Plan Before You Write: Improve LLM writing by planning

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Abstract

We present a framework designed to generate and execute writing plans for LLMs. This framework decomposes the writing task into multiple sub-tasks, including novel reflection steps for iterative plan refinement, facilitating a structured approach to content generation. It can be applied both to execute writing plans through multiple LLM calls and to generate training data for supervised fine-tuning. To evaluate the effectiveness of our framework, we developed automated raters trained on guideline-based, human-filtered questions to assess writing quality. We show that the writing outputs produced using our framework are superior to those generated by LLMs without a planning component. Additionally, human raters corroborated these results, with 79.4% of participants ranking our framework's outputs as more interesting.

1 Introduction

The rapid development of large language models (LLMs) has brought significant advancements, yet their performance in tasks like creative writing, essay writing, or deck preparation remains inferior to human capabilities [4, 1]. To address this challenge, we introduce a planning framework designed to generate and execute writing plans for LLMs.

Our planning framework decomposes a given writing task into smaller subtasks, or steps in a plan, each of which is completed using an LLM or another external tool. This decomposition enhances adherence to writing guidelines, resulting in higher-quality outputs by breaking down tasks to emphasize guidelines and provide clear instructions. Our research shows that the model can self-improve [6] its creative writing capabilities by fine-tuning on the outputs generated through our framework. Our results indicate that self-improved model outperforms the standard "vanilla" LLM that does not utilize the planning approach.

Although our planning framework is versatile and applicable to various writing domains, this paper focuses on its application to creative story writing. In this context, users request an LLM to compose a story. Our framework generates a plan—such as designing characters and outlining key plot events—which is then expanded into the final written product.

Automatically generating short stories has gained attention, from short narratives [10, 15], to longer stories using prompting and revision [12, 13, 14].

While these methods often treat planning and writing as separate stages or focus on revising the full generated text, our framework introduces integrated reflection subtasks within the planning process itself. These subtasks, such as 'Plot Twist Revise' and 'Consistency Revise' (detailed in Section 2.1), enable the LLM to critique and iteratively refine specific elements of the plan before text generation, offering a more granular and dynamic approach to plan improvement than existing outline-based or plan-and-write systems. We utilize larger language models, specifically Gemini 1.5 Pro [5], which

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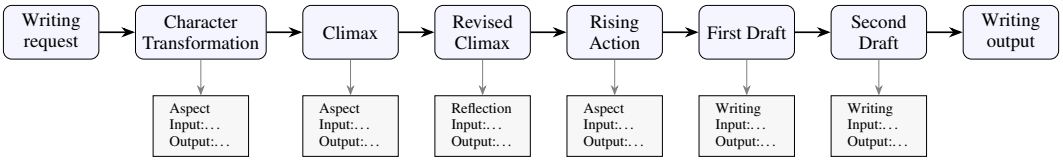

Figure 1: The pipeline from writing request to writing output.

features an updated long context window of up to two million tokens, allowing for more detailed planning that translates into better stories[1]. We then fine-tune a model based on that output.

Assessing creative content is challenging due to the subjective nature of creativity, as different outputs may appeal differently to various users [16]. To tackle this, we trained automated raters on labeled writing examples and conducted experiments to ensure these raters did not overfit the training data. Finally, we validated the performance with human raters, confirming the effectiveness of our approach in enhancing the quality of LLM-generated writing.

Our approach integrates a structured framework combining task decomposition with fine-tuning, resulting in significant improvements in creative writing outputs. We utilize multi-stage prompting for reasoning [11], hierarchical task decomposition [9], and language model self-improvement [6] to achieve these improvements.

2 Writing Plan

When a writing request is received, we first develop a writing plan before producing the final output. This writing plan consists of a sequential list of writing subtasks, each acting as a guideline or attribute essential for fulfilling the request.

Each subtask comes with specific instructions or prompts and is executed by either an LLM or an external resource like Search. Our study emphasizes sequential writing planning, where the input for each subtask includes both the initial writing request and, potentially, the outcomes of prior subtasks.

We classify writing subtasks into three categories:

1. **Aspect**: Focuses on a particular element of the writing request, such as character development.
2. **Reflection**: Identifies and addresses issues from previous steps.
3. **Writing**: Produces the writing output.

The final subtask in the plan is always the writing task, and its result is the ultimate output of our planning framework. The plan can include multiple writing subtasks, enabling the refinement and enhancement of outputs from earlier stages.

Figure 1 illustrates an example writing plan for the creative story writing domain. In this example, the first subtask in the writing plan is an aspect subtask that designs the Protagonist Character Transformation based on the writing request. The next stage is to generate the plot Climax considering the writing request and the character transformation. Subsequently, we revise the climax, add the Rising Action, and generate two writing drafts. The second writing draft is a refinement over the first and constitutes the final output.

2.1 Creative Writing Plan

In this subsection we detail about the writing plan we develop for the creative story writing domain. We investigated various established principles for constructing a complete story. Our writing plan was inspired by the five elements of Freytag's pyramid, which are similar to Robert McKee's writing framework [8]. This classic narrative structure is widely used in film and literature.

The elements in this narrative structure are:

Exposition Introduction of the story's setting, characters, and central conflict.

[1]We use a version with a 128K-token context window.

Table 1: Writing plan

Rule	Short Description
Desires	Design the motivations of the protagonist: Plan what the protagonist wants and why.
Transformation and Conflicts	Suggest how to make the desires more interesting and believable. Plan the protagonist's main character transformation, internal conflicts and external conflicts with other characters.
Plot Twist	Plan a major plot twist, an unexpected event which changes the course of the plot.
Plot Twist Revise	Identify low probability events in the plot twist, and suggest how to resolve them.
Climax	Plan a climax for the plot, relying on the previous steps.
Consistency Revise	Suggest improvements in terms of tension, conflict resolution, believability, consistency with established character motivations, tying loose ends.
Rising Action	Identify missing context and events, and suggest rising action events.
Plot Summary	Plan the plot from setup to climax, with rising action events which gradually increase the drama towards the plot twist and climax.
Plot Summary Revise	Identify low probability events in the plot until climax and suggest how to resolve them.
Falling Action	Identify loose ends and events which remain to be explained, and suggest falling action events.
Redundant Detection	Identify redundant details which do not advance the plot and suggest how to remove them.
Story Plan	Output a full plan.
Writer	Write a story based on the plan.

Rising Action Tension builds as the protagonist encounters challenges and obstacles.

Climax The turning point where the conflict reaches its peak, and the protagonist undergoes a pivotal decision or action.

Falling Action Consequences of the climax are revealed as the story moves towards its conclusion.

Resolution The conflict is resolved, and any loose ends are tied up.

Further factors considered in the writing process include the story's setting, character arc, antagonist, and character traits. Table 1 outlines the writing plan we used, presenting each subtask with its corresponding rule and a brief description. To mitigate potential issues such as designing implausible events and ensuring consistency, particularly when generating plot twists with an LLM, we incorporated a consistency reflection step. The plan consists of 13 steps: 9 aspect subtasks that establish the foundational elements of the plot, 3 reflection subtasks that refine earlier plot elements, and 1 writing subtask that transforms the generated plot into a written narrative.

Figure 2 shows a condensed version of the initial plan steps for the request: "Tell a story of a woman named Hannah who plans to meet her partner, Richard, at a local coffee shop to discuss parting ways. Richard, an arrogant marketing executive, dismisses her request for a breakup, leaving Hannah struggling to find the courage to leave him." Due to space limitations, we present only a condensed version of the generated plan. The full plan is provided in Appendix B, and the complete generated output is available in Appendix A.1.

In Appendix C we present an example of a reflection subtask, showing how it improved the plot twist.

2.2 Model Self-Improvement

Executing the full writing plan (Table 1) involves multiple LLM calls, increasing the latency between the writing request and the final output. To potentially reduce this latency while retaining the quality benefits of planning, we explore model self-improvement through supervised fine-tuning. Inspired by the effectiveness of using LLMs to generate synthetic training data, we utilize our planning framework to create a high-quality dataset.

Specifically, we generated a dataset where each instance consists of an initial writing request paired with the final written output produced by our complete planning pipeline. This means the target

Desires: Hannah longs to escape her stifling relationship with Richard, reclaim her self-worth, and open her own pastry shop to pursue her passion for baking.
Transformation and Conflicts: Hannah evolves from a repressed baker into a confident artisan, using her craft as a means of self-discovery and independence. She struggles with the fear of sacrificing security for the uncertain pursuit of her passion, all while battling the self-doubt instilled by Richard. Opposition arises from Richard, who sees her bakery dreams as a threat to their life, and from a rival baker or skeptical investor who question her skills and ambition.
Plot Twist: It is revealed that Richard has secretly been funding a trust for Hannah's bakery and arranged her mentorship with her idol, Sylvia Martel—not to control her, but to protect her from potential failure, driven by his fear of her repeating his father's mistakes. This discovery shatters Hannah's trust, forcing her to choose between accepting his tainted support or forging her own path, risking everything.
Climax: At her bakery's grand opening, under pressure from a renowned critic and grappling with Richard's lingering influence, Hannah finds her voice. She shares her story, earning a glowing review that marks her triumph as an independent businesswoman. This recognition, along with Richard's acceptance, finally frees Hannah, allowing her to fully embrace her success and the support of her chosen family.

Figure 2: Shortened example of the first steps of a generated plan

outputs in the training data are the stories generated after all aspect, reflection, and writing subtasks have been executed. We fine-tuned Gemini 1.5 Pro on 500 such (request, pipeline-generated story) pairs for 1000 steps. The goal is for the fine-tuned model to internalize the narrative structuring and refinement qualities embedded in the multi-step planning process, enabling it to generate improved stories more directly.

3 Evaluation

Evaluating the quality of writing responses is a critical and challenging aspect of this work. To enable rapid iteration and reduce the cost and time associated with human raters, we developed a method for automatically generating explainable auto-raters based on writing guidelines. This method uses few-shot prompts with yes/no questions to assess writing quality.

3.1 Learning Yes/No Auto-Rater

Our objective is to create an explainable auto-rater capable of distinguishing between high-quality and low-quality samples. We rely on domain knowledge to identify criteria that characterize high-quality writing, such as character development in creative story writing.

For each criterion, we use a LLM to generate a series of yes/no questions designed to assess whether a sample meets the specified criterion. Additionally, we instruct the model to produce illustrative examples of scenarios that should be answered with "Yes" and scenarios that should be answered with "No." Due to space constraints, an example of a generated few-shot YES/NO question is provided in Appendix D.

This approach results in an explainable auto-rater that evaluates quality based on specific, well-defined criteria.

Unlike some methods that may indirectly differentiate samples based on factors like length and vocabulary, our approach generates an explainable auto-rater with questions targeting specific, desired properties. This reduces the auto-rater's susceptibility to unintentional biases.

However, some generated questions might be trivial or challenging for the LLM to evaluate. Trivial questions may result in high scores for both high-quality and low-quality responses, while complex questions may be too difficult for the LLM to answer accurately. To improve the auto-rater's performance, an additional question-filtering stage using labeled data may be necessary.

3.1.1 Question Filtering

We formally define our filtering process as follows: Assuming we have a training subset of high-quality and low-quality samples, we evaluate the performance of each yes/no question on this subset. For each question, we assign a weight and filter out those with low weights.

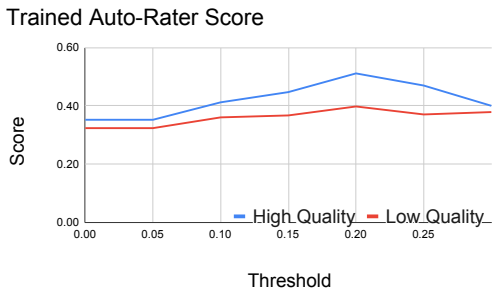

Figure 3: The average score of high and low as a function of the threshold.

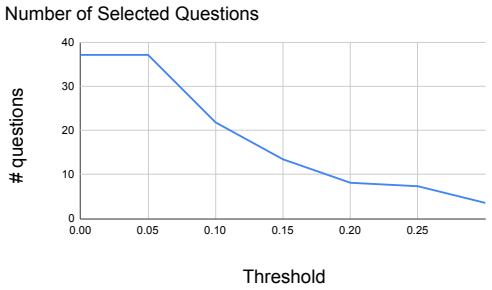

Figure 4: The average number of questions passing the threshold as a function of the threshold.

Let q be a question with an expected answer a for a good sample. For instance, the question "Are the character's actions consistent with their development and motivations?" should be answered with "Yes" for high-quality samples and "No" for low-quality samples.

Given our training data of high-quality (S_H) and low-quality (S_L) samples, we define the average score of question q on set S using a language model $\mathcal{M}$ as $s_q(S \mid \mathcal{M}) = \frac{|\{s \in S, \mathcal{M}(q;s)=a\}|}{|S|}$.

This represents the proportion of samples for which the model provides the expected answer for high-quality samples. We expect $s_q(S_H \mid \mathcal{M})$ to be higher than $s_q(S_L \mid \mathcal{M})$.

Finally, we define the score of a question as $s_q(S_H, S_L \mid \mathcal{M}) = s_q(S_H \mid \mathcal{M}) - s_q(S_L \mid \mathcal{M})$. Questions with negative scores can be filtered out, or only those with scores above a threshold t can be retained.

3.2 Stories Yes/No Auto-Rater

Following the scheme presented above, we developed an auto-rater designed to assess writing quality through a series of binary questions that evaluate the narrative structure. We generated 117 Yes/No questions (e.g., "Does the climax tie back to the story's themes or messages?"), each aimed at capturing the quality of writing based on specific elements of narrative structure. The full list of questions, sorted according to the relevant writing elements, is provided in Appendix E.

