Comedy Writing Techniques

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Heide Goody & Iain Grant

THIS WORKSHOP IS SUPPORTED BY

writegear

TOOLS TO HELP YOU TELL YOUR STORY

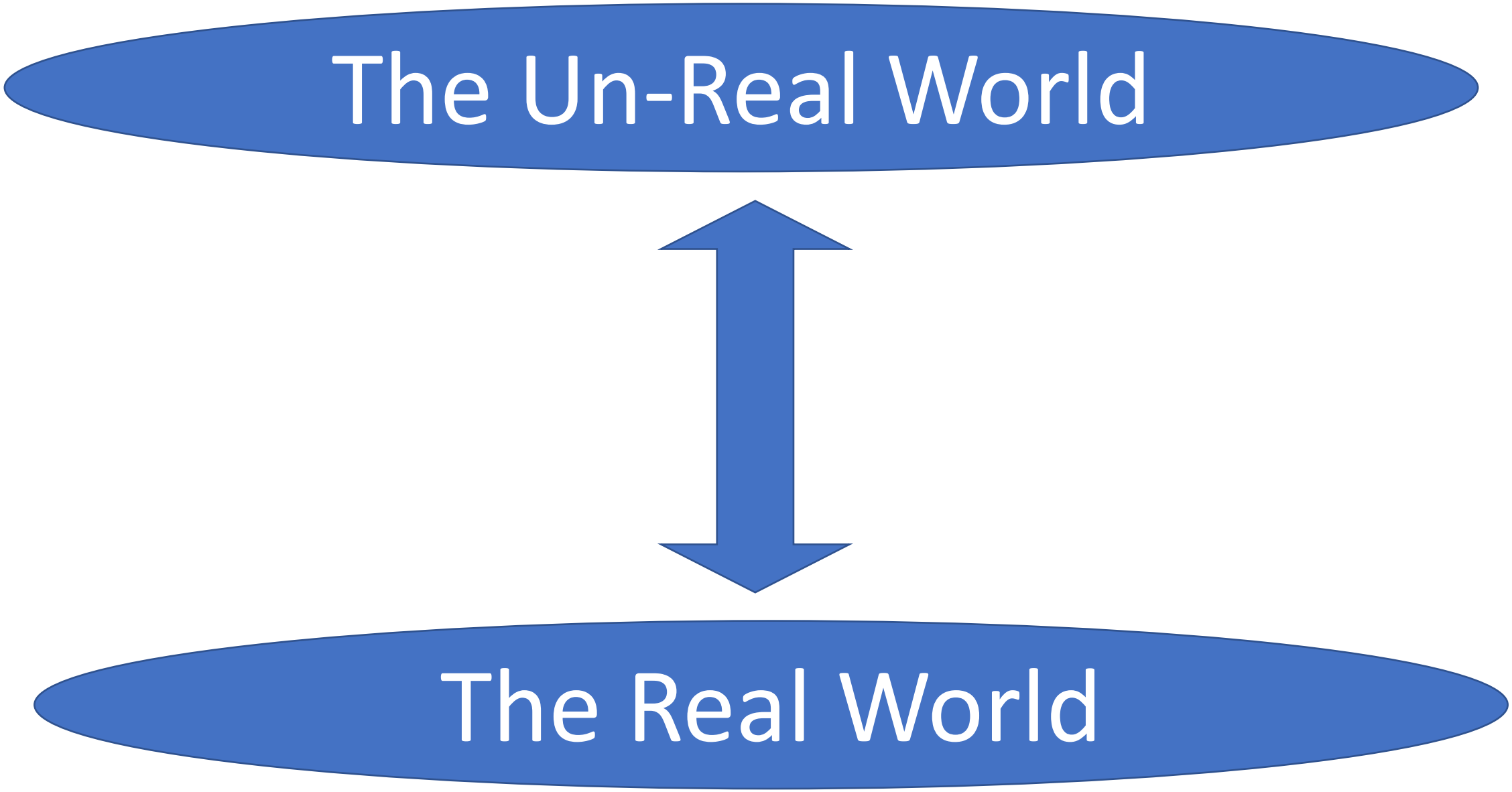
THE page one PODCAST

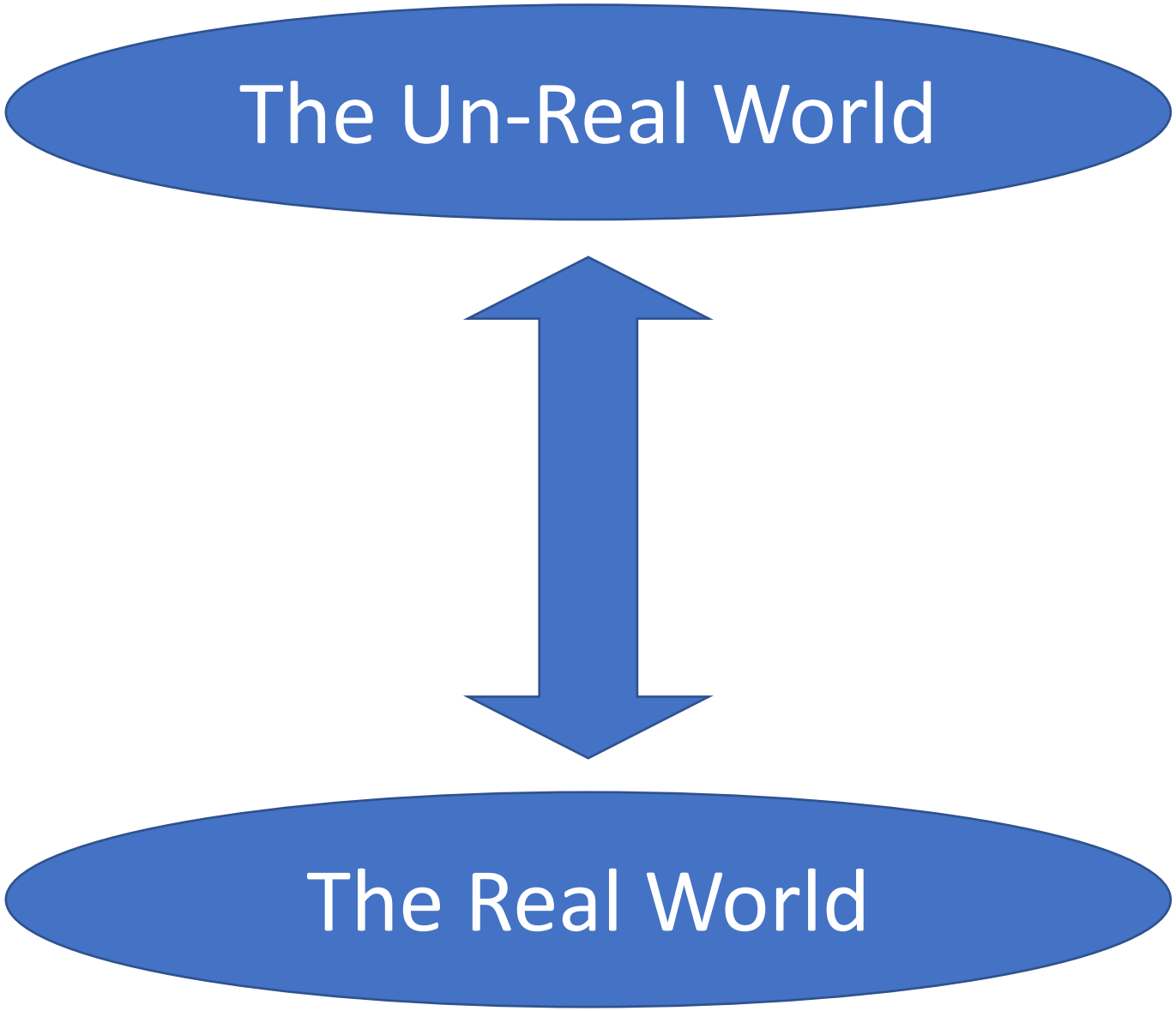
Housekeeping

- Please keep yourself muted (there will be a chance to talk later).
