

This is the planning document I made when brainstorming for this narrative.

Literature FIA2 Planning:

A short story of vignettes about a female journalist in 1941 set with the task of reporting on the life of a London housewife, amidst the ongoing war.

Initial Concept :

Pursuit of Happiness. In which, a workaholic perfectionist learning to embrace their flaws thus changes their opinion on what true happiness is to them. **changed slightly*

Initial Character :

Helena is a 55-year-old British woman, she's a middle-class newspaper writer in the 1940s. Having fought for women's rights and respect as a female journalist in the early 1910s and through WW1. She knows the cruelties of men in the workplace and thus tries her best to maintain her career. With the radio full of talk of bombings, she's been set as the lady in charge of getting all the latest news into those papers. Having experienced death this reflects in her notes. The perfectionist in her desires to create an article full of everything her boss desires. But going out to document and report the horrors of war is immediately taking a massive toll on Helena's mental state. From the train ride to London, to her stay in the inn, how on earth is she supposed to inspire the public of a housewife's dream. If she herself can't see any bright side to the destruction around her, who can? Why be a housewife at such a time. And she would think, killing an ant is mercy lest it have to endure the war and loss she is witnessing.

Initial Plot :

Beginning - Set with the task of writing the next big hit that'd fly off the racks at a penny per issue.

Middle – Going out in the field to find reliable resources is taking a toll on Helena. Any ideas for writing a truthful article that inspires hope have been thrown out the window. Helena is consumed by fear. Explosions surround her every move.

End – Helena decides to write the preachy newspaper her superiors desired. She proceeds to quit immediately after, escaping to Spain with her remaining family. This is due to her having increased panic attacks at her job as a journalist. She can no longer see a happy future in that line of work. **This ending was scrapped.*

Perspective :

A 1st person perspective from a journalist in war times. Interchanged with narration at climax. The audience should feel a shared fear with Helena. They should experience the same anxiety she experiences by observing the horrors around her. The audience should be induced to think about the worth of doing something you enjoy vs doing what is expected of you.

Features of Structure :

My text will be presented in multimodal form to help set the mood. Structured in vignettted segments, threaded together whilst keeping it compacted. 2 minute or so segments. **Submission was originally a script + audio experience but was rewritten to be in prose.*

6-9 Minutes in total, so around 1350 spoken words at most. Would be a good idea to storyboard. Would probably jump around 5 times at most throughout the whole thing. I want the climax, where Helena makes her decision on what she is going to write to be impactful to the audience. Thus, it will probably be the slowest segment in the narrative.

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Beginning:

Establish Plot.

Establish main character.

Establish Setting.

Middle:

Build up suspense/anxiety/confusion.

Breaking point.

End:

Break in anxiety.