



## GATHERING THE END TOGETHER

### AUDIO NOTES OUTLINE

***Assembling your ideas to build a satisfying ending.***

#### THE END

- The part of the book which starts with the end of the middle, and ends with the final scene.
- You have to fill in the space between those two points with scenes.
- Know what your final scene will be, so that you can set it up.
- Think about the end – the final act – like theatre.

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#### THE FINAL ACT

Make notes from Kim's audio about the function of the 'final act'.

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#### THE FINAL SCENES

The showdown and resolution scenes.

What bad endings should you be careful of?

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## FINAL LINES

### EXERCISE: GOOD ENDINGS

In the **Good Endings Forum**, come up with a list of ways to ensure a good ending.

#### WHAT TO DO:

1. Look at the ideas below and come up with a bad ending for each one.
2. Note why the ending is bad; be as specific as you can be, e.g because it is cliché, because it's too obscure, because it's a big letdown.
3. Now turn those reasons around into positive statements, starting with "A good ending is..." e.g "A good ending rewards the reader by tying up important loose threads."
4. Post your list of statements about good endings on the **Good Endings Forum** for group discussion.

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#### STORY IDEAS:

1. Lillian discovers her father was responsible for her beloved mother's death. She travels overland from Bombay to London (it's the 19<sup>th</sup> century) to meet with him and extract a violent revenge. On the way, she has many adventure



and encounters with men that serve to make her more bitter and angry with her father. She finally arrives in London at her father's house...

2. Patrick is timid and unadventurous. He agrees to help organise an amateur variety- night production to raise funds for the small-town orphanage where he grew up. In the process, he meets Nancy, who hears him singing in the shower and realises he has an astonishing talent. At the last minute, the special guest small-time celebrity pulls out...
3. Leo hasn't been down the mines since the accident in '83 that bugged his knee and left him terrified of the dark. Now his headstrong daughter has married a miner, even though he wanted her to get out of town and get a proper education. Then the unthinkable: an explosion down the very same mineshaft, and his son-in-law is trapped. Leo's daughter presses her father to help in the rescue mission...
4. Miranda is a welfare mum who comes up with a great idea for a home business. Every bank manager turns her down, none more harshly than Edward Peabody, who not only ridicules her, he then steals her idea and goes into competition against her. With determination, courage, hard work and sacrifice, Miranda takes Peabody on...
5. Merrick discovers on her nineteenth birthday that she is actually the lost twin sister of the high priestess of Kelmor. Now rumours abound that the night priestess is losing her powers, throwing into doubt the future of the magical islands. Merrick travels from her home in the outer islands all the way to the High Keep, to discover her blood and her destiny...