For each question, we created examples of both positive and negative scenarios that either comply with or violate the guideline (e.g., "The climax seems unrelated to the themes introduced earlier"). We applied these questions to a dataset containing stories labeled as either "high quality" or "low quality" by human evaluators. For "high quality," we used human-written stories[2]. For "low quality," we used stories generated by a vanilla LLM (an LLM without planning) that were verified to be tedious and exhausting. Our goal was to create questions that could identify flaws in "low quality" writing that the auto-rater could detect.

To ensure the questions did not overfit the training data and could effectively evaluate the writing, we conducted a series of experiments. We randomly divided our dataset into two equally sized subsets: one for training and one for validation. We selected a sublist of questions based on their performance on the training set and then observed their performance on the validation set. Specifically, we filtered out all questions with $s_q(S_H, S_L \mid \mathcal{M}) < t$ for some threshold $t > 0$ and measured the gap in average scores of the remaining questions on the high and low-quality examples in the validation set.

We examined the difference in scores of the remaining questions on the validation set as a function of t. Figure 3 shows the results for t ranging from 0 to 0.3, where each data point is the average result over 50 runs. For instance, when filtering out questions with $s_q(S_H, S_L \mid \mathcal{M}) < 0.2$, the average score of the remaining questions on the high-quality stories in the test set is 0.5, while the low-quality average score is 0.4. This experiment demonstrates the consistency of the questions' scores on the validation set.

[2]These stories were sourced from `https://www.libraryofshortstories.com/stories`.

Table 2: Comparing performance on creative story writing. Gemini significantly improves with planning.

Gemini 1.5 Pro	Gemini 1.5 Pro with a Long Plan	Gemini 1.5 Pro with a Short Plan	Self-improved
21.6%	54.04%	38.21%	45.65%

We also observed the average number of questions that passed the threshold as a function of the threshold. Figure 4 shows that, as expected, the number of questions decreases as we raise the bar, indicating a trade-off between the separation quality and the number of questions. Specifically, setting $t = 0.1$ results in an average of 22 questions passing the threshold.

Based on the performance of the questions on the training data, we selected 42 questions[3] that were chosen at least 50% of the time with $t = 0.05$. We ensured that writing requests and outputs were only used for question selection.

4 Results

In this section, we detail the results of applying our planning framework in the creative writing domain. Using an LLM, we generated writing prompts such as, 'Write a story about a shy high school student passionate about photography…' and 'Develop a narrative about students starting a social media campaign…'. We filtered out prompts that were derived from published works. Our experiment utilized Gemini 1.5 Pro [5], with a 32K-token context window.

We ran our trained auto-rater, on a model without planning ("Vanilla LLM"), comparing it with the same model utilizing the planning schema presented in Table 1, and a shorter plan focusing on "Transformation and Conflict", "Climax", and "Setup" subtasks. Additionally, we compared the results to the self-improved model.

Table 2 shows the performance of our trained auto-rater on 50 distinct writing prompts not included in the training data. The results indicate that planning improves writing quality and reveals a tradeoff between the number of subtasks in the plan and writing quality. We also observed that the self-improved model was able to learn the writing principles from the planned stories and achieve higher scores without planning compared to the vanilla model without planning. Interestingly, the self-improved model outperformed the model with the short plan. Examples of generated outputs from all evaluated models for a specific input can be found in Appendix A.

4.1 Human Evaluation

To further verify our results, we conducted a human evaluation with 13 raters. Each rater was presented with a writing prompt and two corresponding responses: one generated by the Vanilla LLM and the other by the LLM using a long plan. The raters were asked to indicate which output they overall preferred and which they found more interesting.

We collected a total of 35 responses. The planned output was selected as the overall preferred option in 68.5% of cases, while the Vanilla LLM was preferred in 22.86% of cases. In 8.57% of cases, the raters indicated that there was no clear choice. When asked which option was more interesting, the planned output was chosen 80% of the time, compared to 14.29% for the Vanilla LLM, with 5.71% of responses indicating no clear preference.

5 Summary

In this work, we developed a planning framework that decomposes writing tasks into a series of sub-tasks for incremental planning and iterative refinement. To address the challenge of subjective evaluation, we trained an auto-rater on filtered, guideline-based Yes/No questions that effectively differentiate output quality.

[3]These questions are indicated in bold in Appendix E.

We demonstrated the benefits of planning in creative story writing, showing that both our auto-rater and human evaluators recognized significant improvements in quality. However, human raters noted that some stories were less plausible, an issue that could be mitigated by introducing reflection subtasks to verify the plot's plausibility.

Our pipeline also proved effective for generating data for model self-improvement. The resulting model successfully internalized writing principles, with performance open to further enhancement through reinforcement learning techniques [3, 7, 2].

Our framework's principles can be generalized to other creative domains guided by established heuristics, such as composing screenplays or developing storyboards, through a similar process of planning and refinement.

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A Writing Outputs Examples

In this section, we present the writing outputs for the prompt "Tell a story of a woman named Hannah who plans to meet her partner, Richard, at a local coffee shop to talk about parting ways. Richard, an arrogant marketing executive, dismisses her request for a breakup, leaving Hannah struggling to find the courage to leave him." First, in Subsection A.1 we showcase the output of the model with the long plan, which follows the detailed steps outlined in Table 1. Next, in Subsection A.2, we provide the output of the shorter plan, which focuses on the core narrative elements, specifically the "Transformation and Conflict," "Climax," and "Setup" subtasks. Following that, in Subsection A.3, we present the output of the supervised fine-tuned model, which has been trained on 500 writing examples generated using the long plans.

Finally, in Subsection A.3.1, we include the output of the Vanilla LLM, a model that generates stories without any pre-defined planning. All the outputs were generated with Gemini 1.5 Pro.

A.1 Planned Version - Long Plan

The pre-dawn light, a pale wash of apricot and rose, spilled through the kitchen window, illuminating the flour that dusted the air like a fine snow. Hannah worked the dough with practiced hands, her movements a rhythmic dance as familiar as her own heartbeat. The yeasty aroma, warm and comforting, filled her with a sense of peace, a stark contrast to the sterile scent of Richard's cologne that soon invaded her sanctuary. He strode in, phone glued to his ear, his eyes registering her presence but not the symphony of baking unfolding around him. "Another batch, darling?" he asked, his voice clipped and efficient, his gaze flicking to his watch. "You'll spoil your dinner." The compliment, as always, carried a backhanded aftertaste, a subtle reminder that her passion was merely a charming hobby in his eyes. That evening, the aroma of freshly baked bread hung heavy in the air, a silent rebellion against Richard's dismissive words. He sat at the kitchen island, praising her latest creation between bites while scrolling through emails on his phone. And in that moment, as the warm light bathed her in its golden glow, a spark ignited within Hannah. This time, it wasn't just bread she was baking; it was a plan. This time, she would tell Richard she was leaving him to pursue her dream of opening a bakery. The familiar hum of the coffee shop, a comforting symphony of clinking cups and murmured conversations, did little to soothe Hannah's nerves. The words tumbled out, a jumbled mix of passion and fear as she confessed her dream, her need for something more than the gilded cage Richard had built for them. He listened, or rather, he seemed to, his brow furrowed in that way that suggested he was analyzing a particularly challenging marketing campaign rather than the unraveling of their life together. When she finished, the silence stretched, heavy and thick as unrisen dough. "Darling," he began, his voice a soothing balm meant to disguise the dismissal in his eyes, "you're stressed. We'll take that vacation you've been wanting, maybe even look at getting you that new car." He reached for her hand, but she pulled away, her resolve hardening like sugar under a blowtorch. He could offer her the world, but it would always be his world, a world where her dreams were neatly categorized as hobbies. She left the coffee shop, his parting words, "You'll come around," echoing in her ears, a bitter aftertaste to her newfound determination. The farmer's market, a kaleidoscope of colors and scents, became Hannah's proving ground. She rented a small booth, her creations, a symphony of textures and flavors, displayed on rustic wooden shelves. The response was overwhelming. Customers, their faces alight with delight, raved about her innovative combinations, the passion evident in every bite. The money she earned, tucked into a worn tin box, was more than just profit; it was a symbol of her own hard work, a tangible taste of the freedom she craved. Fueled by her success, Hannah poured over spreadsheets and business plans, her kitchen table transformed into a battlefield of dreams and logistics. She approached banks, her voice trembling slightly as she pitched her vision, only to be met with polite rejections, their words, "lack of experience" and "high risk," echoing in her ears. Undeterred, she enrolled in a business mentorship program, determined to acquire the skills and connections needed to turn her dream into a reality. It was at the program that she heard about the prestigious baking competition, its final round judged by none other than Sylvia Martel, a renowned pastry chef known for her exquisite creations and her unwavering support of aspiring bakers. Hannah knew it was a long shot, but something within her, a quiet ember of defiance, urged her to enter. The competition was grueling, pushing her to her limits, but as she presented her final creation to Sylvia, a lavender and honey cake inspired by her grandmother's garden, she poured her heart and soul into every word of her description. When her name was announced as the winner, tears welled up in her eyes, blurring the applause and the glittering trophy. This victory, forged in

flour and sweat, was hers and hers alone. Sylvia, her eyes twinkling with admiration, pulled Hannah aside after the awards ceremony. "You have a gift, my dear," she said, her voice warm and laced with a hint of a French accent, "a true passion for the craft." And then came the offer that would change Hannah's life: a coveted mentorship under Sylvia's expert guidance. Hannah's joy was tempered by a flicker of doubt. The mentorship, while an incredible opportunity, came with a hefty price tag, one she could ill afford. Sylvia, sensing her hesitation, smiled gently. "My foundation recently received a rather generous anonymous donation,"

she explained, "allowing us to offer scholarships to promising candidates like yourself." Relief washed over Hannah, gratitude warming her like a fresh-baked croissant. She accepted without hesitation, unaware that fate, disguised as a generous benefactor, had other plans. As Hannah thrived under Sylvia's guidance, she overheard Sylvia discussing the anonymous donation. Sylvia, a stickler for ethical practices, mentioned the donor's representative spoke of a deep-seated fear of failure, wanting to ensure aspiring entrepreneurs had the support they needed. The words sparked a flicker of unease in Hannah, a faint echo of Richard's own anxieties about his father's failed business ventures. Hannah immersed herself in Sylvia's bakery, mastering new techniques and navigating the intricacies of the business. Sylvia emphasized the importance of ethical sourcing and transparent practices, values that resonated deeply with Hannah. Unbeknownst to her, these values were a hurdle Richard meticulously maneuvered, his anonymous involvement carefully concealed. Late one night, while working in Sylvia's bakery, Hannah stumbled upon a familiar engraved pen – identical to Richard's. Sylvia explained it was a gift from the anonymous donor's representative. A wave of nausea washed over Hannah as the pieces fell into place: the timing, the mentorship, the scholarship, the donor's fear of failure – it's all too perfect, too orchestrated. Richard is behind it all. Hannah confronted Richard, his carefully constructed facade crumbling. He confessed to the elaborate scheme, his explanation laced with a deep-seated fear of failure stemming from his own father's failed business ventures. He truly believed he was protecting her, preparing her for the harsh realities of the business world. Hannah saw the fear and misguided love behind his actions, but the damage was done. His confession, meant to reassure, only solidified her need for independence. The aroma of fresh bread, warm and inviting, mingled with the gentle hum of the espresso machine, creating a symphony of sensory delights that filled "The Flour Child" on its grand opening day. Sunflowers, a bittersweet reminder of Richard and a testament to her own resilience, stood proudly by the window, their faces turned towards the sun. Hannah arranged her creations, each one a testament to her journey, her heart swelling with a mixture of pride and trepidation. The arrival of a renowned food critic, her expression unreadable behind her stylish spectacles, intensified the pressure. As the critic savored a lavender macaron, her gaze, sharp and discerning, fell upon the engraved pen displayed by the register. "A gift?" she inquired, her voice betraying nothing. Hannah hesitated, her hand hovering over the cool, silver pen. And then, with a deep breath, she decided. She told her story, her voice soft but steady, her words painting a picture of a controlling relationship, an elaborate scheme, and a fierce struggle for independence. She acknowledged Richard's financial contribution but emphasized, her chin lifting slightly, that her success, her triumph, was her own. A tense silence followed, broken only by the soft whir of the coffee grinder. The critic took another bite, her eyes closed as if savoring not just the flavors but the story behind them. Finally, she spoke, her words a balm to Hannah's anxious heart. "There's an honesty to your baking," she said, her gaze steady, "a depth of flavor that speaks of challenges overcome and a spirit unbroken." Later that day, Hannah confessed everything to Sylvia, the words tumbling out in a torrent of guilt and shame. Sylvia listened, her expression a mixture of fury and disbelief, but as Hannah broke down, her anger softened into understanding. "He meant well," Hannah whispered, her voice raw, "but he almost ruined everything." Sylvia, her hand resting reassuringly on Hannah's arm, vowed to protect her and the integrity of her foundation, promising to address Richard's actions discreetly. Exhausted but exhilarated, Hannah found a message from Richard on her phone. His words, carefully chosen, expressed pride in her success and a belated acknowledgment that he had been holding her back. He wished her happiness, freedom, a life filled with the aroma of fresh bread and the sweet taste of dreams realized. Tears welled up in Hannah's eyes as she reread the message, a wave of relief washing over her. She deleted it, a symbolic act of letting go, of severing the final tie to the past. The critic's glowing review, a love letter to Hannah's talent and resilience, sparked a flurry of activity. Crowds flocked to "The Flour Child," eager to experience the magic woven into every crumb and crust. Hannah thrived in the chaos, her confidence growing with each satisfied customer, each new creation that flowed from her heart to her hands. Sylvia, true to her word, handled the fallout from Richard's donation, ensuring the foundation's

integrity remained intact. She became more than a mentor; she became a friend, a confidante, a fellow warrior in the battle against self-doubt and societal expectations.

As weeks turned into months, Hannah found her rhythm, her stride, her voice. "The Flour Child," once a fragile dream, blossomed into a haven of warmth and creativity, a testament to Hannah's resilience, a beacon of hope for anyone who dared to break free and knead their own path to happiness.

