murders and the link to Paul	
217	22			Annie interrogates Paul and then hobbles him
224	23			Paul faints

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227	III			
229	1			Chapter 32 of the Misery-book
229	2	Where did the thumb go?		The broken typewriter breaks even more, Paul is also broken
230	3			Chapter 32 continued
236	4		Months have passed	The typewriter breaks even more, Reliving the hobbling
238	5			Insight: Paul still lives because of Misery
240	6		What happened the week after the hobbling	
241	7		Annie read all the book so far, Paul wanted to go back to work	
243	8		Paul went back to work	
245	9		Annie wanted to know the end of the book, Paul said no and lost his thumb	
253	10		The thumbectomy, Annie became even crazier	A police car
255	11		Harder to continue writing	
258	12			Paul is unable to call attention to himself, Or maybe not
260	13			Policeman recognizes Paul, Annie kills policeman
262	14			Annie continues the kill
264	15			Annie cleans up, Paul is less scared, Annie forgets a spot
269	16			Annie moved Paul to the basement

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271	17			If Annie if not left alone the next few hours everybody will die
273	18			Otherwise Annie will dispose of the police car
278	19	How will the book end?		When the book ends Paul will also end
280	20			Annie goes and turns out the light
282	21			Alone in the dark, Thinking the dead policeman will come back
284	22			Using a hypo to go to sleep
284	23	An idea?		Free of pain, Going to sleep
285	24			Planning to hurt Annie by burning the new Misery-book
287	25			Annie returns and carries Paul upstairs, Paul steals some lighter fluid
289	26			Both rest
290	27			Paul hides the lighter fluid, Then writes
291	28			Chapter 37
292	29			More police, Paul stays quiet
295	30		News from outside	The police comes inside
298	31			The police leaves, Annie can't understand why Paul didn't shout
299	32			Paul writes, A journalist visits
302	33			The police visits
303	34			Paul writes
304	35			More visitors, Annie tries to keep them out, The book is almost finished

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305	36			Writing
306	37			All that writing has hurt Paul's hand, A feast
308	38			Eating, Getting a cigarette ready
309	39			The end of the book
312	40			It feels good to have ended, Preparing for what comes next
313	41			Manuscript, Lighter fluid, Burning match, Annie on her way
314	42			Burning the book in front of Annie, Trying to kill her
318	43			Annie's still alive
319	44			Annie collapses
321	45			Locking Annie in the guest-room, Taking pills, Sleeping
322	46		The real book wasn't burned	A visiting cop, Paul shouts for help
325	47			Getting help
326	48			Annie isn't dead
329	IV			
331	1			Sounds
331	2			-
331	3		9 months later	The book will soon be published, Walking again, Killed by Annie
334	4		Dictionary definitions	
335	5			-
335	6		Paul's death wasn't real	
335	7		Annie died back then after all	

Page	Ch.	Questions	Answers	Plot
336	8			-
336	9			Chapter 1 of something new
337	10			Writing
338	11			Chapter 1 continued
338	12			Writing