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over Mexico City**

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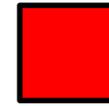
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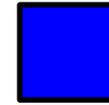
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danger



despair



hope

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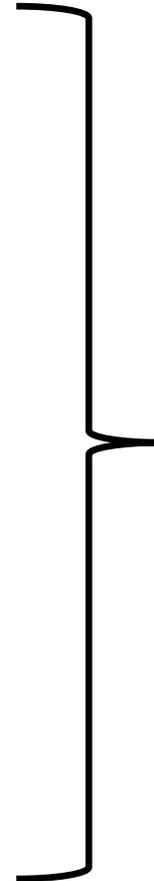
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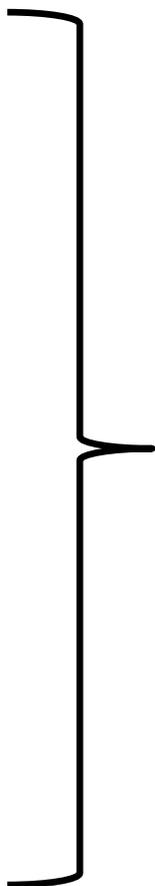
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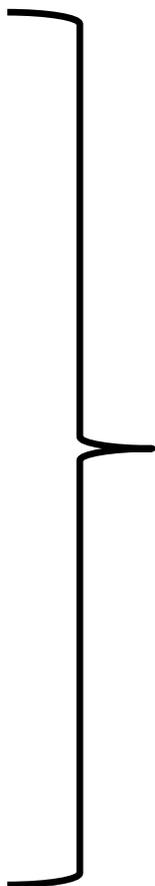
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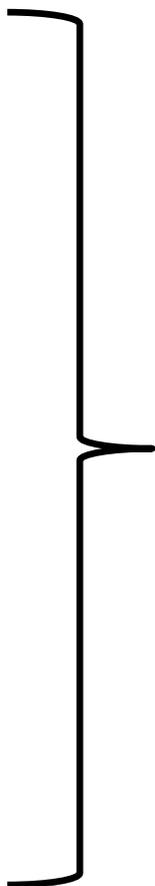
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- Danger (metaphysical)

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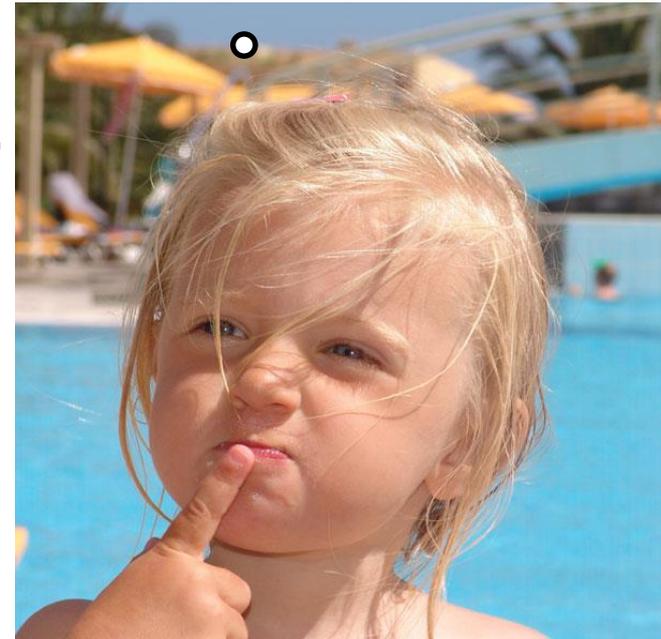
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- Danger (metaphysical)
- Choice between despair and hope
- Chooses hope (even though convinced it is futile?)

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**Resolution of this conflict?**



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## Resolution of this conflict?

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- Danger passed them by
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- Still a net positive to not give into despair

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**•Still a net positive to not give into despair**

**•Worst case scenario may not happen**



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- Worst case scenario may not happen**
  - Do not have to face adversity alone**
  - Gives you the strength to continue**
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- They are sometimes out of your control**

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- Life presents a series of dangers**
- They are sometimes out of your control**
- How one reacts is within your control**
- Hope does not solve the problem, but things are better when you do not succumb to despair**

## General Rule for Subplots, Parallel Plots, Dreams, Flashbacks, Stories within Stories, or Anything with Repeated Plot Elements

- They are either there for comparison or contrast
- Plot patterns reinforce themes
- If the patterns resolve in the same way, then the argument probably is, “This is the way [Concept X] *is*.” → Descriptive
- If the patterns resolve differently, then the argument probably is, “One of the alternatives is how [Concept X] *should be*.” → Prescriptive

## **Descriptive Example (from *My Brilliant Friend*):**

### **Plot 1**

- **A powerful male (Donato Sarratore) lavishes unwanted sexual attention on a younger female (Elena).**
- **The offending male stalks and harasses his prey, even after it is clear that the target of his desire is not interested.**
- **Resolution: There are no negative repercussions for the offending male, and the behavior only stops when another male (Antonio Cappuccio) intervenes.**

### **Plot 2**

- **A powerful male (Marcello Solara) lavishes unwanted sexual attention on a younger female (Lila).**
- **The offending male stalks and harasses his prey, even after it is clear that the target of his desire is not interested.**
- **Resolution: There are no negative repercussions for the offending male, and the behavior only stops when another male (Stefano Carracci) intervenes.**



**In other words, the gender norms in this culture distribute power unequally among the sexes. Men are free to act with impunity, while women have little control over their own lives. Something in the culture needs to change.**

# **Prescriptive Example (from *My Brilliant Friend*):**

## **Plot 1**

- **A young, talented girl grows up in an impoverished neighborhood.**
- **She is denied the chance to get an education.**
- **Resolution: Lila fulfills the dictates of the gender norms that govern in her specific culture, but she never achieves any meaningful level of self-actualization. She is forced to adopt a role that does not align with her personality or desires. The implication is she will never achieve happiness.**

## **Plot 2**

- **A young, talented girl grows up in an impoverished neighborhood.**
- **She is given the opportunity to get an education.**
- **Resolution: Elena broadens her horizons and adopts a more cosmopolitan outlook on life. She comes to understand how limited the world in which she was raised truly is. At the end of the novel, the reader understands that she will almost certainly leave this world for greater opportunities elsewhere.**

**Outcome two is better, so that's the way things should be. Education is the key to broadening one's horizons and living up to one's potential. This is particularly true for disadvantaged populations who lack the cultural clout to achieve true success in traditional roles.**