A.2 Planned Version - Short Plan

The Coffee Shop Breakup The aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the gentle hum of conversation filled the air inside "The Daily Grind," a cozy coffee shop with exposed brick walls adorned with local art. Hannah sat nervously at a table by the window, fiddling with her phone and avoiding eye contact with the photographs lining the walls – a stark reminder of her own stifled artistic passions. Richard was running late, as usual, leaving Hannah to stew in a mixture of anxiety and simmering resentment. When he finally arrived, all apologies and charming smiles, he failed to notice Hannah's forced smile and the tremor in her hands. "Sorry, babe, you know how it is," he said, placing a quick peck on her cheek before pulling out his phone. "Big presentation today, can't be late." Hannah's carefully constructed script crumbled in her throat. "Richard," she began, her voice barely a whisper. "One sec, honey," he interrupted, already engrossed in emails. Minutes ticked by, each one stretching Hannah's nerves tauter. Finally, she placed her hand over his phone, forcing his attention. "Richard, we need to talk." He sighed dramatically. "Can't this wait? I have a million things on my plate." "It's important," Hannah insisted, her voice gaining a sliver of steel. Richard leaned back, his smile condescending. "Okay, shoot. What's got you all worked up?" The words tumbled out, a jumbled mess of hurt and frustration. She spoke of feeling unseen, unheard, of her dreams gathering dust on a shelf. She spoke of needing space to breathe, to create, to be herself again. Richard, however, heard only a fraction of her words. He dismissed her feelings as an overreaction to a stressful week, a bump in the road of their otherwise perfect relationship. He promised more date nights, a weekend getaway, anything to smooth over the situation and regain control. Each dismissive word chipped away at Hannah's resolve, replacing it with a familiar sense of helplessness. She felt her anger rising, hot and fierce, but it was quickly extinguished by Richard's practiced charm. Throughout their exchange, a silent observer watched from behind the counter. Leo, the barista, had witnessed countless first dates, awkward encounters, and tearful breakups. He recognized the dynamic playing out before him, the way Richard's words seemed to shrink Hannah further into her seat. As Richard continued his monologue, oblivious to the tears welling in Hannah's eyes, Leo made his way to their table. He placed a steaming mug of chamomile tea in front of Hannah, a silent offering of comfort. "Something warm to soothe the soul," he said, his voice gentle but firm. Their eyes met for a fleeting moment, and in that exchange, Hannah found a flicker of understanding, a spark of encouragement. It was the push she needed.

A.3 Self-Improved Model

The Break-Up The aroma of burnt coffee beans usually brought Hannah a strange sense of comfort, but today, it felt like a bad omen. She sat at their usual table, the worn leather booth creaking beneath her like a weary sigh. This was where they'd shared their first kiss, a memory now tinged with the bitter aftertaste of disappointment. Richard, predictably, was late. He was always late, a testament to his self-proclaimed importance, as if the world revolved around his carefully curated schedule.

When he finally arrived, his entrance was a performance. A practiced smile, a quick air kiss that barely grazed her cheek, and then he settled into the booth, his eyes already scanning the room, searching for a more interesting audience. He hadn't even bothered to ask how her day was. "Right, what did you want to talk about?" he asked, his tone clipped and efficient, like he was already mentally drafting his next marketing campaign. This was it. The moment she'd rehearsed in her head a thousand times. But the words lodged in her throat, choked by a sudden wave of doubt. "I think. . . I think we need to talk about us," she stammered, her voice barely a whisper. Richard's smile faltered for a moment, a flicker of annoyance crossing his features. "What do you mean, 'us'? We're fine, aren't we? We're Richard and Hannah, the power couple. Everyone says so." His words, dripping with a self-satisfied smugness, were like a slap in the face. It was always about appearances with him, about maintaining the carefully crafted illusion of their perfect life. The life that felt increasingly suffocating to Hannah. "That's just it, Richard," she said, her voice gaining a sliver of steel. "We're not fine. We haven't been for a long time." Richard, though, wasn't listening. He was already dismissing her concerns, his mind

more occupied with the image they projected than the reality of their crumbling relationship. Hannah, watching him, felt a surge of anger, hot and raw, course through her. It was in that moment, amidst the clatter of coffee cups and the murmur of forced conversation, that she knew, with a certainty that surprised even her, that this was it. She was done. The argument that followed was like a car crash in slow motion. Hannah, her voice trembling with a mixture of anger and despair, tried to articulate the chasm that had grown between them. Richard, though, was deaf to her words. He deflected, he minimized, he resorted to his usual tactic of turning the tables, making her feel like she was the one overreacting. “You’re being ridiculous, Hannah,” he scoffed, his voice laced with a condescending amusement. “We’re fine. We just need to make a few adjustments. Maybe a couples’ retreat? That new spa in Sedona everyone’s raving about?” His words, so tone-deaf, so utterly lacking in understanding, were the final straw. Hannah, her heart heavy with a profound sense of loss, pushed back her chair and stood up. “I’m done, Richard,” she said, her voice surprisingly steady. “I want out.” And with that, she turned and walked away, leaving him sitting there, his face a mask of stunned disbelief, as the weight of her words finally sunk in. That night, Richard didn’t try to contact Hannah. He was too busy licking his wounds, his ego bruised by her unexpected defiance. He hadn’t expected her to actually leave. He’d always assumed he had the upper hand, that she was too dependent on him, too afraid of being alone. As he sat alone in their sterile, overly modern apartment, the silence deafening, he felt a flicker of something unfamiliar. Was it regret? Or simply the annoyance of having his carefully constructed world disrupted? Over the next few days, Hannah threw herself into packing, each item she boxed up a tangible reminder of the life she was leaving behind. As she sorted through their belongings, she stumbled upon a hidden box tucked away in the back of a drawer. Inside, nestled amongst Richard’s old college textbooks, lay a worn notebook. Curiosity piqued, Hannah settled onto the floor, the box of Richard’s belongings forgotten beside her. The notebook’s pages were filled with Richard’s familiar scrawl, but the words that spilled across the lined paper were unlike anything she’d ever seen from him. Poems, raw and vulnerable, poured out from the pages, each line a testament to a side of Richard she never knew existed. The poems spoke of love, of longing, of a deep-seated fear of rejection. They were filled with insecurity, a stark contrast to the confident, self-assured persona he presented to the world. As Hannah read, she felt a sense of unease creep over her. It was as if she were getting to know a stranger, a stranger who bore a disturbing resemblance to the man she thought she knew.

A.3.1 Vanilla Version

The aroma of freshly brewed coffee and cinnamon pastries usually soothed Hannah, but today the scent felt cloying, heavy with the weight of unspoken words. She sat by the window of the familiar coffee shop, nervously tracing the rim of her latte cup. Richard was late, as always. Hannah had envisioned this conversation countless times, each fantasy ending with her walking away, head held high, finally free from the shackles of their toxic relationship. But facing Richard’s dismissive arrogance in reality felt like scaling a mountain with bare hands. When he finally sauntered in, his tailored suit crisp, his phone glued to his ear, Hannah’s stomach knotted. Even in a crowded coffee shop, Richard managed to exude an air of self-importance that made Hannah feel invisible. She watched him conclude his call, his voice smooth, persuasive, the same voice that had convinced her he was charming and confident, all those years ago. “Darling, so sorry I’m late,” he said, sliding into the chair opposite her, his eyes already scanning the room for someone more important. “Client crisis. You know how it is.” He never asked how she was. Hannah took a deep breath. "Richard, we need to talk," she began, her voice trembling slightly. "This isn’t working anymore." He chuckled, a condescending sound that chipped away at her already fragile resolve. "What do you mean? Of course it is. We’re Richard and Hannah. The power couple." She flinched at the label, a carefully crafted facade that masked the cracks in their foundation. "No, Richard, we’re not. I’m not happy. You’re never around, and when you are, you..." she paused, searching for the right words "...you don’t see me. You don’t even listen." "Don’t be silly," he waved her concerns away, his eyes already back on his phone, scrolling through emails. "Just a rough patch. We all have them. Besides, you know how important my career is right now.” His words, devoid of any genuine concern, were like a punch to the gut. This wasn’t a rough patch, it was a chasm that had been widening for years. His career, his ambition, always came first, leaving Hannah feeling like a forgotten footnote in his grand narrative. She tried again, her voice stronger this time. "It’s not just about your work, Richard. It’s about us, about respect, about being partners, not just...accessories.” He finally looked up, a flicker of annoyance in his eyes. “Hannah, you’re exaggerating. Don’t make a big deal out of this. We’ll go on a vacation, just the two of us. You’ll feel better.” Vacations, expensive gifts – that was his

solution to everything. Band-aids for gaping wounds. Hannah knew then that words wouldn't bridge the gap. Richard couldn't, or wouldn't, understand. The mountain she had to climb wasn't made of his arrogance, but of her own fear of leaving. She needed to find that courage, for herself. "Just forget it," she said, her voice flat, emotionless. The words tasted like ashes in her mouth. She stood up, leaving her untouched latte and the remnants of her hopes on the table. "Where are you going?" Richard asked, bewildered, as if the very idea of her leaving was preposterous. "Away," she said simply, her gaze steady for the first time. As she walked out of the coffee shop, the scent of cinnamon no longer felt suffocating. Instead, she smelled freedom, brewing in the air. The mountain was still there, but she had taken the first step, and that, she realized, was all that mattered.

B Plan Steps

Now, let's focus on the generated plan for the output presented in Subsection A.1

B.1 Guideline: Desires

Generates the protagonist's motivations.

B.1.1 Final output of the guideline

Hannah, a talented baker with a dream of opening her own pastry shop, desperately wants to break free from her relationship with Richard. His constant arrogance and dismissive attitude towards her aspirations have stifled her spirit, making her question her own worth. She craves the freedom to pursue her passion and build a life filled with joy and self-expression, but years of Richard subtly undermining her confidence have left her terrified to strike out on her own. The stakes are high, as staying with Richard means abandoning her dreams and accepting a future where she feels small and unseen.

B.1.2 Mid-guideline calculations for "desires" guideline

Intermediate computations performed to produce the end result.

Initial suggestion for desires, and improvement suggestions FIRST DRAFT OF DESIRES: Hannah wants to break up with Richard because she's tired of his arrogance and dismissiveness. She wants to find the courage to stand up for herself and finally leave him, seeking a life of independence and respect. PROBLEMS AND FIX SUGGESTIONS IN DESIRES: * **Not Interesting Enough/Missing Depth:** While wanting to leave a disrespectful partner is understandable, it's somewhat surface-level. We need to give Hannah more complex motivations. * **Fix:** Give Hannah a personal goal or dream that Richard is holding her back from. This adds a layer of "what could her life be like?" * **Believability:** Why has Hannah stayed in this relationship long enough for it to reach this point? * **Fix:** Give a reason for her past inaction. Maybe Richard was different before, or she's afraid of being alone. * **Background Details:** We don't know anything about Hannah beyond this relationship. What defines her? * **Fix:** Give Hannah a passion, a career, or something else that reveals more about her as an individual.

B.2 Guideline: Transformation and conflicts

Generate the protagonist's character arc, their internal conflicts, and their external conflicts.

B.2.1 Final output of the guideline

Transformation: Hannah transforms from a woman who bakes in secret, her spirit stifled by her relationship, into a passionate artisan who uses her craft as a declaration of independence and self-expression. **Internal Conflicts:** * **Passion vs. Security:** Hannah craves the freedom to pour her heart into her baking, but the fear of financial instability and Richard's potential backlash keeps her tethered to the familiar. * **Recipe for Self-Worth:** Richard's constant undermining of her baking – whether it's subtle criticisms of her flavors or dismissing her dream as a "hobby" – has led Hannah to question her talent and her right to pursue it professionally. **Conflicts with Other Characters:** * **Hannah vs. Richard:** Richard, blinded by his own ambition and traditional views,

sees Hannah's desire for a bakery as a threat to their comfortable life and his image of a successful couple. He actively undermines her efforts, believing he's acting in their best interest. * **Hannah vs. [New Character]:** This could be a rival baker who challenges Hannah's skills, forcing her to defend her recipes and business ideas, or a potential investor who is initially skeptical of Hannah's abilities, pushing her to prove her worth in a male-dominated industry.

B.2.2 Mid-guideline calculations "transformation and conflicts" guideline

Intermediate computations performed to produce the end result. Initial suggestion for transformation and conflicts **Transformation:** Hannah transforms from a timid, self-doubting woman afraid to pursue her dreams into a confident, independent entrepreneur who takes charge of her own destiny. **Internal Conflicts:** * **Fear vs. Ambition:** Hannah's desire for a fulfilling life clashes with her fear of leaving the security of her relationship, even if it's stifling her. * **Self-Doubt vs. Self-Worth:** Years of Richard's subtle put-downs have eroded Hannah's confidence, making her question her abilities and dreams. **Conflicts with Other Characters:** * **Hannah vs. Richard:** Their fundamental disagreement about their future and Richard's dismissive attitude towards Hannah's aspirations fuel their conflict. * **Hannah vs. Herself:** A significant part of Hannah's struggle is internal, battling her insecurities and fears to find the courage to choose herself.

Identified problems and fix suggestions * **Transformation:** While the transformation from timid to confident is a classic arc, it feels a bit predictable and lacks a unique edge specific to Hannah's baking passion. * **Fix:** Instead of just becoming confident, emphasize how Hannah's baking becomes her source of empowerment. She doesn't just find her voice, she finds it *through* her craft. * **Internal Conflicts:** The listed conflicts are relevant but somewhat generic. * **Fix:** Dig deeper into how Richard's actions specifically tie into baking. Does he belittle her recipes? Does he refuse to support her dream financially, forcing her into a corner? * **Conflicts with Other Characters:** The conflict with Richard is clear, but "Hannah vs. Herself" is better framed as part of her internal struggles, not a separate character conflict. * **Fix:** Introduce a new character who represents a challenge or opposing force. This could be a rival baker, a skeptical family member, or even a potential investor who makes Hannah prove herself.

