

## The Synopsis

A well-written synopsis of your book will encapsulate all that you wish to accomplish, from beginning to end. This blueprint will also help you circumvent a wealth of troubles during the actual construction of your novel.

A synopsis will include your protagonist's comfortable state of mind before trouble was visited upon him. It will include his reluctance to step into the problem. It will include his agreement to resolve the conflict so he can return to his peaceful life. It will include the antagonist, and his motivations. It will chart, in brief, the major points of conflict along the protagonist's journey, hint at a few subplots and their leading characters, then end with the protagonist resolving both internal and external conflicts.

A good synopsis should be written in the same style in which you expect to write your book. If your book is funny, the synopsis should be funny. If your book is suspenseful, your synopsis should be suspenseful. You will revise the synopsis occasionally as your characters find their own course through your story, but a synopsis, frequently referred to, will also keep you and your characters on track.

Writing a two-page synopsis is not easy, but it will show an agent or editor that you know how to tell a story *from beginning to end*. Muster all the enthusiasm you can, use active, powerful verbs, a touch of dialogue if you want, and tell an intriguing story with clean, clear lines.

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## Synopsis for WINGWEAVER by Lee D. Owen

Kir'chee is a young Junco bird, belonging to The Band, a tribe of juncos in the Pacific Northwest. Their home is five acres of woods, stream and meadow, along with a house inhabited by "unwinged builders."

Kir'chee, and his brother Kin'chat have hatched from the same egg, a phenomenon unique in the history of The Band. When their mother is killed by a cat, Kir'chee comes under the care of the tribe's healer (or Quilltender), who teaches him all she knows. Even though he is small and timid, has poor eyesight, and can't fly as swiftly or gracefully as the other birds, Kir'chee has a beautiful song. But he is afraid to sing in front of the juncos. He often goes off by himself to sing or listen to the melodies of the other birds and learn the strange songs of all the forest creatures.

Kin'chat bullies Kir'chee, and ridicules him as he grows up. Kin'chat is an exceptionally big and mean junco; he climbs The Band's pecking order by way of force to become a member of the greatly regarded High Watch. Timid Kir'chee remains stuck in the tribe's lowest rank.

When the two brother birds enter young adulthood it is springtime, and many of the junco eggs have been broken into, and their contents eaten. Kir'chee, on one of his forays to sing to himself, comes upon Kin'chat, with yolk on his bill. Kin'chat attacks Kir'chee, injures him, and threatens to kill him if he tells anyone.

At the meeting of The Band, the elders address the problem of the eggs. The Quilltender, Chirik, declares it is time to use the tribe's magical Eternal Egg to make those who have lost eggs fertile again. But first, the egg killer must be found. Kir'chee raises his sore and bloodied wing, and says it's his brother—Kir'chee saw Kin'chat with fresh yolk stains. The Band mobs Kin'chat and banishes him.

Chirik, who lives in a holly tree, confides in Kir'chee and tells him a legend about a special junco—a Wingweaver—who will come to the tribe. By understanding the songs of all creatures, and weaving them together, the Wingweaver will usher in a new time of peace and harmony for the world. Chirik tells Kir'chee that she believes he is the Wingweaver.

The next morning, when Kir'chee takes food to Chirik, he finds Kin'chat in her nest, eating Chirik's brains. Kin'chat then steals the Eternal Egg and flies away with it in his beak. Because Kir'chee is the villain's brother, he is responsible for returning the Eternal Egg to The Band.

Kir'chee's quest for the egg leads to the city, where Kin'chat, who weaves only the dark songs, has gained a following of grackles, crows and starlings. Kin'chat uses the Eternal Egg and his warped version of Wingweaving to get the followers to dominate the city creatures.

Kin'chat's followers capture Kir'chee and they bring him before Kin'chat. The evil twin is about to eat Kir'chee's brains, when Kir'chee starts singing and weaving. The Flock of Kin'chat has never heard songs so sweet or fulfilling, and in rage they turn on Kin'chat for denying them the bright side of song. In the resulting confusion, Kir'chee steals the Eternal Egg and returns it to The Band.

He then begins Wingweaving, and the prophecy told by Chirik starts to unfold as Kir'chee's beautiful songs bring peace and harmony first to The Band, and then to all the world's creatures, including the "unwinged builders," who come out of their house to listen to the enchanting new melodies.