- Put any questions you have in the chat bar.
- Your comfort.
- Privacy and data-sharing.

- Plot, story and character elements of comedy (Iain)
- Scene elements of comedy (Heide)
- Q&A / Sentence-level techniques

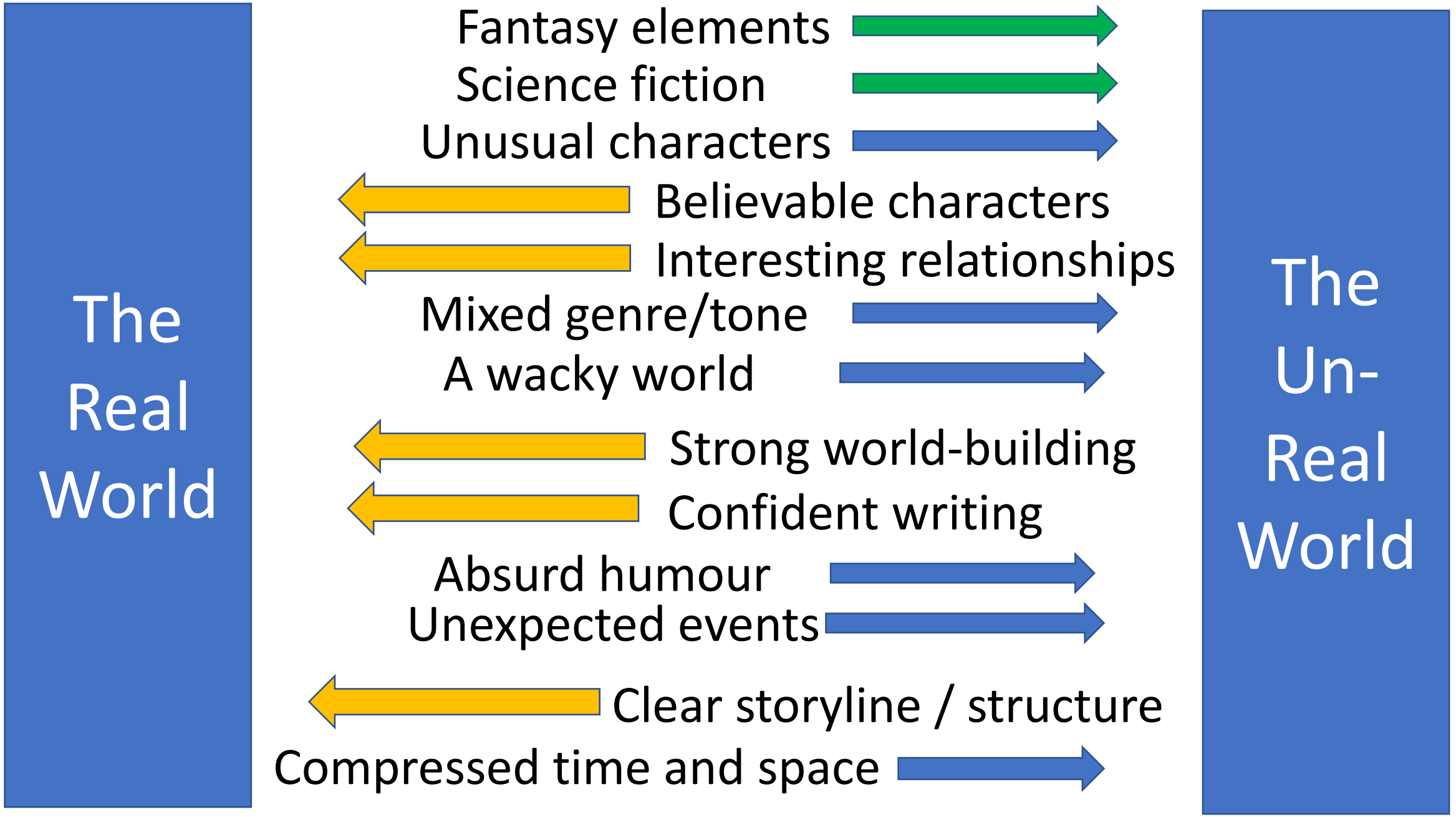
Setting, Character and Plot elements in a Comedy story


