

Going Deep with Character

One thing I want to emphasize for you is your tools for connection with the reader. Building emotional intensity is about deepening your reader's intimacy with your main character/POV character (which we call "your vehicle"). We have four tools to do this:

1. **Our Vehicle Character's Vocalizations** - emotion is communicated through the words we say. Getting your vehicle talking, even if the words they use are just guttural cries, will help build that emotional connection with the reader.
2. **Our Vehicle Character's Inner Thoughts** - Giving the reader your Vehicle Characters running inner monologue will also pull the reader closer to your character's emotional state.
3. **Our Vehicle Character's Body Language** - How we position ourselves in the world communicates how we are feeling. Tell me that your vehicle covers their face, or jams their hands in their pockets, or puts their hands on their head while taking deep breaths also intensifies my understanding of your vehicle's emotional state.
4. **Our Vehicle Character's Interior Experience** - Things like your vehicle's heart racing, your vehicle sweating, or your vehicle's chest tightening will pull the reader into your vehicle's experience.

These tools have a compounding effect. If you want a lighter emotional pull, use one or two. If you want a deeper emotional pull, use all four. If you want a building emotional pull: start with one, then add a second, then a third, then have them all firing at once.

I hope that little trick is useful this week as you write.