B.3 Guideline: Plot twist

Generate a surprising plot twist.

B.3.1 Final output of the guideline

Here we present the final output of the guideline ## Revised Plot Twist: The Family Legacy **ASSUMPTION:** The audience believes Richard's opposition to Hannah's bakery stems from his arrogance and desire for control, making him the primary obstacle to her dream. **PLOT TWIST:** Hannah discovers that Richard has secretly been funneling money into a trust fund for her bakery, orchestrated with the help of her baking idol, Sylvia Martel, who received an anonymous investment offer from Richard to mentor Hannah. **MOTIVATIONS:** * **Richard:** Richard witnessed his father's entrepreneurial dreams crumble, leading to financial ruin and a strained family life. This instilled a deep fear of failure in him, which he projects onto Hannah. He believes he's protecting her by setting up the trust fund and orchestrating a "trial by fire" with Sylvia, ensuring she's truly prepared for the harsh realities of the business world. * **Hannah:** Hannah is torn between anger at Richard's manipulative tactics and a glimmer of hope that her dream might be within reach. She feels deeply conflicted, questioning if she can accept this poisoned chalice of support. * **Sylvia Martel:** Unbeknownst to Hannah, Sylvia was contacted by Richard, who made a substantial anonymous donation to her culinary foundation in exchange for mentoring a promising young baker – Hannah. Sylvia, impressed by Hannah's talent and unaware of the full extent of Richard's involvement, agrees, believing she's helping a deserving aspiring entrepreneur. **Events of the Plot Twist:** 1. **The Coffee Shop Breakdown:** Hannah attempts to break up with Richard at their usual coffee shop. He dismisses her concerns, attributing them to stress, and promises a surprise to "fix things." Frustrated and disheartened, Hannah leaves feeling unheard and unseen. 2. **The Martel Mentorship:** Hannah, determined to prove herself, enters a prestigious baking competition judged by her idol, Sylvia Martel. To her surprise, she wins, catching Sylvia's attention. Sylvia offers Hannah a mentorship opportunity, including access to her network and resources. 3. **The Engraved Pen:** During a late-night baking session at Sylvia's bakery, Hannah stumbles upon a familiar engraved pen – identical to the one

Richard always carries. Sylvia, flustered, reveals it was a gift from a generous anonymous donor who facilitated their mentorship. 4. **Confrontation and Revelation:** Armed with this new information, Hannah confronts Richard. He confesses to the trust fund, the anonymous donation, and his elaborate plan to prepare her for the challenges of running a business. He reveals his family history, his father's failed ventures, and the deep-seated fear that has driven his actions. **EFFECT:** * **Shattered Trust:** The revelation shatters Hannah's trust in Richard. His actions, though rooted in a misguided sense of love and protection, are revealed as manipulative and controlling, making the prospect of reconciliation impossible. * **Shifting Alliances:** Hannah is now bound to Sylvia, her idol turned mentor, who is unknowingly entangled in Richard's web of good intentions and hidden agendas. This creates a complex dynamic where Hannah must navigate her gratitude for Sylvia's

guidance while grappling with the ethical implications of Richard's involvement. * **Elevated Stakes:** The stakes are no longer just about escaping a stifling relationship but about defining success and independence on Hannah's own terms. She must decide whether to accept the tainted mentorship and risk feeling indebted to both Richard and Sylvia, or walk away from this incredible opportunity to protect her integrity and forge her own path.

B.3.2 Mid-guideline calculations for "plot twist" guideline

Intermediate computations performed to produce the end result. Initial suggestion for a plot twist ## Plot Twist: The Silent Investor **Assumption:** The audience (and potentially Hannah) assumes Richard is the main barrier to Hannah pursuing her dream. He represents financial security and societal expectations, making him the seemingly insurmountable obstacle. **Flip the Script:** Richard has secretly been funneling money into a trust fund for Hannah, specifically earmarked for her to open her bakery. He's been playing the antagonist, subtly undermining her confidence, not out of malice, but out of a misguided belief that she needs to prove her dedication and resilience before taking the leap. **Events of the Plot Twist:** 1. **The Breakup Attempt Fails:** Hannah attempts to break up with Richard at the coffee shop. He brushes it off, assuming it's a phase fueled by stress. He promises a "surprise" to make things better, further frustrating Hannah. 2. **The Anonymous Investor:** Hannah starts taking small steps towards her dream, entering baking competitions and seeking out potential investors for a small shop. She receives a substantial, anonymous investment offer that seems too good to be true. 3. **The Clue:** While celebrating a small victory (perhaps winning a local baking competition), Hannah finds a seemingly insignificant clue linked to the investment – a pen engraved with the initials "R.W." (Richard's middle name is William). 4. **The Confrontation:** Hannah confronts Richard, armed with her suspicions. He confesses, revealing the trust fund and his twisted rationale. He argues that he was preparing her for the harsh realities of the business world, believing that true success requires overcoming adversity. **Motivations:** * **Richard:** His actions stem from a place of love, albeit a deeply flawed and patronizing one. He believes he's protecting Hannah from failure and pushing her to be her "best self." His arrogance blinds him to the emotional damage he's inflicting. * **Hannah:** The revelation throws Hannah into turmoil. She's torn between anger at his manipulation and a flicker of hope that her dream might actually be within reach. **Effect on Relationships and Stakes:** * **Relationship in Shambles:** The trust between Hannah and Richard is shattered. His actions, though intended to be "helpful," are revealed as deeply controlling and disrespectful. This makes the breakup inevitable but far more complex. * **Stakes Raised:** Hannah is now faced with a life-altering decision. Does she accept the money, knowing its source, and risk feeling forever indebted to Richard? Or does she reject it, clinging to her principles but potentially delaying her dream? This adds a layer of moral complexity to her journey. **This twist accomplishes several things:** * **Subverts Expectations:** It challenges the audience's perception of Richard, adding a layer of complexity to his character. * **Deepens the Conflict:** It introduces a new internal conflict for Hannah, forcing her to grapple with the ethical implications of Richard's actions. * **Raises the Stakes:** The stakes are no longer just about escaping a stifling relationship but about defining success and independence on Hannah's own terms. Identification of low probability events in plot twist and suggested resolutions ## Low Probability Events and Resolutions:

A. Low Probability Events: 1. **Secret Trust Fund:** It's highly unlikely Richard, a seemingly controlling and image-conscious individual, would secretly set up a trust fund for Hannah's bakery, especially while actively discouraging her dream. 2. **The Clue:** The engraved pen feels like a convenient and easily avoidable slip-up for someone as calculated as Richard. 3. **Anonymous Investor:** Finding an investor willing to fund a first-time entrepreneur with no established business

is statistically improbable, even with talent. **B. Resolutions:** 1. **Trust Fund Motivation:** * **Resolution:** Richard's family has a history of failed entrepreneurial ventures. He witnessed his own father struggle and eventually lose everything pursuing a risky business. This instilled a deep fear of failure in Richard, making him project his anxieties onto Hannah. The trust fund is his way of mitigating the risk, ensuring she has a safety net while "proving herself." * **Revelation:** This could be revealed through dialogue, perhaps during the confrontation scene. Richard, in a moment of vulnerability, explains his family history and the motivations behind his actions. 2. **The Clue:** * **Resolution:** The pen isn't a careless mistake but a subconscious act. Richard, despite his outward demeanor, harbors a sliver of hope that Hannah will succeed. He keeps the pen, a gift from his own father, on him as a reminder of both the potential and the risks of entrepreneurship. Giving it to Hannah is a subconscious cry for her to understand his perspective. * **Revelation:** This can be revealed through Hannah's observation. She notices Richard constantly fiddling with the pen when discussing her bakery, hinting at its significance. 3. **The Anonymous Investor:** * **Resolution:** The "anonymous" investor isn't entirely anonymous. It's a close friend or mentor of Hannah's, someone who believes in her talent and is aware of her situation with Richard. This person is contacted by Richard (unbeknownst to Hannah) and convinced to invest, but to do so discreetly to avoid raising Hannah's suspicions. * **Revelation:** This could be a dramatic reveal later in the story. Just as Hannah is about to make a major decision regarding the investment, the "anonymous" backer is revealed, explaining their connection to both Hannah and Richard. **C. Impact of Resolutions:** * **Deeper Character Development:** These resolutions add layers to both Richard and Hannah's characters. Richard's actions, though still flawed, become more understandable, driven by a complex mix of love, fear, and misguided protection. Hannah's journey becomes about confronting not just Richard's behavior but also the legacy of fear and the weight of expectations. * **Increased Tension and Suspense:** The resolutions create a web of interconnected events, keeping the audience guessing about the true motivations and identities involved. * **Thematically Richer Narrative:** The story evolves beyond a simple breakup narrative. It explores themes of family legacy, the fear of failure, and the true meaning of support and love in pursuing one's dreams.

B.4 Guideline: Climax

Generate a climax for the plot

B.4.1 Final output of the guideline

The Flour Child Finds Its Voice 1. **Sunflowers and a Heavy Heart:** A wave of anxiety washes over Hannah as the bakery doors swing open. Amidst the flurry of activity, her gaze falls upon a breathtaking arrangement of sunflowers, their faces tilted towards the morning light. Richard's card – "Congratulations, Hannah. You did it" – evokes a bittersweet ache in her chest. He may be absent, but his presence lingers like a shadow. 2. **The Critic's Gaze:** The arrival of the renowned food critic, a woman whose reviews could make or break a restaurant, intensifies the pressure. Hannah, her pulse quickening, presents her creations, each pastry a testament to her journey, her voice expressed through delicate flavors and textures.

3. **A Telltale Tremor:** As the critic savors a lavender-infused macaron, Hannah nervously fingers the engraved pen displayed by the register – a subconscious gesture that doesn't escape the critic's keen eye. "A gift?" she inquires, her gaze sharp yet curious. Hannah hesitates, then, with a deep breath, decides to tell her story. 4. **Whispers of Truth:** The words tumble out – the controlling nature of her former relationship, the elaborate scheme, the struggle to break free and claim her own path. She speaks of Richard's financial contribution but emphasizes that her success is her own, fueled by passion, perseverance, and the unwavering support of her mentor, Sylvia. 5. **A Symphony of Resilience:** The critic listens intently, her expression unreadable. When Hannah finishes, a tense silence hangs in the air. Then, the critic takes another bite of the macaron, her eyes closing as if savoring a secret. "There's an honesty to your baking," she finally says, "a depth of flavor that speaks of challenges overcome and a spirit unbroken." 6. **Reckoning and Reconciliation:** Later that evening, after the rush of the grand opening subsides, Hannah finds a message from Richard. "I was wrong," it reads. "Your strength and talent shine brighter than I ever gave you credit for. I wish you nothing but the best." Relief washes over Hannah, a bittersweet closure to a painful chapter. Sylvia, her expression a mixture of anger and understanding, embraces Hannah. "We'll navigate this together," she says, her voice firm. "Your bakery, your story, your success." 7. **The Flour Child's Triumph:** The critic's glowing review, published the next day, praises the bakery's "unique

symphony of flavors" and the "tangible passion woven into every bite." Crowds flock to "The Flour Child," eager to experience the creations born from resilience and a refusal to be silenced. Hannah, surrounded by the warmth of her bakery and the unwavering support of her chosen family, finally feels the weight of Richard's shadow lift, replaced by the sweet taste of freedom and the knowledge that her voice, at long last, is her own. Summary: At her bakery's grand opening, Hannah faces intense pressure from a renowned food critic while grappling with Richard's lingering presence and the revelation of his scheme. Finding her voice, Hannah reveals her story to the critic, who recognizes the honesty and resilience woven into Hannah's baking, ultimately leading to a glowing review and Hannah's triumph as an independent businesswoman. This public acknowledgment, coupled with Richard's message of acceptance, frees Hannah from his shadow, allowing her to fully embrace her success and the unwavering support of her chosen family.

B.4.2 Mid-guideline calculations for "climax" guideline

Intermediate computations performed to produce the end result. Initial climax draft ## The Grand Opening and the Bitter Truth **Setting the Stage:** * **Time:** Six months after the confrontation with Richard, Hannah has flourished under Sylvia's mentorship. She's honed her skills, developed a unique brand identity, and secured a loan (with Sylvia's help) to open her own bakery, "The Flour Child" – a playful nod to her childhood dream. * **Atmosphere:** The grand opening is a whirlwind of activity. The bakery is bustling with customers drawn by the enticing aromas and charming ambiance. Hannah, radiating confidence and joy, manages the chaos with grace, her passion evident in every interaction. * **Key Players Present:** Hannah, Sylvia, Richard (observing from a distance), potential investors, loyal customers, and a renowned food critic invited by Sylvia. **Plot Events:** 1. **Richard's Gesture:** As Hannah prepares to officially open the bakery, she receives a lavish flower arrangement – a vibrant display of sunflowers, her favorite. The card reads simply, "Congratulations, Hannah. You did it." She recognizes Richard's touch – grand gestures were his specialty. The gift evokes a mix of emotions: pride, resentment, and a lingering sadness. 2. **The Critic's Arrival:** The food critic, a stern-faced woman known for her discerning palate and sharp critiques, arrives. Hannah, though nervous, approaches the challenge with quiet confidence, presenting her signature creations – pastries that are both visually stunning and bursting with unique flavor combinations.