The Un-Real World
The Real World



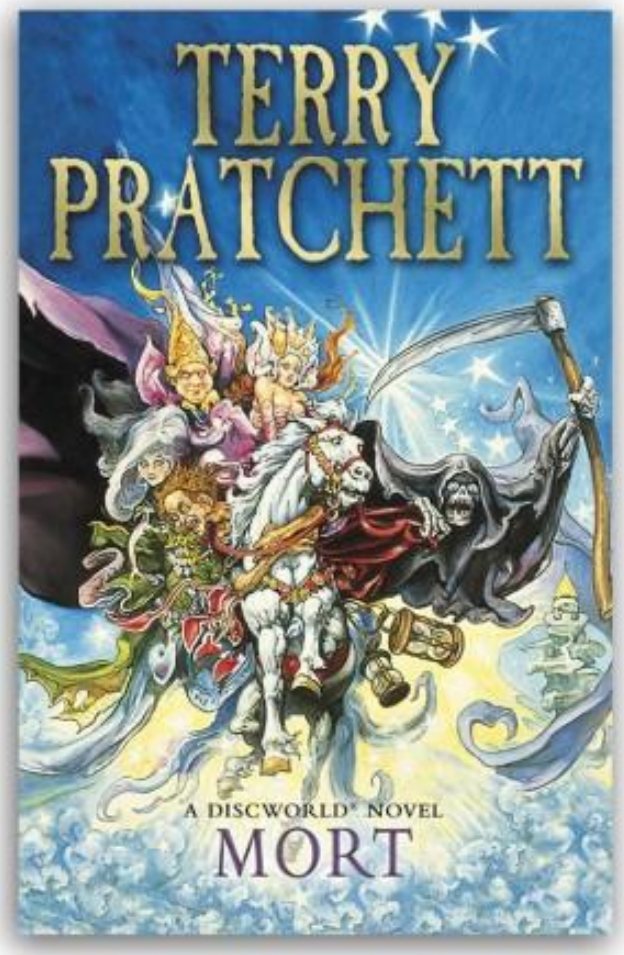
- The absurd & ridiculous
- Lots of opportunity for comedy
- Suspension of disbelief
- Lots of opportunity to alienate your audience.

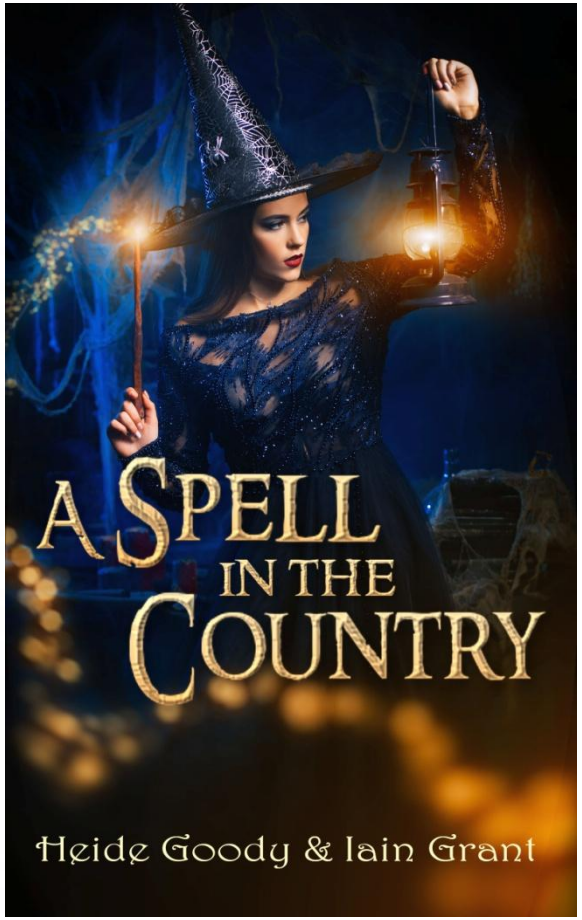
- The mundane world
- Not particularly funny
- Easy to believe/understand
- “Safe”

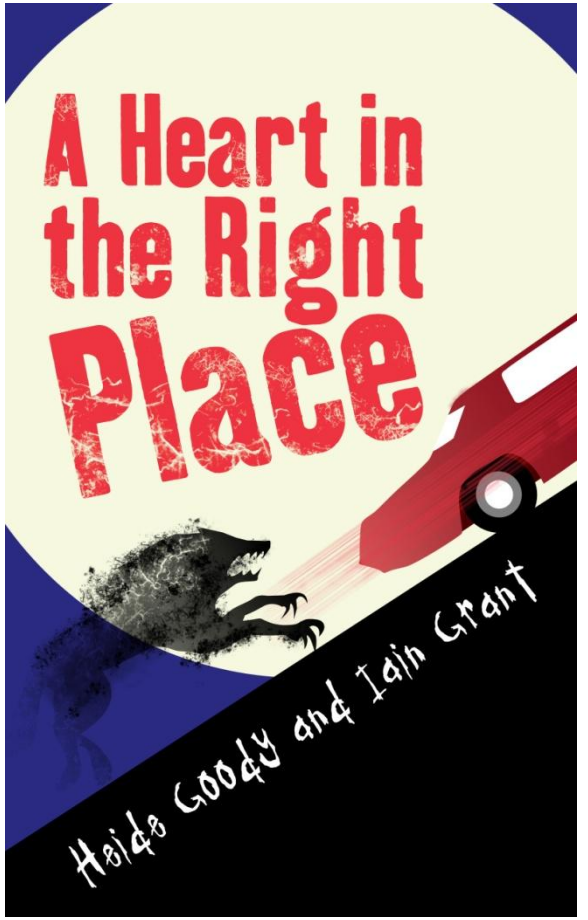

The Real World
Fantasy elements
Science fiction
Unusual characters
Believable characters
Interesting relationships
Mixed genre/tone
A wacky world
Strong world-building
Confident writing
Absurd humour
Unexpected events
Clear storyline / structure
Compressed time and space
The Un-Real World

