

***PREPARING FOR YOUR CHARACTER TO SHOW
UP***

Prepare yourself right now to willingly spend a few weeks with the character you're going to be unleashing onto the world. The creative process doesn't start with you waking up, sitting at your computer, and end with you unplugging at night.

In the midst of organically evolving this relationship, you'll find you seem to be working around the clock: when you're showering, when you're biking...and it may even start to feel like you're on-call 24/7, completely devoted, as you acquire a working knowledge of your new main squeeze— your protagonist. Your world may take on a reflective quality, showing you people, places, and things you normally do not notice.

At this formative Prep Phase, observe, reflect on, and absorb the information coming at you. Your world will become a place with more spongy potential for your story. You may even experience an exciting preoccupation with your surroundings, scanning for details that serve your character's life. As often is the case, when you're dialed into your character, you may uncover a newfound interest in everything around you. People, animals, plants, colors, sounds, smells.

These specifics that grab your attention may seem new to you—objects, locations and insights—normally taken for granted within your world. For instance, while working on the Prep Phase,