

Deep POV: Take your story from ho-hum to HOLY MACKEREL!

Jillian David

jilliandavid13@yahoo.com

www.jilliandavid.net

Twitter: @jilliandavid13

BlueSky: @jilliandavid.bsky.social

Instagram: @jilliandavid_author

Facebook: @authorjilliandavid

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Deep POV

- Only known to the POV character. That means, the POV character cannot:
 - Blush
 - Frown/look sad
 - Dilate pupils
 - Have a pulse visible at the base of their neck
 - Glisten (face or eyes, but maybe arms if they look at themselves)
 - Flare nostrils
- UNLESS: they're looking at themselves in the mirror (huge crutch - use SPARINGLY)

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Deep POV – Internal thoughts

Balancing internal monologue with insanity with boredom

- 1) Bob looked at the rotting fish and smelled the awful smell and thought to himself, “How am I going to make this palatable?”

- 2) Bob’s rumbling stomach fought against the sweet and noxious scent of rotting fish entrails. What the hell. Nothing a dash of coriander couldn’t fix. Satiation or hospitalization – time for some pescatarian roulette!

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Deep POV character interview

- ***Do the interview*** – the longer the better
- Know the cuss words/verbal tics - WRITE THEM DOWN
- Know the physical features and unique tics
- Know the educational background and biases – HOW they describe something (internally or externally)
- Know the relationship to the feature of the book (religion, magical power, suspense element, small town)

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Deep POV: Distancing words

- Saw/looked
- Felt
- Knew
- Heard
- Smelled
- Thought
- Said? (change to descriptive or remove tag altogether)
- Was about to/going to

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Deep POV: Weak words

- Was/were
- Just
- That
- -ing
- Could XX/would XX/should XX
- Might
- ?????ADVERBS?????
- Find your tic words per manuscript (breathed, eyes, just)

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Deep POV pitfalls and tricks

- Metaphors are your friend, to a point.
- Sentence length/paragraph length/word choices create a visual and auditory sensation of the scene
- How does the POV character describe the other people in the story? (proper name vs nickname vs position)
(Commander Hunt vs C.O. vs Mr. Grumpy vs the organizer)
- “Masculine” vs “feminine” voice. Questions vs statements. HOW they say things.

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Deep POV pitfalls and tricks

- Body parts do not function independently of the rest of the body.
- “His hand drifted up her arm.” (WHERE IS THE REST OF THE BODY?)
- Backstory ability depends on the scene tone/situation.
- Careful of internal monologue explaining the stuff.
- Careful of external monologue explaining the stuff. 😊
- Careful of thinking the thing then doing the thing then saying the thing.

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Deep POV tricks

Draft shallow, revise deep. Sprinkle backstory and details into the layers.

1) "Let's go," she said for the tenth time. He was always slow. He laced up his sneakers. "Okay, okay."

2) Oh, no. They couldn't be late. Not again. The threat of school suspension loomed. No way would she let that happen to Billy. "Let's go already." She clenched her jaw until her teeth creaked. If they weren't orphans with only each other for survival, she'd be fancy free and decorating her locker with Taylor Swift posters while giggling with friends.

He stared up at her with wide, ancient eyes that had witnessed too much cruelty in this empty world. "Okay, okay," he stammered, hands shaking until he formed the worn laces into uneven, sagged bows.

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Before/after comparisons***

"He was an accomplice to Zach and Sara's kidnapping."

"What? Why isn't that sicko in jail?"

"Tommy Brand. Judge (true? Check). Family ties."

Kerr ran his hand over his short orange hair. "He was an accomplice to Zach and Sara's kidnapping."

"So you had mentioned. Why isn't that sicko in jail?"

"Did you get knocked out in a fight and forget that this area has some real close-knit ties? They have family members in law enforcement, school, and one uncle a judge. We'll never get a charge to stick against any of them."

Of course Vaughn knew about the judge, given how many times he'd stood in front of the man for sentencing, thanks to Sheriff Tommy Brand. What a winner, Tommy. That particular jackass had taken great pleasure in hauling Vaughn's butt to the county jail, over and over. The Sublette County sheriff's department probably had to reduce their workforce after Vaughn left town.

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Before/after comparisons***

Vaughn went from the highest of highs to the worst sinking feeling he'd ever had in his existence.

Higher than Everest one minute, bottom of the ocean the next. Vaughn should have known they weren't out of danger yet.

His power sparked into a virtual ice pick and lodged in his skull.

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Deep POV exercise #1 – fix my writing!

- Construct this passage into deep POV – remember use word choices and drop in some backstory TIDBITS for tone and POV
- Also, spot my POV mistakes!
- Two groups:
 - Character is a fashion model diva
 - Character is an old farmer (male)

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Revision passage

- Sammie's hands were smoothing the shirt fabric. Sighing, Sammie thought about how they didn't want to face the day. "I'm really dreading today," Sammie said to Kris. As they were going to leave, Sammie blew out a breath they didn't know they were holding and looked sad.

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Deep POV exercise #2 – ruin my writing!

- Find a Deep POV passage and edit backwards
- Let's deconstruct Jake and Kiera's scene, and make it shallow POV. Be sure to use lots of weak verbs and distancing words!
- Scene setup

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Fuck going slow and steady.

Jake exploded into the room, shucking off control of his virus as he burst through the metal door and ripped it from the hinges. His shoulder and chest muscles popped and grew, braiding joy and horror together and sucking up even more viral strength as it coursed through every cell of his body.

His ability to think fled. His vision bled red.

His teammates flowed into the room behind him, Rodeo securing their exit.

Through the haze, he saw her. On the bed, a small figure in a blue top writhed and screamed.

Looming over Kiera was a man in slacks and a button-down shirt. Lequire. He wielded a syringe filled with liquid. He pressed the point into her arm. Zip ties bit into her skin as she strained away from him.

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Deep POV resources

- <https://www.nownovel.com/blog/how-to-write-deep-pov/>
- <http://theeditorsblog.net/2011/11/16/deep-pov-whats-so-deep-about-it/>
- <https://writersinthestormblog.com/2018/07/how-to-use-deep-point-of-view-without-tying-an-anchor-to-the-pace-of-your-novel/> (Deep POV and pacing)

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