Concept

Clear storyline / structure





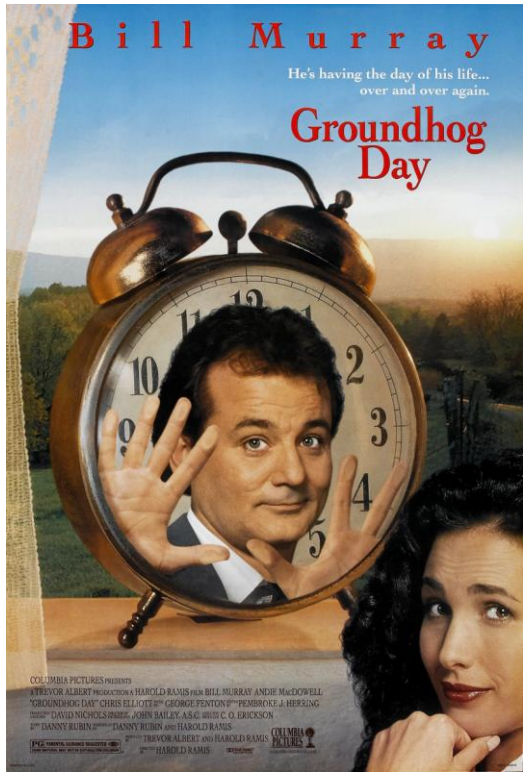


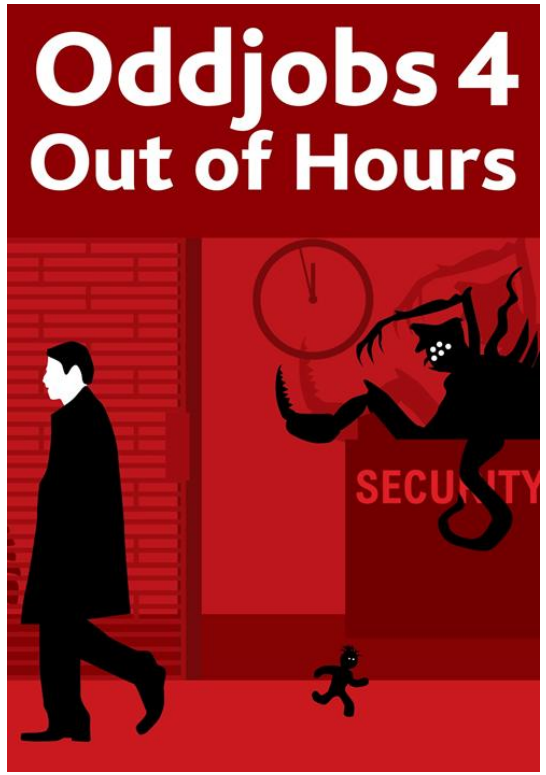
Structure

Clear storyline / structure

Absurd humour

Unexpected events

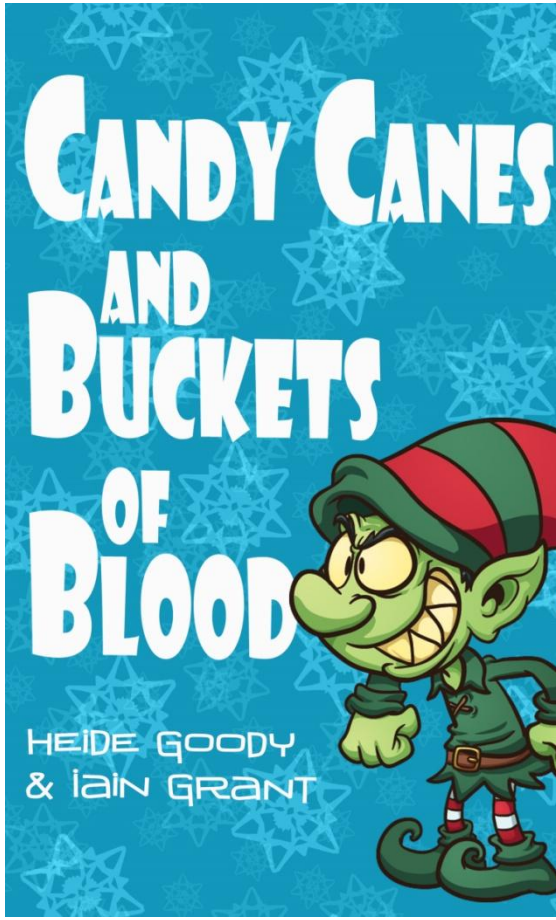




Setting

Strong world-building

