

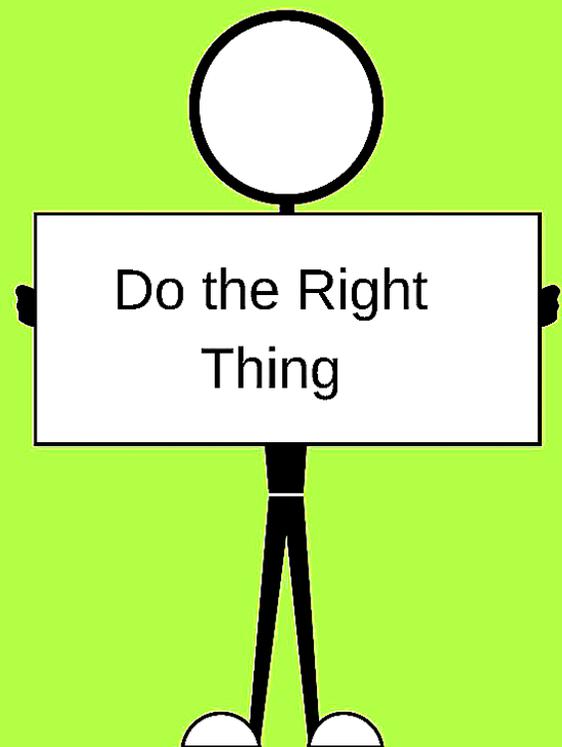
CHARACTER MOTTO WORKBOOK

by *USA Today* Bestselling Author

Susan Gable

Romance Novel Version

A Writer's Tool for Creating 3-D
Characters & Enhancing Plot, Setting
& Conflict





YOUR HERO

In this section, you'll work through creating important details about your hero. You can start with either your hero or heroine. (Just skip forward a few pages to start with your heroine.)

Hero's Motto:

Tip - Use the big list of mottos to help you choose. Don't forget this motto will play into the conflict in your book. This corresponds with Chapter One of the Character Motto book. If you have a kernel of a plot, make sure the motto works with it. If you started with your heroine, this motto should create conflict with her motto.

Backstory

What happened to your hero to make him look at the world this way? To review, see Chapter Two of the Character Motto book.

SHOW the Motto

What are details you can use to **SHOW** the motto? Think about setting details. Where and how he lives. What he drives. How he dresses. What behaviors might he engage in as a result of this motto? (For help, see Chapter Three of the Character Motto book.)



Conflict Within

How does your hero's motto create conflict in him? Internally, what's he struggling against? Externally, what plot point will you throw at the hero that will conflict with his motto? Chapter Four of the Character Motto book will provide guidance.

Conflict With Others

Whichever main character you've started with, now come up with some mottos that would be in conflict with their motto. This will help you decide on the motto for the other character. (Hero or heroine, depending on where you start.)





YOUR HEROINE

In this section, you'll work through creating important details about your heroine.

Heroine's Motto:

Tip - Use the big list of mottos to help you choose. Don't forget this motto will play into the conflict in your book. This corresponds with Chapter One of the Character Motto book. If you started with your hero, make sure this motto will create conflict with his motto.

Backstory

What happened to your heroine to make her look at the world this way? To review, see Chapter Two of the Character Motto book.

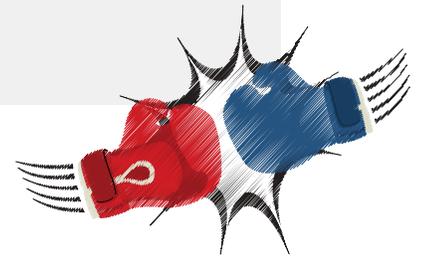
SHOW the Motto

What are details you can use to **SHOW** your heroine's motto? Think about setting details. Where and how she lives. What she drives. How she dresses. What behaviors might she engage in as a result of this motto? (For help, see Chapter Three of the Character Motto book.) Keep conflict in mind. How will these details be in conflict (possibly - they don't all have to. Sometimes blue drapes were just on sale.) with your hero's motto?



Conflict with Hero's Motto

How does your heroine's motto conflict with your hero's motto? How does it create conflict between her and other characters in your story? (i.e. best friend, mother, etc.)