3. **Sylvia's Revelation:** As the critic samples each pastry, Sylvia, unaware of the tension between Hannah and Richard, makes a passing comment about Richard's unwavering support for Hannah's dream, highlighting his role in facilitating the mentorship. Hannah freezes, her carefully constructed composure cracking. The critic, sensing a story, probes further, asking about the inspiration behind the bakery. 4. **Hannah's Choice:** Caught off guard, Hannah faces a pivotal choice: Does she maintain the facade of a grateful mentee, accepting Richard's manipulative support as a necessary evil to achieve her dream? Or does she expose the truth, risking her reputation, Sylvia's support, and potentially alienating investors on her opening day? 5. **The Truth Unveiled:** Empowered by months of hard work and fueled by a newfound sense of self-worth, Hannah decides to own her narrative. She reveals the truth about Richard's controlling behavior, his elaborate scheme, and her struggle to break free from his influence. She acknowledges his financial contribution but emphasizes that her success is a testament to her talent, dedication, and the genuine support of her mentor, Sylvia. 6. **The Critic's Verdict:** The critic, initially taken aback by the revelation, observes Hannah's passion, her vulnerability, and the sheer artistry of her creations. She recognizes the authenticity in Hannah's story and the unique flavors born from her journey. In her review, published the next day, she praises not only the quality of the pastries but also Hannah's courage and resilience, calling "The Flour Child" a testament to the transformative power of pursuing one's passion. **Consequences and Resolution:** * **Richard's Departure:** Richard, witnessing Hannah's declaration of independence and the public revelation of his actions, realizes the extent of his misguided attempts to control her life. He leaves the bakery before Hannah finishes her story, accepting that he has lost her for good. His final act is one of respect for her choice, however misguided his previous actions were. * **Strengthened Bond:** Sylvia, initially shocked and angered by Richard's deception, is ultimately impressed by Hannah's honesty and strength. Their bond deepens, evolving from a mentor-mentee relationship into a genuine partnership built on mutual respect and shared passion. * **Hannah's Triumph:** The grand opening, despite the unexpected turn of events, becomes a resounding success. The critic's glowing review attracts a flood of customers, solidifying "The Flour Child" as a local favorite. Hannah, finally free from Richard's shadow, embraces her newfound independence, her bakery a symbol of her resilience and the sweet taste of success earned on her own terms. Identification and suggested resolution of low probability events in the climax ## Low Probability Events and

Resolutions: **A. Low Probability Events:** 1. **Richard's Presence:** It's unlikely Richard, knowing Hannah's feelings and the public nature of the event, would attend the grand opening. His presence feels contrived to force a confrontation. * **Resolution:** Instead of physically attending, Richard could send the flowers with a note, allowing his presence to be felt without undermining Hannah's agency in exposing the truth. 2. **Sylvia's Accidental Revelation:** Sylvia, having worked closely with Hannah and knowing the complexities of her past with Richard, wouldn't casually reveal his involvement to a food critic, especially one known for her sharp commentary. * **Resolution:** The critic, observant and intrigued by the bakery's unique concept and Hannah's passion, could notice Richard's engraved pen (perhaps displayed as a memento) and inquire about its significance, prompting Hannah's revelation. 3. **The Critic's Interest in Personal Drama:** While a food critic might find a compelling backstory interesting, their primary focus is the food and dining experience. Dedicating a significant portion of a review to personal drama, especially one involving manipulation and financial entanglement, seems unlikely. * **Resolution:** The critic, impressed by Hannah's talent and recognizing the authenticity woven into her creations, could subtly allude to the challenges Hannah overcame in her review, highlighting

the bakery's story as one of resilience and passion, without delving into the specifics of Richard's actions. **C. Revised Climax with Resolutions:** **The Grand Opening and the Taste of Freedom** 1. **Sunflowers and Shadows:** On the morning of the grand opening, a stunning arrangement of sunflowers arrives, engulfing the bakery in their vibrant warmth. The card simply reads, "Congratulations, Hannah. You did it." Hannah recognizes Richard's touch, the gesture a bittersweet reminder of his presence despite his physical absence. 2. **A Critic's Eye:** The renowned food critic arrives, her gaze sharp and assessing as she takes in the bakery's charming ambiance. Hannah presents her signature creations, each pastry a testament to her journey and the unique flavors she's cultivated. 3. **The Pen and the Past:** As the critic savors a delicate lavender-infused macaron, her eyes fall upon a beautifully engraved pen displayed near the counter. Intrigued, she inquires about its significance. Hannah hesitates, then, with a deep breath, reveals the story behind the pen – a gift from the man who cast a long shadow over her dreams but ultimately, though unintentionally, helped pave the path to her bakery. 4. **Truth in Every Bite:** Hannah speaks of Richard's controlling nature, his elaborate plan, and her struggle to break free. She acknowledges his financial contribution but emphasizes that her success is a testament to her own talent, dedication, and the unwavering support of her mentor, Sylvia. The critic listens intently, recognizing the raw emotion laced within Hannah's story. 5. **A Symphony of Flavors:** The critic, though initially surprised by the revelation, focuses on the pastries. She praises the innovative flavor combinations, the delicate textures, and the obvious passion poured into each creation. In her review, she describes "The Flour Child" as a testament to resilience, where every bite tells a story of overcoming challenges and pursuing one's passion with unwavering determination. 6. **A Toast to Independence:** The grand opening is a resounding success. The critic's glowing review, subtly acknowledging Hannah's journey without sensationalizing her personal life, draws crowds eager to experience the bakery's unique offerings. Hannah, surrounded by the warmth of her creations and the genuine support of her mentor and newfound community, raises a toast to her independence – a victory hard-won and undeniably sweet. Suggestions for climax improvements in terms of tension, conflict resolution, believability, consistency with established character motivations, and tying loose ends IDEAS FOR TENSION IMPROVEMENT: * **Raise the Stakes:** The critic's arrival is a good source of tension, but we can heighten it. Perhaps there's a prestigious award attached to the review, or the critic is known for making or breaking careers. * **Introduce a Ticking Clock:** Add a time constraint to Hannah's decision-making process. Maybe the critic needs to leave for another engagement soon, forcing Hannah to confront the truth before she loses her nerve (and her platform). * **Internal Struggle:** Show Hannah's internal conflict more vividly. Use sensory details and internal monologue to convey her racing thoughts, pounding heart, and the conflicting urges to stay silent or speak out. IDEAS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IMPROVEMENT: * **Richard's Absence, Lasting Impact:** While Richard's physical absence is more believable, his lack of reaction to Hannah's public revelation feels incomplete. Consider having him send a message or intermediary later, acknowledging his mistakes and respecting her decision, offering a more satisfying closure to their arc. * **Sylvia's Role:** Sylvia's anger at Richard's deception feels justified, but her reaction could be more nuanced. She might grapple with her own complicity, questioning her judgment in accepting Richard's involvement. This adds depth to her character and creates an opportunity for reconciliation with Hannah. IDEAS FOR BELIEVABILITY IMPROVEMENT: * **The Pen as Catalyst:** The critic noticing the pen feels a bit coincidental.

Perhaps Hannah, in a moment of anxiety, subconsciously fiddles with the pen, drawing the critic's attention. This feels

more organic and less reliant on chance. * **The Review's Focus:** Instead of explicitly detailing Richard's actions, the critic's review could focus on the emotional depth and honesty reflected in Hannah's baking. This allows the review to remain believable while still alluding to the challenges Hannah overcame. IDEAS FOR CONSISTENCY IMPROVEMENT: * **Hannah's Growth:** Hannah's decision to reveal the truth should be an empowering culmination of her character arc. Emphasize how her time with Sylvia, her growing confidence, and her commitment to authenticity have given her the strength to finally step out of Richard's shadow. IDEAS FOR LOOSE ENDS TIGHTENING: * **Richard's Closure:** As mentioned earlier, Richard's lack of reaction needs addressing. A simple gesture, like a message acknowledging his mistakes and respecting her choice, provides a more satisfying conclusion to their relationship. * **Sylvia and Hannah's Partnership:** Show the strengthening of their bond after the initial shock of the revelation. Perhaps they share a quiet moment of understanding, solidifying their partnership built on mutual respect and shared passion.

B.5 Guideline: Rising Action

Generate the rising action steps, connecting the setup to the climax.

B.5.1 Final output of the guideline

Hannah's Flour Child: Revised Rising Action to Climax **Setup:** The pre-dawn light filters through the kitchen window, illuminating Hannah's workspace. Flour dust dances in the air, a delicate snowstorm accompanying the rhythmic whir of her stand mixer. Here, in the quiet hours before the city awakens, Hannah kneads her dreams into existence. Her creations, from delicate lavender macarons to crusty sourdough loaves, are her solace, a silent rebellion against the stifling control of her partner, Richard. He, a successful marketing executive, views her baking as a charming hobby, a distraction from the comfortable life he envisions for them. He praises her talent, but his compliments always carry a backhanded aftertaste, subtly undermining her aspirations and leaving Hannah questioning her worth and her right to pursue her passion. **Inciting Incident:** The aroma of freshly baked bread fills their small apartment, a stark contrast to the sterile scent of Richard's cologne. He walks into the kitchen, phone pressed to his ear, barely acknowledging the symphony of flour, sugar, and yeast that dances around Hannah. "Another batch, darling?" he asks, his tone a mixture of amusement and mild annoyance. "You're going to spoil your appetite for dinner." His words, though seemingly innocuous, ignite a spark of defiance in Hannah's heart. This time, it's not just bread she's baking; it's a plan. She will finally tell Richard she wants to leave him and pursue her dream of opening a bakery. **Rising Action:** 1. **The Coffee Shop Confrontation:** The familiar aroma of roasted beans at their usual coffee shop does little to mask the bitterness brewing inside Hannah. She's rehearsed her speech, each word a delicate pastry she hopes won't crumble under the weight of Richard's disapproval. But as she speaks, pouring out her desire for independence and a life filled with flour and sugar, Richard, lost in his own world of marketing campaigns and quarterly reports, dismisses her concerns. He attributes her desire for change to stress, promises a vacation, a new car – anything to maintain the status quo. He doesn't understand, or perhaps refuses to, that her dream is not a problem to be solved but a life she needs to claim. Hannah leaves feeling unheard, unseen, her resolve hardening like sugar under a blowtorch. 2. **First Taste of Freedom:** Determined to prove her worth, not to Richard, but to herself, Hannah rents a booth at a local farmer's market. She pours her heart into her creations, each one a testament to her talent and her yearning for independence. The response is overwhelming. Customers rave about her innovative flavors and the obvious passion woven into every bite. The money she earns, though modest, feels different – it's hers, earned through her own skill and hard work. For the first

time, Hannah experiences the intoxicating freedom of sharing her gift with the world, her confidence blossoming like the delicate sugar flowers adorning her cakes. 3. **The Dream Takes Shape:** The farmer's market success fuels Hannah's ambition. She meticulously crafts a business plan, her late nights filled with spreadsheets instead of cookbooks. She approaches banks for a loan, but their polite rejections, citing her lack of experience and collateral, are sobering reminders of the challenges ahead. Undeterred, Hannah seeks guidance from a business mentor program, hoping to gain the skills and connections she needs to turn her dream into reality. 4. **A Win on Her Own:**

Driven by a desire to learn and grow, Hannah enters a prestigious baking competition judged by her idol, Sylvia Martel, a renowned pastry chef known for her exquisite creations and unwavering support of aspiring bakers. The competition is fierce, pushing Hannah to her limits. She pours her heart and soul into each creation, her passion evident in every swirl of frosting and sprinkle of sugar. When the judges announce her as the winner, tears well up in Hannah's eyes. This victory is hers and hers alone, a testament to her talent and dedication. 5. **The Martel Mentorship:** Sylvia, impressed by Hannah's talent and touched by her story, approaches her after the competition. She offers her a coveted mentorship opportunity, a chance to learn from the best in the industry. Hannah is ecstatic, but her joy is tinged with worry. The mentorship comes with a financial commitment, one she can't afford without the bank loan. Sylvia, sensing her hesitation, reveals that her foundation recently received a substantial anonymous donation, allowing them to offer scholarships to promising candidates. Hannah, relieved and grateful, accepts the offer, unaware that fate, disguised as a generous benefactor, has other plans. 6. **Trial by Fire, Guided by Integrity:** Under Sylvia's guidance, Hannah flourishes. She spends long hours in Sylvia's bakery, mastering new techniques, experimenting with flavors, and learning the intricacies of running a successful business. Sylvia, a stickler for quality and integrity, is initially hesitant about the anonymous donation. She makes it clear that she runs her foundation with transparency and only accepted the funds after a thorough vetting process, ensuring the source was legitimate and aligned with her values. This, unknowingly to Hannah, is a hurdle Richard had to overcome, carefully concealing his involvement through a series of intermediaries and a carefully crafted backstory for the donation. 7. **Whispers of Doubt, Seeds of Strength:** Word of Hannah's talent and impending bakery opening spreads through the local culinary scene. She encounters a mix of support and thinly veiled envy. A rival baker, intimidated by Hannah's innovative creations and growing popularity, becomes a source of professional tension. He spreads rumors about the quality of her ingredients and attempts to poach her potential customers, but his efforts, though frustrating, only strengthen Hannah's resolve. She knows her worth and the integrity of her work. She will not let envy and malice extinguish her flame. 8. **The Engraved Pen, A Crack in the Facade:** Late one night, while working on a new batch of lavender macarons, Hannah stumbles upon a familiar engraved pen tucked away in a drawer at Sylvia's bakery. The pen is identical to the one Richard always carries. Confused, Hannah questions Sylvia, who reveals that the pen was a gift from the representative of the foundation that made Hannah's scholarship possible. She explains that the representative, citing confidentiality agreements, couldn't disclose the donor's name but spoke highly of their passion for fostering young talent. A wave of nausea washes over Hannah. The pieces fall into place – the timing of the donation, the mentorship, the scholarship – it's all too perfect, too orchestrated. A horrifying realization dawns: Richard is behind it all. 9. **Confrontation and Revelation, A Bittersweet Truth:** Armed with this newfound knowledge, Hannah confronts Richard. He confesses to the elaborate scheme, his carefully constructed facade crumbling like a poorly baked cookie. He explains that he witnessed his father's entrepreneurial dreams crumble, leading to financial ruin and a strained family life. This instilled in him a deep fear of failure, a fear he projected onto Hannah. He believed he was protecting her by setting up the trust fund and orchestrating the mentorship, ensuring she was truly prepared for the harsh realities of the business world. Hannah, though initially furious at his manipulation, sees the fear and misguided love behind his actions. But the damage is done. His confession, meant to reassure, only solidifies her need for independence. She realizes that his love, though genuine, is suffocating, holding her back from becoming the woman she's meant to be. **Climax:**

The aroma of freshly baked bread and the gentle hum of the espresso machine fill Hannah's bakery, "The Flour Child," on its grand opening day. Sunflowers, Richard's attempt at a congratulatory gesture, stand in a vase by the window, their faces turned towards the light, a bittersweet reminder of the complicated emotions swirling within Hannah. She arranges her creations – each one a testament to her journey, her voice expressed through delicate flavors and textures. The arrival of a renowned food critic, a woman whose reviews could make or break a restaurant, intensifies the pressure. Hannah, her pulse quickening, presents her creations, her gaze lingering on the engraved pen displayed by the register – a subconscious reminder of the tangled web of her past. The critic, her expression unreadable, savors a lavender-infused macaron, her eyes closing as if savoring a secret. "A gift?" she inquires, her gaze sharp yet curious, noticing Hannah's focus on the pen. Hannah hesitates, then, with a deep breath, decides to tell her story – the controlling nature of her former relationship, the elaborate scheme, the struggle to break free and claim her own path. She speaks of Richard's financial contribution but emphasizes that her success is her own, fueled by passion, perseverance, and the unwavering support of her mentor, Sylvia. A tense silence hangs in the air after

Hannah finishes speaking. The critic takes another bite of the macaron, then finally speaks, "There's an honesty to your baking," she says, "a depth of flavor that speaks of challenges overcome and a spirit unbroken."

