

# SCARY SCENE BLUEPRINT

**What is the setup for this scene? How will you kick-start the tension by making the character goals for this section clear to the reader?**

**What is the mood of the scene, and how will you build it? Write a few evocative descriptions of key elements of the scene to prepare yourself.**

**What are the blocks you're going to put in place to prevent your character from reaching their goal in this scene?**

**Place those blocks in order from least severe to most severe – the final block being the climactic scare. Does this progression of conflict slowly ramp up the tension before exploding in all-out terror, or are you landing too heavy, too soon?**

**What about this scene is scary or unsettling to you?**

**How are you going to use misdirection to divert the reader's attention before delivering the scare? Have you used this same trick in a different scene?**

**Do you have any callbacks or foreshadowed events you wish to implement in this scene?**

**If your character needs to make a decision or perform an activity, is this scene going to involve them making the wrong move? If so, what is it that will cause them to mess up (lack of knowledge, lack of skill, lapse in concentration, overwhelming fear)?**

## **POST-WRITING CHECKS:**

**Have you “locked in” the reader, ensuring you don’t hop into another character’s head or change scene before you’ve delivered a climactic event?**

**Have you ended the chapter on a cliffhanger or question about what’s coming up next?**