

"A COCKTAIL OF CHARACTERS"



I have had a very busy day so far today, procrastination is so much more fun than actually doing anything I find...but it doesn't fill my soul with happiness or get the job done.

Except today that is.

I found a really interesting concept, which when I first read about it I thought could only happen in America. It is called the "hipsterPDA" - which until today I had thought was something like a palm pilot or other electronic gadget. Well I was wrong it is a:

Hipster PDA (*Parietal Disgorgement Aid*)

Any the wiser? nope - read on: -

In any other words - a collection of postcards tarted up to go around in your pocket - perfect for notetaking, and plot planning!!!

Having now found a use for it, I got stuck in and found some templates on www.hipsterpda.com - they even have a sundial template on one of them, as a reaction against time pressure ☺

So having now found this concept - here is a chance to use it. If you can't be bothered to phaff around with the distractions above, simply either use some random postcards filched from local coffee shops or tear up some paper to roughly postcard size.



Today's Prompt is "**A Cocktail of Characters**"

(because you take basic ingredients and shake them up to become something else)

First - We have to find three characters.

Start at the top of each card with the **name of the character** - then go on to state their age, physical description, etc. Don't be in a hurry to complete this task, think about this over the next few hours, filling in the cards whilst doing the other things that distract you from your writing life. Do your characters bite their nails, have irritating habits - irrational phobias? - the list goes on.

When you are happy with your three characters. Lay the descriptions out in front of you, as you would with playing cards and, using the intimate knowledge you now have of them to:-

Write a conversation that they have - this conversation could be an argument in a queue, a casual discussion full of pleasantries as they meet in a bar, they could be invited to an opening night of an art show, meet in the audience of a game show - the location could be anywhere that three strangers would casually meet.

Your three characters should now have life in their own right.

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You could have them:-

Walking away from this discussion into their every day lives, arranging to meet again at a later date, or both, or something else-

think - **How has this discussion changed them?** and the course of their existence?

To take this further: -

Write up **three more cards** with **three more characters** who could be their partners/dependants/work colleagues/club members/team mates. - don't be in a hurry with this project let these characters develop at the speed of your imagination - don't force it.

Put these 6 cards into pairs - **write another conversation, placing your characters in a different location.**

Gather up all the cards and shuffle them - **Write up more characters.**

The possibilities are endless. Put all these cards together with an elastic band, in an old tin - anywhere as long as they are safe. This is where the concept of the *hipster PDA* comes into its own. You have given these cards a name - you won't just lose them in the other papers on your desk, or your notebook, or in your head.

So the next time you decide to write your best selling novel - you have the characters and the basis of a plot already worked out on easy to access cards - all you have to do now is to sit down and actually write it, with no excuses for prevarication - it is as simple as that !!

Best wishes

Shani



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