

STORY PROMPTS

- Your character loses a family member. Someone they are close to – or – someone they despised. How do they experience the funeral? How do they move through grief? Will they be executor of the will? What is their life like without that member around?
- Your character gets fired from a job they loved through a terrible misunderstanding. Without that anchor in their life, how do they change? What are they like without a job? Now that their career is not defining them as a person, do they feel they have lost part of their identity? Do they have a drastic change? Or does a new unexpected job present itself?
- Your character runs into someone who has their life set up to run like a machine. This other person is mysterious to your character because they are alluring yet so closed off, almost mechanical. Does your character try to get them to open up? Could this turn into a love interest? Will this other person reject your character's style?
- As your character walks to work one morning, a random accident occurs and they just narrowly miss being gravely injured. Perhaps they witness a pedestrian accident or narrowly miss being hit by a car sliding on a snowy street. How might they react? Will they help others involved in the accident? How would that change their outlook on life? Will they simply be upset that they are late for work? Is this a turning point for a life-changing epiphany?
- A high school friend shows up at your character's door. They claim to be working on a reunion but could have ulterior motives. Are the memories fond between them? How have they changed in the recent years? Does this spark some introspection with your character about how different their lives could have been? How might your character find out about their ulterior motive?
- Your character has the worst day ever. Late for work, spilled coffee, wrong set of keys, etc. When they end up at the wrong meeting, how do they react? Can they pull it off without being properly prepared? Do they beg off and call it a day? End up at the bar? Take it out on the dog? Call an old flame? Watch how they bounce back from an absolutely terrible day. How does it challenge their usual attitude?
- After winning a trip, your character goes on this journey and something unexpected happens. Maybe it is a cruise and they meet someone exotic. Perhaps it is a flight to a new destination and they encounter a new environment that sparks their imagination. Do they simply enjoy the trip and go back to their old rut at home? Or do they feel now is the time to change their life in search of more? Do they simply never get on the plane to go home at all?
- A mistake early in life put your character in contact with the law, and they have spent five years behind bars. Could be theft, fraud, embezzlement or assault. Five years is a long time. What was society like back in 2012? How has it changed? Do your character's friends welcome them back without hesitation? Or has their perception of them changed? How do they get back on their feet? Do old habits come back to tempt them again? Were children in the picture? How have they grown?