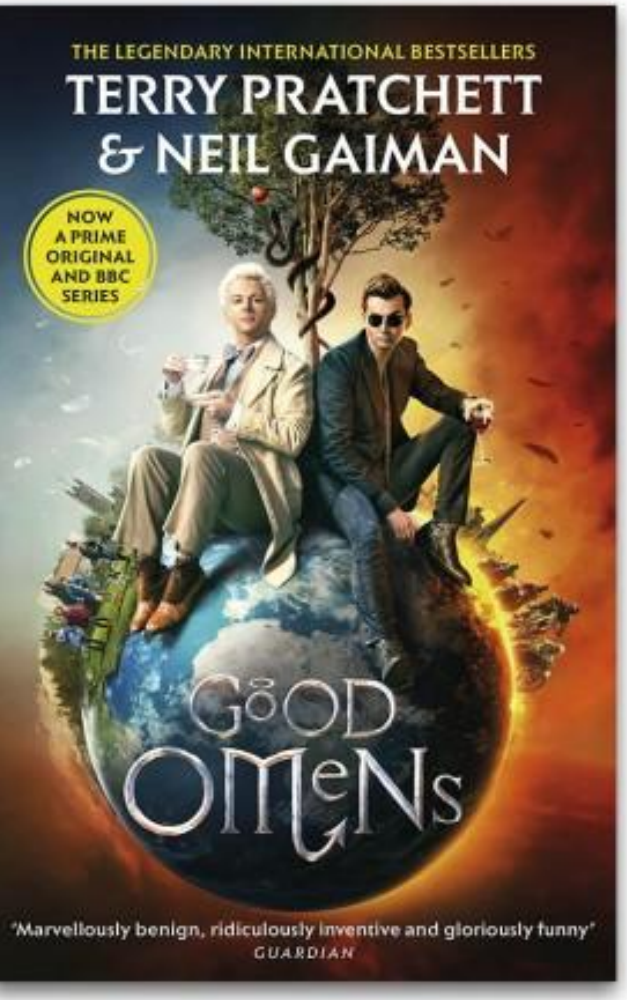
Compressed time and space

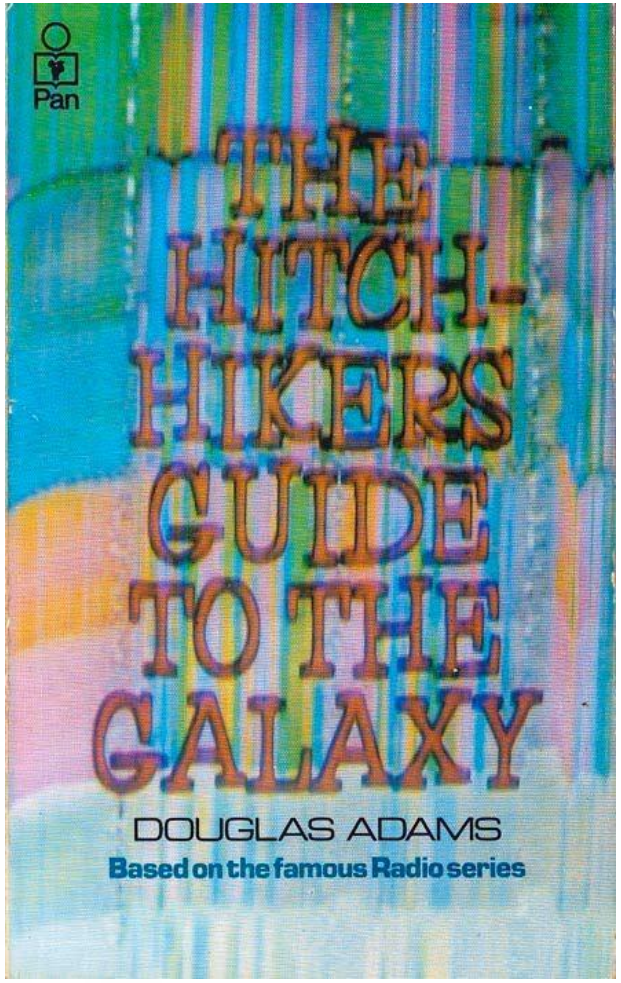


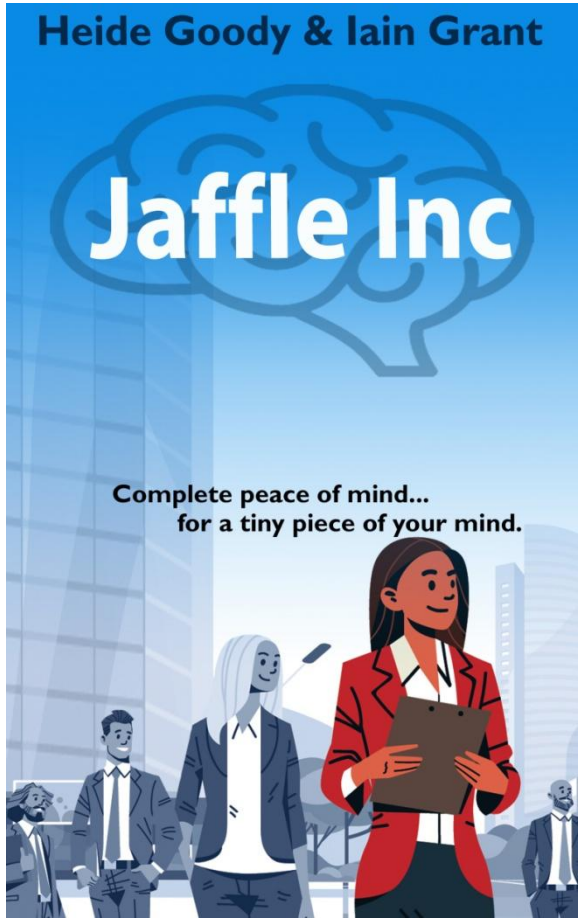
Structure

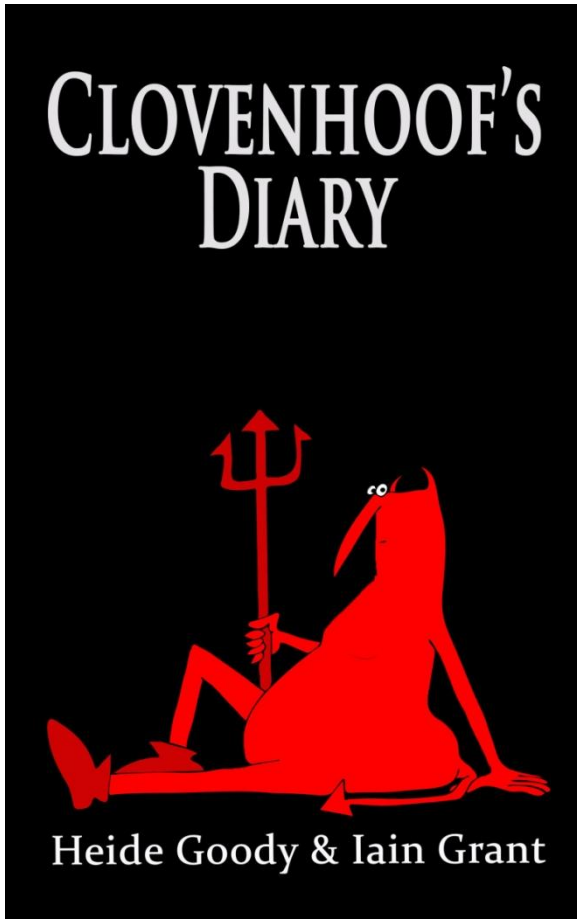
Unexpected events →

← Clear storyline / structure