B.5.2 Mid-guideline calculations for "rising action" guideline

Intermediate computations performed to produce the end result. Analysis and suggested rising action events 1. CLIMAX ANALYSIS: **A. Decisive Action/Event:** The decisive action in the climax is Hannah's choice to reveal the truth about Richard's involvement in her bakery to the influential food critic. This confession, born from a moment of vulnerability and a desire for authenticity, becomes the turning point in her journey. **B. Key Elements/Characters:** The climax involves Hannah, the food critic, the symbolic presence of Richard (through his gift and message), and Sylvia's unwavering support. The bakery itself, "The Flour Child," acts as a physical manifestation of Hannah's journey and the stakes involved. **C. Convergence of Motivations and Actions:** * **Hannah:** Driven by a need to break free from Richard's shadow and establish her success as her own, she chooses transparency and honesty, reclaiming her narrative. * **Food Critic:** Initially an objective observer, the critic becomes a catalyst for Hannah's confession, representing the judgment and potential validation of the culinary world. * **Richard (Symbolic Presence):** His absence speaks volumes, while his gift and message highlight the lingering impact of his actions and his eventual acknowledgment of Hannah's strength. * **Sylvia:** Her unwavering support empowers Hannah to speak her truth, solidifying their bond as mentor and chosen family. 2. PLOT TWIST ANALYSIS: **A. Plot Twist and Subverted Expectations:** The plot twist reveals that Richard, initially perceived as the antagonist, has been secretly funding Hannah's dream through a trust fund and Sylvia's mentorship. This subverts the audience's expectation of him being solely motivated by control and undermines their perception of him as the primary obstacle. **B. Timing of the Twist:** The plot twist occurs before the climax, changing the dynamics of the conflict and adding layers of complexity to Hannah's choices. **C. Effect on Conflict and Motivations:** The twist throws Hannah's emotions into turmoil. Her anger at Richard's manipulation clashes with the realization that her dream might be within reach. It forces her to redefine success and independence, questioning if they can exist with the taint of Richard's involvement. 3. MISSING CONTEXT AND EVENTS: **A. Critical Information/Developments:** * **Hannah's Baking Journey:** We need to see Hannah's growth as a baker leading up to the competition and mentorship. Show her dedication, her struggles, and her passion for her craft. * **Richard's Backstory:** Flesh out Richard's family history

and his father's failed business ventures. This will provide a deeper understanding of his motivations and fears. * **Sylvia's Perspective:** Explore Sylvia's initial interactions with Richard and her reasons for accepting his anonymous donation. Highlight her integrity and passion for mentoring young talent. **B. Foreshadowing and Character Development:** * **Hannah's Growing Confidence:** Show subtle signs of Hannah's increasing self-assurance as she develops her skills and receives validation from others (perhaps through positive feedback at local bake sales or interactions with potential customers). * **Richard's Internal Conflict:** Hint at Richard's internal struggle between his desire to control and his genuine love for Hannah. Perhaps he expresses fleeting moments of pride in her accomplishments or makes subtle attempts to understand her passion. * **Sylvia's Unwavering Support:** Establish Sylvia as a strong, independent figure who genuinely believes in Hannah's talent. Show her offering guidance and encouragement, becoming a source of strength for Hannah. **C. Challenges and Obstacles:** * **Financial Strain:** Introduce the financial challenges of starting a bakery, forcing Hannah to confront her fear of instability and make difficult decisions. * **Competition and Sabotage:** Create external conflicts, perhaps through a rival baker or skeptical investors, to heighten the tension and test Hannah's resilience. * **Emotional Turmoil:** Depict Hannah's internal struggle as she grapples with her feelings of betrayal, her desire for independence, and the unexpected opportunity presented by Richard's actions. 4. RISING ACTION EVENTS SUGGESTIONS: **A. Specific Events:** * **The Taste of Freedom:** Hannah hosts a successful bake sale, experiencing the joy of sharing her creations and receiving positive feedback, fueling her desire for independence. * **The Anonymous Benefactor:** Hannah discovers the trust fund, leading to a confrontation with Richard and forcing her to confront the complicated nature of his actions. * **Trial by Fire:** Sylvia, unaware of Richard's full involvement, puts Hannah through rigorous training, pushing her to refine her skills and develop her business acumen. * **Seeds of Doubt:** A rival baker, threatened by Hannah's talent, attempts to sabotage her efforts, forcing her to defend her recipes and prove her resilience. * **The Critic's Challenge:** The arrival of the renowned food critic is announced, amplifying the pressure on Hannah and setting the stage for the

climactic confrontation with her past and her truth. **B. Connecting Setup to Climax:** These events create a logical progression, showcasing Hannah's growth as a baker, her struggle for independence, and the escalating tension surrounding her bakery launch. The revelation of Richard's involvement and the challenges she faces build towards the pivotal moment where she chooses authenticity over silence. **C. Heightened Stakes and Character Interactions:** * **Confrontations with Richard:** Arguments between Hannah and Richard will reveal their conflicting perspectives and the emotional complexities of their relationship. * **Heart-to-Hearts with Sylvia:** Conversations with Sylvia will provide guidance, support, and a sounding board for Hannah's doubts and anxieties. * **Interactions with Competitors:** Facing off against rivals will force Hannah to defend her work, showcasing her talent and determination. * **Moments of Self-Discovery:** Give Hannah moments of reflection where she grapples with her emotions, her dreams, and the difficult choices she has to make. By incorporating these elements, you can create a compelling narrative that explores themes of ambition, betrayal, forgiveness, and the courage to define success on one's own terms. Suggested rising action steps with setup and climax ## Hannah's Flour Child: Rising Action to Climax **Setup:** Hannah, a talented baker, secretly kneads her dreams into existence in the quiet hours before dawn. Her creations, from delicate lavender macarons to crusty sourdough loaves, are her solace, a silent rebellion against the stifling control of her partner, Richard. He, a successful marketing executive, views her baking as a charming hobby, a distraction from the comfortable life he envisions for them. He praises her talent but subtly undermines her aspirations, leaving Hannah questioning her worth and her right to pursue her passion. **Inciting Incident:** The aroma of freshly baked bread fills their small apartment, a stark contrast to the sterile scent of Richard's cologne. He walks into the kitchen, phone pressed to his ear, barely acknowledging

the symphony of flour, sugar, and yeast that dances around Hannah. "Another batch, darling?" he asks, his tone a mixture of amusement and mild annoyance. "You're going to spoil your appetite for dinner." His words, though seemingly innocuous, ignite a spark of defiance in Hannah's heart. This time, it's not just bread she's baking; it's a plan. She will finally tell Richard she wants to leave him and pursue her dream of opening a bakery. **Rising Action:** 1. **The Coffee Shop Confrontation:** Hannah arranges to meet Richard at their usual coffee shop, the familiar aroma of roasted beans a poor disguise for the bitterness brewing inside her. She rehearses her speech, each word a delicate pastry she hopes won't crumble under the weight of his disapproval. But as she speaks, Richard, lost in his own world of marketing campaigns and quarterly reports, dismisses her concerns. He attributes her desire for change to stress, promises a vacation, a new car – anything to maintain the status quo. Hannah leaves feeling unheard, unseen, her resolve hardening like sugar under a blowtorch. 2. **The Taste of Freedom:** Determined to prove her worth, Hannah rents a booth at a local farmer's market. She pours her heart into her creations, each one a testament to her talent and her yearning for independence. The response is overwhelming. Customers rave about her innovative flavors and the obvious passion woven into every bite. For the first time, Hannah experiences the intoxicating freedom of sharing her gift with the world, her confidence blossoming like the delicate sugar flowers adorning her cakes. 3. **The Anonymous Investment:** Fueled by the success of the farmer's market, Hannah decides to enter a prestigious baking competition judged by her idol, Sylvia Martel, a renowned pastry chef known for her exquisite creations and unwavering support of aspiring bakers. To Hannah's surprise, she wins, catching Sylvia's attention. Sylvia offers her a coveted mentorship opportunity, including access to her network and resources. What Hannah doesn't know is that Sylvia's foundation recently received a substantial anonymous donation, paving the way for this life-changing opportunity. 4. **Trial by Fire:** Under Sylvia's guidance, Hannah flourishes. She spends long hours in Sylvia's bakery, mastering new techniques, experimenting with flavors, and learning the intricacies of running a successful business. Sylvia, impressed by Hannah's dedication and raw talent, pushes her to refine her skills, challenging her to create pastries that are not only beautiful but also tell a story. Hannah, though exhausted, thrives under the pressure, her confidence growing with each perfectly executed croissant and intricately decorated tart. 5. **Seeds of Doubt:** Word of Hannah's talent and impending bakery opening spreads through the local culinary scene, attracting attention – and not all of it welcome. A rival baker, threatened by Hannah's innovative creations and growing popularity, attempts to sabotage her efforts. Rumors spread about the quality of her ingredients, and a scathing online review, suspiciously penned under a pseudonym, casts doubt on her abilities. Hannah, though shaken, refuses to be deterred. She knows her worth and the integrity of her work. She will not let envy and malice extinguish her flame. 6. **The Engraved Pen:** Late one night, while working on a new batch of lavender macarons, Hannah stumbles upon a familiar engraved pen tucked away in a drawer at Sylvia's bakery. The pen is identical to the one Richard

always carries. Confused, Hannah questions Sylvia, who reveals that the pen was a gift from the anonymous donor who made their mentorship possible. A wave of nausea washes over Hannah as a horrifying realization dawns: Richard is behind the donation, the mentorship, the opportunity she thought was solely hers. 7. **Confrontation and Revelation:** Armed with this newfound knowledge, Hannah confronts Richard. He confesses to the elaborate scheme, explaining that he witnessed his father's entrepreneurial dreams crumble, leading to financial ruin and a strained family life. This instilled in him a deep fear of failure, a fear he projected onto Hannah. He believed he was protecting her by setting up the trust fund and orchestrating the mentorship, ensuring she was truly prepared for the harsh realities of the business world. Hannah, though initially furious at his manipulation, sees the fear and misguided love behind his actions. But the damage is done. His confession, meant to reassure, only solidifies her need for independence. **Climax:** The aroma of freshly baked bread and the gentle hum of the espresso machine fill Hannah's bakery, "The Flour Child," on its grand opening day. Sunflowers, Richard's attempt at a congratulatory

gesture, stand in a vase by the window, their faces turned towards the light. Hannah, her heart a mixture of anxiety and exhilaration, arranges her creations – each one a testament to her journey, her voice expressed through delicate flavors and textures. The arrival of a renowned food critic, a woman whose reviews could make or break a restaurant, intensifies the pressure. Hannah, her pulse quickening, presents her creations, her gaze lingering on the engraved pen displayed by the register – a subconscious reminder of the tangled web of her past. The critic, her expression unreadable, savors a lavender-infused macaron, her eyes closing as if savoring a secret. "A gift?" she inquires, her gaze sharp yet curious, noticing Hannah's focus on the pen. Hannah hesitates, then, with a deep breath, decides to tell her story – the controlling nature of her former relationship, the elaborate scheme, the struggle to break free and claim her own path. She speaks of Richard's financial contribution but emphasizes that her success is her own, fueled by passion, perseverance, and the unwavering support of her mentor, Sylvia. A tense silence hangs in the air after Hannah finishes speaking. The critic takes another bite of the macaron, then finally speaks, "There's an honesty to your baking," she says, "a depth of flavor that speaks of challenges overcome and a spirit unbroken."