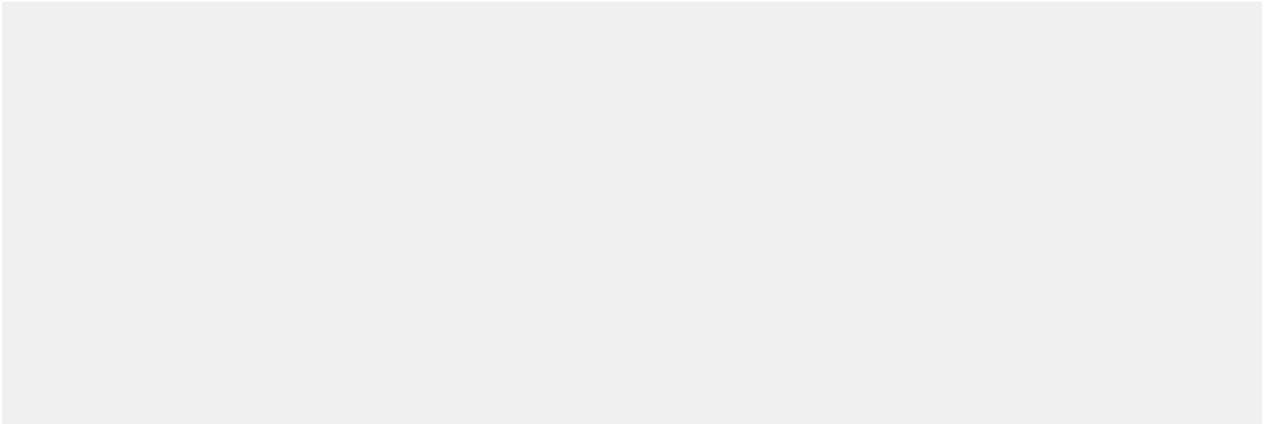


Conflict Within

How does your heroine's motto create conflict in her? Internally, what's she struggling against? Externally, what plot points will you throw at the heroine that will conflict with her motto? Chapter Four of the Character Motto book will provide guidance.

YOUR BOOK

Your book's motto is another way of asking for the theme of your book. You don't have to know this going in, but it can help. So, what's your book's motto? (Ties with Chapter Five of Character Motto book,)



A few examples:

Good triumphs over evil.

Enjoy life while you can because you don't know how long you have.

Sometimes you get second chances.

Sometimes you have to fight for what you love.

The grass is always greener...

Love/accept yourself for who you are.

PLOTTING

What are your characters' greatest fears? This fear is related to their motto, and will give insight into what they need to learn. See Chapter Six of the Character Motto book for more details. Examples below.

Motto	Greatest Fear	Needs to Learn
Life is a Catch & Release Program	Losing what she loves	Some things are worth fighting for
Success is the best revenge	Not measuring up	What is the "right" definition of success?
Do the right thing	Doing the wrong thing, being immoral, not being perfect	Not everything is black/white, right/wrong. There are shades of grey, no one is perfect
Life's short, eat dessert first	Losing the joy in life, rigid structure	Sometimes you have to do the "right" thing instead of what you want (eat the veggies first)
What's in it for me?	Not having enough, getting the short end of the stick	Put others first. Sacrifice for the greater good.
I'll do it myself	Losing independence	Sometimes it's okay to ask for help, rely on others
One strike and you're out	Being betrayed	Sometimes people deserve a second chance
Life's fatal	Afraid of fully living	Life is to be lived, shared, embraced
Love 'em and leave 'em wanting more	Losing someone he loves	Tis better to have loved deeply and lost than never to have loved (or only superficially) at all

Now chart out your own characters' greatest fears, and the lessons they need to learn. This will help you plot out your story. I've given you space for another character that's significant to your story as well.

	Motto	Greatest Fear	Needs to Learn
Hero			
Heroine			
Other			

Based on your main character's fear and lesson they need to learn, you can likely figure out your black moment. How are you going to pull the rug out from under him/her? What are some plot points you'll need to move your character from the opening to that black moment?