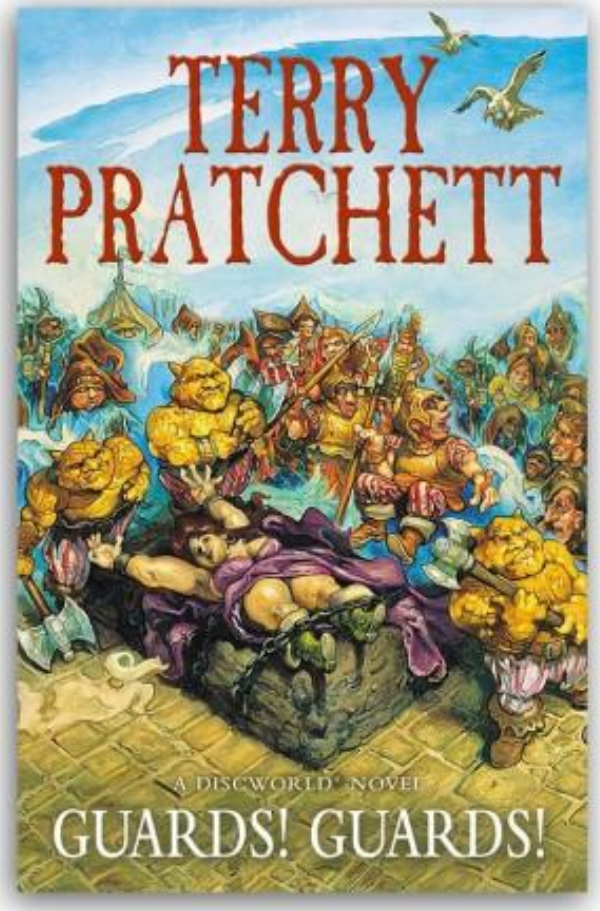


Characters

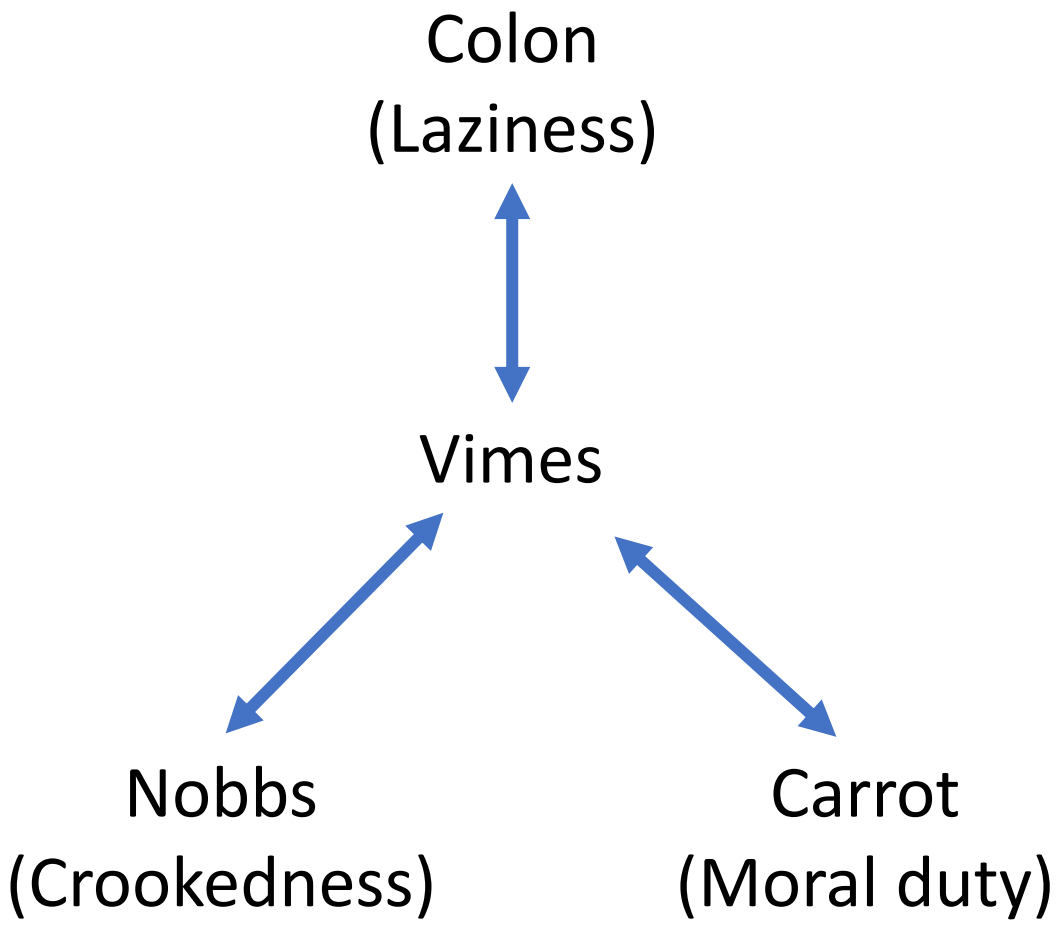
Unusual characters

Believable characters

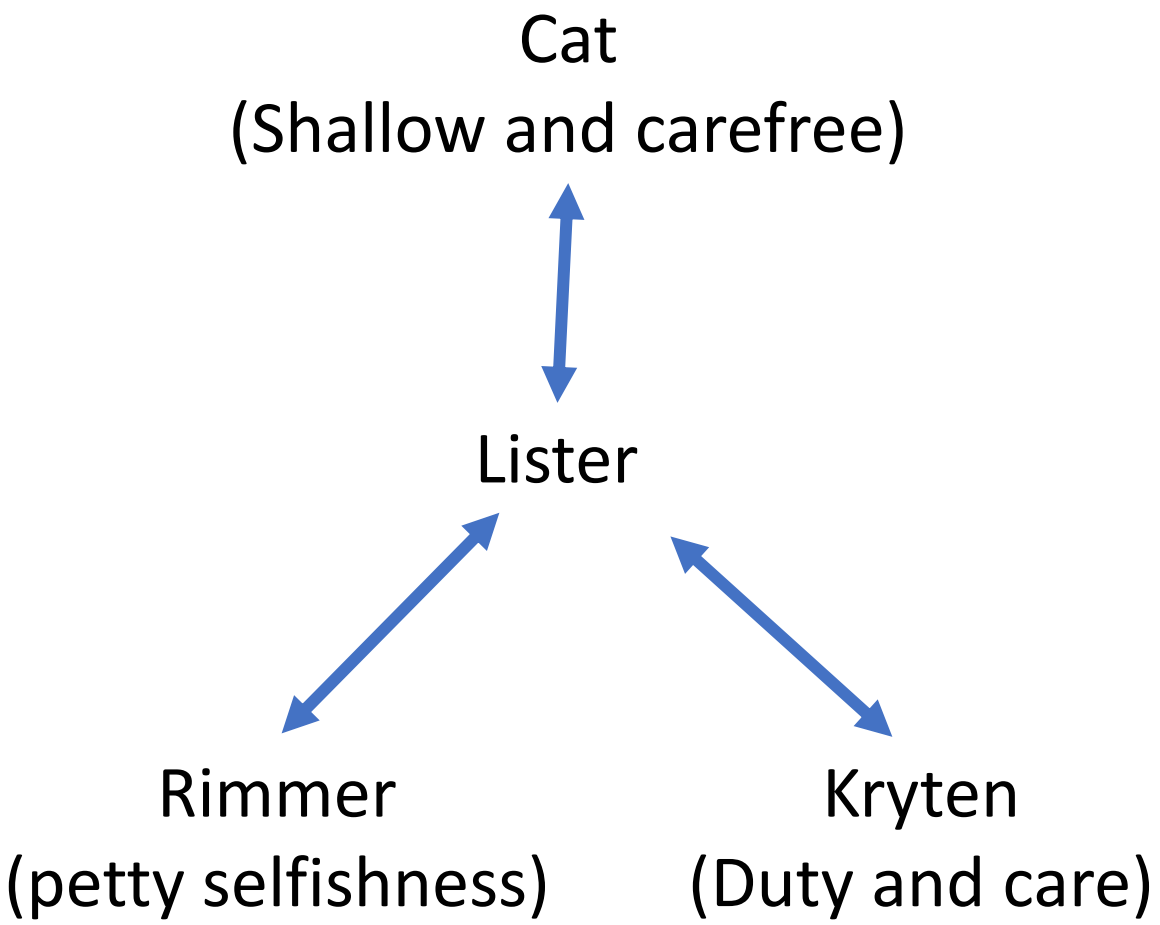
Interesting relationships



Character relationships — Guards! Guards!



Character relationships — Red Dwarf



