

Key Elements to a Synopsis – the Plot

1. **Exposition** – this is the information that gives the setting, creates the tone, presents the characters, and presents other facts necessary to understanding the story.
2. **Dilemma** – this is what creates and defines the plot. This is the conflict to the story
3. **Climax** – the turning point when characters try to resolve the dilemma. It's high point of the story for the reader that results in the highest interest and greatest emotion.
4. **Resolution** – the events that bring the story to a close, it rounds out and concludes the action.

SYNOPSIS

All Twist McPherson wanted to do when she retired early from her job as an advertising executive was move to Palm Springs, live a quieter life, and write a book. But when the rejection notices begin piling up, and the economy forces publishers to look for only the big blockbusters, Twist's best friend, Roz, who is on vacation from her job as an editor for a large New York publishing house, suggests Twist publish the book herself.

Twist shares the news with her friends, five saucy ladies in their mid-seventies, at their weekly Mahjong game. Twist is shocked to find out the ladies are popular writers of some of the hottest, yet refined erotica to hit the e-book market in years. And now these fine ladies are ready to see their work in print. The result is Dirty Little Secrets, LLC is born, and the only stipulation is that they must always remain anonymous.

Twist meets one her neighbors, internationally known thriller writer, Jack Crawford, who came to the desert to finish his tenth book. Jack does far less writing and far more poking his heart into Twist's life, which includes breaking through his writer's block by writing some hot stories, which Twist begs him to publish under the name Marcella de la Prentiss.

Rave reviews and Twist's flashy promotion catches the attention of book reviewer and reporter, Carl Beckenham, who is in need of a big story to help save his book review section from the chopping block at the *Chicago Times*. He sees a brewing story about the little publisher who blasted onto the scene from nowhere with a stable of anonymous writers.

Carl is getting close to exposing her authors—especially Jack—and Twist, in a preemptive move, tells Carl she'll reveal her authors' identities at the Book Expo America in New York and offer him an exclusive interview if he backs off until then. Carl does exactly what she hopes he'll do, and continue the media buzz. Twist's last mountain to climb is to convince the ladies to come out of the closet in order to take the heat off Jack, who thanks to his "writing exercises," finished a brilliant manuscript and returned to New York.

Months later, Twist's booth at the BEA is surrounded by agents, publicists, reviewers and media. Cameras are poised and cell phones are put on standby as Twist waltzes out her five stars while she unfolds a large banner, "Old Ladies Do It With Refinement." The icing on the cake is when Twist exposes to the media that she is Marcella de la Prentiss, thus robbing Snarlin' Carl of his suspicions of Jack.

Through all the requests for interviews and offers for foreign rights, Jack appears through the crowd requesting an autograph of Twist's book. Inside are hotel reservations for a nice, dull vacation in Barstow.