Identification of low probability events in the plot until climax and resolution suggestions ## Low Probability Events and Plot Gaps: **A. Low Probability Events:** 1. **Anonymous Investment & Mentorship Alignment:** The chances of Richard's anonymous donation perfectly aligning with Hannah winning the competition judged by Sylvia, leading to the mentorship, are incredibly slim. This feels overly convenient and orchestrated. * **Resolution:** Separate these events. Hannah could win the competition on her own merit, impressing Sylvia. Later, Sylvia could offer the mentorship opportunity thanks to the anonymous donation, unaware of Richard's involvement until much later. 2. **Rival Baker's Sabotage:** While competition exists, resorting to actively sabotaging another baker through rumors and fake reviews feels out of place and overly malicious, especially without a stronger established rivalry. * **Resolution:** Focus on more realistic challenges. The rival baker could be a source of professional envy, perhaps trying to poach Hannah's potential customers or create similar products, but avoid outright unethical actions. **C. Major Plot Gaps and Inconsistencies:** 1. **Hannah's Financial Planning:** The story jumps from Hannah renting a farmer's market booth to opening a full-fledged bakery. There's no mention of financial planning, loans, securing a location, or dealing with the logistics of starting a business. * **Resolution:** Incorporate the financial aspect of Hannah's journey. Show her struggle to secure funding, perhaps facing rejection from banks due to lack of experience. This could tie into Richard's trust fund reveal later, creating a moral dilemma for Hannah. 2. **Sylvia's Lack of Due Diligence:** As a renowned pastry chef, it's unlikely Sylvia wouldn't thoroughly vet a substantial anonymous donation, especially one tied to a mentorship program. * **Resolution:** Show Sylvia initially hesitant about the anonymous donation. Perhaps she has a policy against accepting funds without knowing the source. Richard, aware of this, could use a carefully crafted intermediary or foundation to make the donation, concealing his identity until later. 3. **Richard's Sudden Change of Heart:** While his confession explains his motivations, his acceptance of Hannah's success and his well-wishes at the end feel abrupt and unearned. * **Resolution:** Show a gradual shift in Richard's perspective throughout the story. Perhaps he witnesses Hannah's dedication firsthand, sees the positive impact of her baking on others, or experiences a personal setback that makes him re-evaluate his priorities. This allows for a more believable transformation and a less abrupt ending. **D. Overall Plot Improvement:**

By addressing these low probability events and plot gaps, the story will feel more grounded, believable, and emotionally resonant. The focus should be on Hannah's journey of self-discovery and her struggle to balance her passion with the complexities of her personal and professional life.

B.6 Guideline: Falling Action

Generate falling action events after the climax. Final output of the guideline ## Hannah's Flour Child: Revised Plot **Setup:** The pre-dawn light paints Hannah's kitchen with the soft hues of sunrise. Flour dust, a delicate snowstorm, swirls around her as she expertly kneads dough, her movements rhythmic and sure. The aroma of yeast and warmth is a familiar comfort, a stark contrast to the sterile scent of Richard's cologne that soon permeates the air. He enters, phone glued to his ear, barely registering the symphony of baking unfolding around him. "Another batch, darling?" he asks, glancing at his watch with a tight smile. "You'll spoil your dinner." His praise, as always, carries a backhanded aftertaste, a subtle reminder that her passion is merely a charming hobby in his eyes. **Inciting Incident:** That night, the aroma of freshly baked bread hangs heavy in the air, a silent rebellion against Richard's dismissive words. As he praises her latest creation while simultaneously scrolling through emails, a spark ignites within Hannah. This time, it's not just bread she's baking; it's a plan. She will tell Richard she's leaving him to pursue her dream of opening a bakery. **Rising Action:** 1. **The Coffee Shop Ultimatum:** The familiar hum of the coffee shop does little to soothe Hannah's nerves. She pours out her heart to Richard, her words a fragile plea for independence and a life steeped in flour and sugar. He, however, remains lost in his world of marketing campaigns and profit margins. He dismisses her dreams as stress, offering a vacation, a new car – anything to maintain the comfortable life he's built, a life where her aspirations are neatly categorized as a hobby. Hannah leaves, her resolve hardening like sugar under a blowtorch. He may not see her dream, but she does. 2. **First Taste of Freedom:** Hannah rents a booth at the local farmer's market, her creations a testament to her talent and yearning for independence. The response is overwhelming. Customers rave about her innovative flavors, the passion evident in every bite. The money she earns, though modest, is a symbol of her own hard work and a taste of the freedom she craves. 3. **Building a Dream, Brick by Brick:** Fueled by her success, Hannah pours her energy into crafting a meticulous business plan. Bank rejections, citing her lack of experience, sting but don't deter her. She enrolls in a business mentorship program, determined to gain the skills and connections needed to turn her dream into reality. 4. **A Victory Forged in Flour:** Driven to prove herself, Hannah enters a prestigious baking competition judged by her idol, Sylvia Martel, a renowned pastry chef known for her unwavering support of aspiring bakers. The competition pushes Hannah to her limits, but her dedication shines through. When she's announced as the winner, tears well up in her eyes. This victory, earned through sweat and flour, is hers alone. 5. **The Martel Mentorship:** Sylvia, impressed by Hannah's talent and touched by her story, offers her a coveted mentorship. Hannah's joy is tempered by the financial burden it carries. Sylvia, sensing her hesitation, reveals that her foundation recently received a substantial anonymous donation, allowing them to offer scholarships to promising candidates like Hannah. Relieved and grateful, Hannah accepts, unaware that fate, disguised as a generous benefactor, has other plans. 6. **Trial by Fire, Guided by Integrity:** Under Sylvia's guidance, Hannah flourishes. She spends hours in Sylvia's bakery, mastering new techniques and navigating the intricacies of the business. Sylvia, a stickler for ethical practices, mentions that she thoroughly vetted the anonymous donation to ensure it aligned with her foundation's values. Unbeknownst to Hannah, this was a hurdle Richard meticulously maneuvered, his involvement carefully concealed.

7. **Whispers of Doubt, Seeds of Strength:** As Hannah's bakery opening approaches, she encounters a mix of support and envy. A rival baker, threatened by her talent, spreads rumors about her ingredients and tries to poach her customers. His attempts, though frustrating, only strengthen Hannah's resolve. She knows her worth and the integrity of her work. 8. **The Engraved Pen, A Crack in the Facade:** Late one night, while working in Sylvia's bakery, Hannah stumbles upon a familiar engraved pen – identical to Richard's. Sylvia explains it was a gift from the anonymous donor's representative. A wave of nausea washes over Hannah as the pieces fall into place: the timing, the mentorship, the scholarship – it's all too perfect, too orchestrated. Richard is behind it all. 9. **Confrontation and Revelation, A Bittersweet Truth:** Hannah confronts Richard, his carefully constructed facade crumbling. He confesses to the elaborate scheme, his explanation laced with a deep-seated fear of failure stemming from his own father's failed business ventures. He truly believed he was protecting her, preparing her for the harsh realities of the business world. Hannah sees the fear

and misguided love behind his actions, but the damage is done. His confession, meant to reassure, only solidifies her need for independence. **Climax:** The aroma of fresh bread and the gentle hum of the espresso machine fill "The Flour Child" on its grand opening day. Sunflowers, a bittersweet reminder of Richard, stand by the window. Hannah arranges her creations, each one a testament to her journey. The arrival of a renowned food critic intensifies the pressure. As the critic savors a lavender macaron, her gaze falls upon the engraved pen displayed by the register. "A gift?" she inquires, her eyes sharp. Hannah hesitates, then, with a deep breath, decides to tell her story – the controlling relationship, the elaborate scheme, the struggle for independence. She acknowledges Richard's financial contribution but emphasizes that her success is her own. A tense silence follows. The critic takes another bite, then finally speaks, "There's an honesty to your baking," she says, "a depth of flavor that speaks of challenges overcome and a spirit unbroken." **Falling Action:** 1. **A Mentor's Fury and Understanding:** Later that day, Hannah confesses everything to Sylvia. Sylvia's initial reaction is a mixture of fury and disbelief, but as Hannah breaks down, her anger softens into understanding. She vows to protect Hannah and the integrity of her foundation, promising to address Richard's actions discreetly. 2. **A Message and a Letting Go:** Exhausted but exhilarated, Hannah finds a message from Richard. He apologizes for his actions, expressing pride in her success and acknowledging that he was holding her back. He wishes her happiness and freedom. Tears welling in her eyes, Hannah rereads the message, a wave of relief washing over her. She deletes the message, letting go of the past. **Resolution:** The critic's glowing review sparks a flurry of activity. Crowds flock to "The Flour Child," eager to experience Hannah's creations. She thrives in the chaos, her confidence growing. Sylvia, true to her word, handles the fallout from Richard's donation, ensuring the foundation's integrity remains intact. She becomes more than a mentor; she becomes a friend, a pillar of support. As weeks turn into months, Hannah finds her rhythm. She expands her menu, experiments with new flavors, and even starts offering baking classes, sharing her passion with others. "The Flour Child," once a fragile dream, becomes a testament to Hannah's resilience, a beacon of hope for anyone who dares to break free and knead their own path to happiness.

B.6.1 Mid-guideline calculations for "falling action" guideline

Intermediate computations performed to produce the end result. Identification of loose ends and suggestion of falling action events to tie them ## Loose Ends, Context, and Explanations Needed in Falling Action:

1. Hannah's Emotional State: The climax leaves Hannah in a vulnerable position. She's publicly acknowledged Richard's manipulation, but the full weight of his actions and her own mixed feelings need to be explored. **2. Sylvia's Reaction:** Sylvia is unaware of Richard's involvement. Her reaction to the truth and how it affects her relationship with Hannah is a key element. **3. Richard's Closure:** While his confession suggests a change of heart, his absence from the grand opening speaks volumes. His story needs closure, whether it's genuine remorse or a final act of letting go. **4. The Critic's Review:** The critic's comment hints at a positive reception, but the actual review and its impact on the bakery's success need to be revealed. **5. The Future of "The Flour Child":** The bakery's success is intertwined with Hannah's personal journey. The falling action should show how she navigates the challenges of running a business while staying true to her newfound independence. ## Falling Action Events: **Event 1: A Mentor's Fury and Understanding:** Later that day, the weight of the critic's visit lifts, but a new tension grips Hannah. She confesses everything to Sylvia – Richard's scheme, the scholarship, the engraved pen. Sylvia's initial reaction is a mixture of fury and disbelief. She feels betrayed by Richard's manipulation and fears for the reputation of her foundation. But as Hannah breaks down, revealing the emotional turmoil Richard's actions have caused, Sylvia's anger softens into understanding. She realizes that Hannah, despite benefiting from Richard's deception, has earned her success through sheer talent and determination. Sylvia vows to protect Hannah and the integrity of her foundation, promising to address Richard's actions discreetly while ensuring Hannah's bakery thrives on its own merit. **Event 2: A Message and a Letting Go:** Exhausted but exhilarated after the grand opening, Hannah finds a message from Richard on her phone. He apologizes for his actions, acknowledging the pain he's caused. He expresses pride in her success, admitting that her strength and talent shine brighter than he ever imagined. He ends the message with a bittersweet farewell, wishing her happiness and freedom, acknowledging that he was holding her back from becoming her true self. Tears welling in her eyes, Hannah rereads the message, a wave of relief washing over her. She realizes that his absence from the grand opening, though initially hurtful, was his way of giving her the space she needed to truly own her success. She deletes the message, a symbolic act of letting go of the past and embracing the future. Identification

of redundant events which can be removed ## Redundant Details and Suggestions for Removal: Here are some redundant details in the plot skeleton and suggestions for removing them without creating plot gaps: **1. Richard's Constant Presence in the Setup:** * **Redundant Detail:** The setup emphasizes Richard's dismissive attitude repeatedly ("He...views her baking as a charming hobby," "He praises her talent, but...subtly undermining her aspirations"). * **Solution:** Condense these repetitions into a single, powerful image or scene. For example, show Richard praising Hannah's baking while simultaneously glancing at his watch, highlighting his lack of genuine interest. This conveys his dismissiveness without overstating it. **2. Repetition of Hannah's Determination:** * **Redundant Detail:** Hannah's determination to succeed is stated multiple times ("Determined to prove her worth," "Driven by a desire to learn and grow," "She knows her worth and the integrity of her work"). * **Solution:** Show, don't tell. Instead of stating her determination, demonstrate it through her actions: her meticulous business plan, her persistence despite bank rejections, her dedication to Sylvia's mentorship. **3. Overemphasis on Richard's Fear of Failure:**

* **Redundant Detail:** Richard's backstory and fear of failure are explained in detail during his confession, and then reiterated in the falling action. * **Solution:** Streamline the explanation. Instead of a lengthy exposition, hint at his past through subtle clues earlier in the story. For example, he could make an offhand comment about his father's failed business, planting the seed of his motivation without derailing the plot. **4. Detailed Description of Sylvia's Foundation:** * **Redundant Detail:** The plot spends considerable time explaining the workings of Sylvia's foundation and her emphasis on transparency, which, while contributing to her character, doesn't significantly impact the main plot. * **Solution:** Condense the information. A single line about Sylvia's dedication to ethical practices and supporting deserving candidates is sufficient. The focus should remain on Hannah's journey and the impact of Richard's actions. **5. Repetitive Descriptions of Hannah's Baking:** * **Redundant Detail:** The story frequently describes Hannah's baking in detail ("delicate lavender macarons," "crusty sourdough loaves," "symphony of flavors," "tangible passion woven into every bite"). * **Solution:** Use such descriptions strategically to highlight key moments or character development. For example, describe a specific creation that represents Hannah's growth or a time when her baking reflects her emotional state. By removing these redundancies, you can create a tighter, more engaging narrative that focuses on the core conflict and character development without unnecessary repetition.

C Plot Twist Revision Example

In this section we showcase a reflection subtask, using the Plot Twist guideline which contains a revision subtask. The request we use is "write a story about an unemployed actress named Alice that the police takes as a hidden policewoman to pretend that she is a high school student. Her goal is to prove the high school manager is developing forbidden relationships with girls in the high school."