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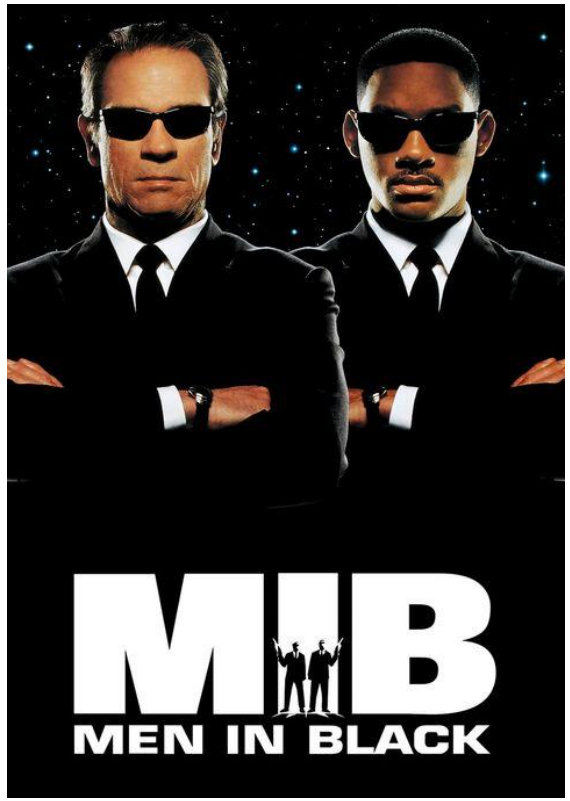

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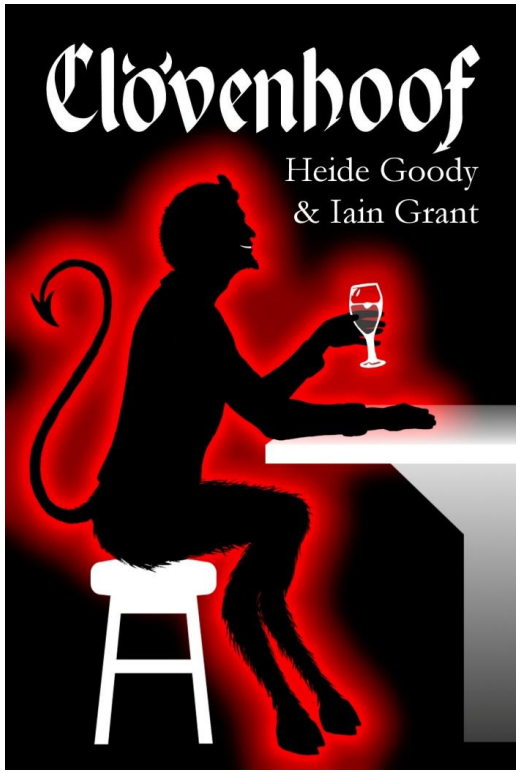
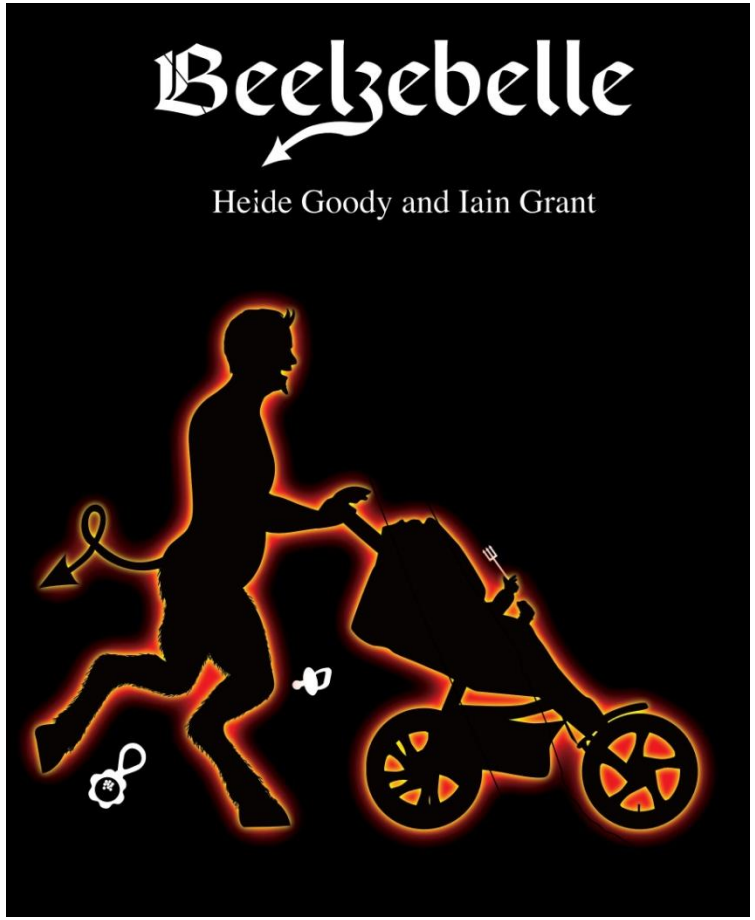
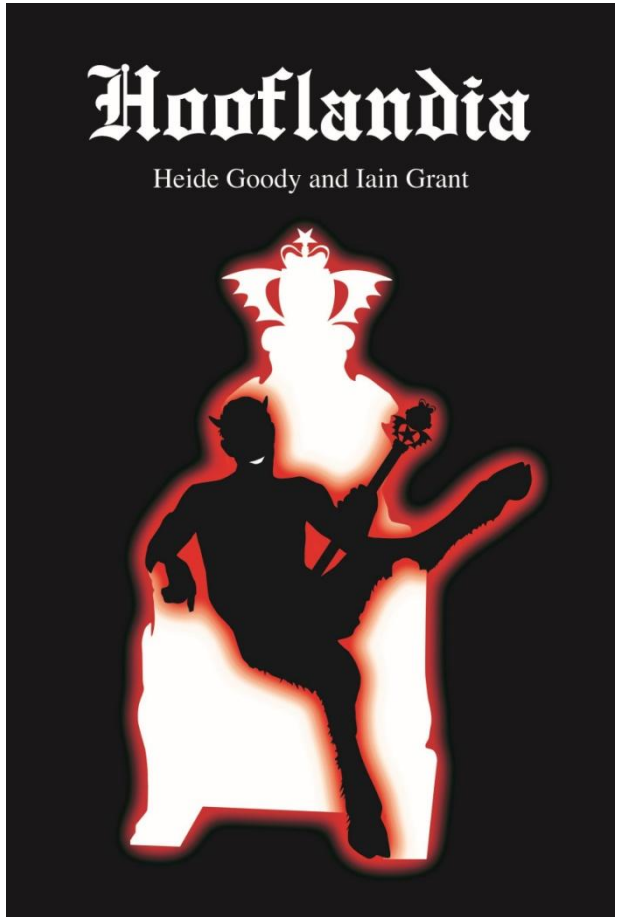


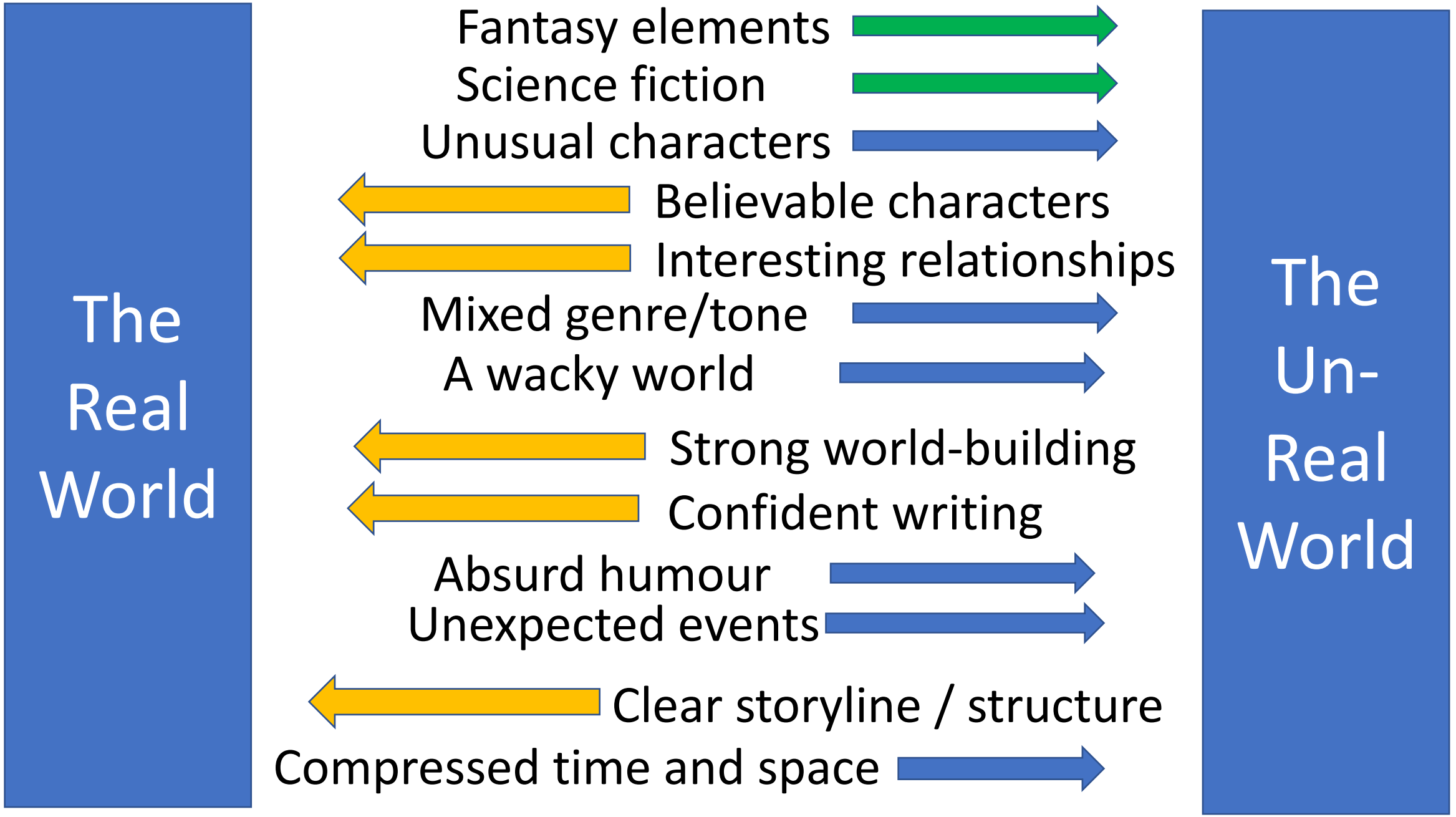
A sane “straight” character among wacky characters and strange events.

A comedic character in a “straight” setting (fish out of water)

Characters — Growth vs Reset Button



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- The absurd & ridiculous
- Lots of opportunity for comedy
- Suspension of disbelief
- **Lots of opportunity to alienate your audience**.

The Un-Real World