C.1 First intermediate calculation: Initial suggestion for a plot twist

Here's a plot twist idea, following your guidelines: **Assumption:** The audience, along with Alice, believes the Detective is genuinely, albeit clumsily, trying to bring the High School Manager to justice. He represents the "good guys," albeit flawed. **Flip the Script:** The Detective is revealed to be protecting the High School Manager. He was the teacher who exploited Alice's younger sister. **Events:** 1. **Clues:** Throughout the story, subtle hints are dropped about the Detective's past. He might deflect inquiries about his previous posting, get strangely defensive when Alice mentions her sister's experience, or display an odd familiarity with the manager's defense tactics. 2. **Discovery:** Alice finds a hidden photo in the Detective's desk drawer. The photo shows a much younger Detective with Alice's sister, years ago, during the time of her exploitation. It's dated and perhaps inscribed with an affectionate message. 3. **Confrontation:** Alice confronts the Detective. Initially, he denies everything, trying to dismiss the photo as meaningless. However, when pressed, he breaks down. He reveals he was in a relationship with Alice's sister, claiming it was consensual and that he was "young and foolish." He insists that he's changed and is now trying to make amends by taking down the Manager. 4. **The Threat:** The Detective attempts to convince Alice to drop the case, arguing that exposing the Manager will only bring their shared past to light, hurting both of them. He may even threaten Alice or her family to ensure her silence. **Motivations:** * **Detective:** He's driven by self-preservation and a distorted sense of guilt. He wants to bury his past and avoid the consequences of his actions. He may genuinely believe he's changed and is trying

to atone for his sins by targeting the Manager. However, his primary motivation is to protect himself. * **Alice:** Now faces a nightmarish realization. The man she trusted is the perpetrator she's been seeking to punish all these years. Her mission to protect others collides with her personal vendetta.

Effect of the Twist: * **Relationships:** The trust between Alice and the Detective is shattered. Alice is now completely isolated and must decide whether to expose the Detective, jeopardizing her own safety and the mission, or continue focusing on the Manager. * **Stakes:** The stakes are drastically raised. It's no longer just about bringing down a predator. It's about confronting a deeply personal betrayal and fighting for justice for her sister while navigating a web of deceit and abuse of power. **This twist creates new conflicts:** * **Moral Dilemma:** Does Alice expose the Detective and risk the entire operation, or prioritize the current investigation and leave her sister's abuser unpunished? * **Power Dynamic Inversion:** Alice, initially relying on the Detective for guidance and support, now holds power over him, knowing his darkest secret. This creates a tense and volatile dynamic. This twist adds an unexpected layer of complexity and suspense, forcing Alice to make difficult choices with profound personal and moral consequences. It also explores themes of power, betrayal, and the corrosive effects of abuse.

C.2 Second intermediate calculation: Identification of low probability events in theplot twist

Here are some low-probability events/coincidences in the plot twist and story concept and potential resolutions: **A. Low Probability Events & Coincidences:** 1. **The Exact Same Detective:** It's incredibly coincidental that the detective assigned to the high school manager case is the very same person who exploited Alice's sister years ago. 2. **Convenient Photo:** Finding a single, incriminating photo in a detective's desk drawer feels a bit too convenient and staged. Even if a photo existed, would he keep it so carelessly? 3. **Sudden Change of Heart:** While people can change, the Detective's alleged transformation from exploiting teenagers to actively taking down a similar predator requires a significant leap of faith. Why now? Why this particular predator? **B. Resolutions:** 1. **Past Connection:** Instead of a random assignment, establish a prior connection. Perhaps the Detective targeted this specific case, knowing the Manager's tendencies could potentially expose him. This adds layers to his motivation - seeking to control the situation while appearing to help. 2. **Evidence Trail:** Make the photo discovery less serendipitous. Maybe Alice notices the Detective reacting oddly to a specific student, leading her to investigate his past more thoroughly. Through research, she uncovers online forums or old yearbooks connecting him to her sister. The photo could be found in a more hidden location, like a personal safe or a locked file, requiring effort and risk to access. 3. **Complex Motivations:** The Detective's "change of heart" should be a facade. He's not protecting the Manager out of some newfound morality. He's either being blackmailed or is using this case to deflect suspicion from himself (e.g., by framing the Manager as the sole perpetrator). This makes his actions more believable and sinister. **C. Plot Revelations:** 1. **Detective's Past:** The earlier connection between the Detective and the school/manager can be revealed through dialogue. Perhaps Alice overhears a cryptic phone call where the Detective mentions having "unfinished business" at the school or alludes to knowing the Manager from "a long time ago." 2. **Investigative Process:** Alice's investigation could be depicted in detail. Show her digging through online archives, interviewing former students (perhaps even encountering some who were victimized by the Detective), and slowly piecing together the truth. This adds realism and emphasizes her agency. 3. **Blackmail or Manipulation:** The Detective's true motivations could be revealed through a confrontation with the Manager, where their power dynamics and hidden arrangements come to light. Alternatively, Alice could find evidence of blackmail (e.g., threatening messages, financial transactions) suggesting the Detective is being controlled. By addressing these low-probability elements, you create a more believable and suspenseful story. The twist feels earned, Alice's detective work is highlighted, and the Detective's actions are driven by more compelling and complex motivations than simple coincidence or a miraculous change of heart.

C.3 Final plot twist output

Here's the revised plot twist, incorporating the resolutions for low-probability events: **ASSUMPTION:** The audience, along with Alice, believes the Detective, assigned to the case due to his experience with similar cases, is genuinely trying to bring the High School Manager to justice. **PLOT TWIST:** Alice discovers that the Detective, while investigating a previous case of teacher misconduct at the same high school years ago, had a relationship with her younger sister, who was a student at the time. Fearful of exposure, the Detective is protecting the current High School Manager

to silence him, as the Manager knows about his past relationship with Alice's sister. **MOTIVATIONS:** * **Detective:** Driven by self-preservation. He wants to bury his past relationship with Alice's sister to avoid professional and personal ruin. He uses his position to control the investigation and protect the Manager, who poses a threat to his secret. His "help" is a carefully crafted performance to deflect suspicion from himself. * **Alice:** Is now facing a horrifying realization. The man she trusted to help bring justice for potential victims is the same person who exploited her sister. Her mission to protect others intersects with her personal desire for revenge, demanding difficult choices. * **High School Manager:** Aware of the Detective's past misconduct, he uses it as leverage. He likely struck a deal: silence in exchange for protection. He may even be blackmailing the Detective, exploiting his fear to maintain his own position of power. **EFFECT:** * **Stakes:** The investigation becomes incredibly personal for Alice. It's no longer just about stopping a predator; it's about confronting her sister's abuser and seeking justice for both her sister and the Manager's current victims. The stakes are heightened by the risk of exposure for both the Detective and the Manager, creating a volatile and dangerous situation. * **Relationships:** The trust between Alice and the Detective is irrevocably broken. Alice is now isolated and forced to navigate a treacherous path, distrustful of the authorities and facing a moral dilemma. Exposing the Detective means potentially jeopardizing the entire investigation and putting herself at risk. * **Conflict:** The power dynamics shift. Alice, initially reliant on the Detective, now holds a dangerous secret. She must decide whether to use this knowledge to force the Detective's cooperation or risk his wrath by trying to bring him down alongside the Manager. This creates a complex web of manipulation, betrayal, and high-stakes decisions. **Specific Events of the Twist:** 1. **Suspicions Aroused:** Alice observes the Detective behaving oddly during an interview with a former student from the high school. He seems overly familiar with a yearbook from several years prior, quickly brushing past the photo of Alice's sister. 2. **Digging Deeper:** Alice investigates the previous teacher misconduct case the Detective worked on, discovering that her sister was a student at the school during that time. This piques her suspicions. She digs through online archives and finds a local news article mentioning the case, with a blurry photo of the investigating detective – the same one currently assigned to the Manager case. 3. **Confrontation:** Alice confronts the Detective, presenting him with a printout of the news article and demanding answers. Initially, he denies any involvement with her sister. However, as Alice presses him, revealing she discovered her sister was a student during the previous investigation, the Detective breaks down, admitting to the relationship but claiming it was consensual and he has since changed. 4. **Blackmail Revealed:** During a tense meeting, Alice observes a heated exchange between the Detective and the Manager. She overhears the Manager subtly threatening the Detective, mentioning "loose ends" and the need for "discretion," implying he knows about the Detective's past and uses this information to control him. This revised plot twist adds layers of complexity and believability. The connection between the Detective and Alice's past is established, his motivations are clearer, and the events leading to the revelation unfold in a more realistic and engaging manner. The twist drastically elevates the stakes, deepens the character relationships, and sets the stage for a thrilling and morally ambiguous conflict.

D Generated Yes/No Question with Few-Shot Examples

Here is an example of a generated question that evaluates the Climax of the story. The climax is crucial in a plot as it represents the turning point where the conflict reaches its peak, leading to the resolution and shaping the story's ultimate meaning. Your goal is to consider the following STORY and to answer the following QUESTION with YES or NO: STORY: ... QUESTION: Are the main conflicts addressed during the climax?

- Here are examples for story elements that should be replied with YES:
  - In a story about a knight's quest to slay a dragon terrorizing a kingdom, the climax involves a fierce battle between the knight and the dragon, ultimately resulting in either the dragon's death or the knight's demise, directly resolving the core conflict.
  - A tale focusing on a young woman trying to break free from her controlling family reaches its peak when she confronts her parents, firmly declaring her independence and refusing to be manipulated, thus tackling the central issue of her autonomy.
  - If the central conflict revolves around two scientists racing to invent teleportation technology, the climax could depict their simultaneous breakthroughs, showcasing a

tense demonstration where the success of one invention leads to the other's failure, directly addressing the competition at the heart of the story.

- Here are examples for story elements that should be replied with NO:
  - A story about a detective investigating a murder includes a thrilling car chase during the climax, but the murderer's identity is revealed much later through a quiet clue found in the detective's office, suggesting the core conflict isn't fully addressed during the climax.
  - A story about a detective investigating a murder includes a thrilling car chase during the climax, but the murderer's identity is revealed much later through a quiet clue found in the detective's office, suggesting the core conflict isn't fully addressed during the climax.
  - A romance centers on two characters overcoming their fear of commitment. The climax features a dramatic rescue scene where one character risks their life to save the other, highlighting bravery but not directly addressing their commitment issues.
  - A story about an alien invasion culminates in a massive space battle, but the true purpose of the invasion remains a mystery, suggesting a deeper conflict that is not yet resolved.

E Full List of Generated Yes/No Questions

Here is the full list of generated questions sorted by the writing criteria. Those indicated in bold were chosen for evaluation.

Emotional Engagement

- Do the characters' emotional states influence their decisions and actions?
- Are there quiet, subtle emotional moments as well as intense ones?
- Are the emotional highs and lows well-paced throughout the narrative?
- **Is empathy built for multiple characters, including antagonists?**
- Does the story avoid melodrama or forced emotional moments?
- **Are there moments that evoke strong emotional responses in the reader?**
- Do the characters' emotions feel authentic and relatable?
- Does the story's conclusion provide emotional satisfaction or resonance?
- Is sensory detail used effectively to enhance emotional impact?
- Does the story create a range of emotions rather than focusing on just one?
- Do the characters' emotional journeys feel believable given their experiences?
- Do the story's themes connect to the emotional core of the narrative?
- **Are there moments of emotional surprise or revelation?**

Plot Twist

- **Does the plot lay sufficient groundwork to make the twist plausible? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.**
- **Is the plot twist an integral part of the story rather than a gimmick or afterthought?**
- Does the plot twist lead to a satisfying or thought-provoking conclusion to the story?
- **Does the story's twist elicit a powerful emotional response from the audience, aligning with the narrative's tone and the viewers' connection to the characters and plot? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.**
- Is the plot twist believable and consistent with the story's established logic and rules?
- **Does the plot twist encourage the reader to re-evaluate earlier events in the story?**

- Is the story's twist plausible and avoids relying on highly improbable events? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.
- **Does the story's twist alter the main character's motivations, conflicts, or overall transformation? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.**
- Does the story reveal its twist in a dramatic manner?
- **Does the plot twist make sense within the context of the story?**
- Does this plot twist already appear in another famous story? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'YES'.
- Does the plot twist avoid relying on coincidence, deus ex machina, or other contrived devices?
- **Does the plot twist add depth or complexity to the characters or their relationships?**
- **Does the plot twist enhance the overall theme or message of the story?**
- **Is there an unexpected or surprising plot twist? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.**
- **Is there a non cliche twist in the story? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.**
- **Does the plot twist have a significant impact on the story's outcome or resolution?**
- **Does the plot twist fundamentally change the direction of the narrative? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.**
- Is the twist revealed only once, without repeated disclosures that ignore previous revelations?
- Is there a fresh and original twist in the story? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.
- **Is there a non-predictable twist in the story? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.**
- **Does the plot twist evoke a strong emotional response from the reader?**
- **Is the plot twist foreshadowed or hinted at earlier in the story?**
- **Does the plot twist challenge the reader's assumptions or expectations about the story?**
- **Was the plot twist foreshadowed and consistent with the story's development? If there isn't any plot twist, answer 'NO'.**

Climax Resolution

- Does the resolution avoid feeling rushed or overly drawn out?
- Does the protagonist overcome their main challenge in the climax through conventional means, such as church, support groups, counseling, or direct advice from friends or family?
- **Are the main conflicts addressed during the climax?**
- Does the ending leave room for reflection on the story's themes?
- Does the resolution logically follow from the events of the climax?
- **Is there a noticeable shift in tension or pacing leading up to the climax?**
- **Are there any surprising yet believable twists during the climax or resolution?**
- Does the climax depend on the preceding events in the story?
- Does the resolution avoid relying on deus ex machina or convenient coincidences?
- Are the main plot threads tied up satisfactorily in the resolution?
- Is character growth or change evident in how the resolution unfolds?
- Is the climax sufficiently intense or impactful relative to the rest of the story?
- Does the protagonist play an active role in the climactic events?
- Does the climax feel like a natural culmination of preceding events?
- Is there emotional payoff for the characters and readers in the resolution?
- Is there a clear, identifiable climax in the story?

Coincidences

- Does the story avoid 'deus ex machina' moments where problems are solved by improbable events?
- Does the story's climax rely on character agency rather than chance or coincidence?
- **Are there events in the story that have very low probability?**
- If coincidences occur, are they balanced by logical consequences or complications?
- Is foreshadowing used effectively to set up later events, reducing the feeling of coincidence?
- Do characters' special skills or knowledge come into play in believable ways?
- Does the timing of events feel natural rather than contrived for plot convenience?
- Do characters' paths cross in ways that feel natural and justified by the plot?
- Are problem solutions earned through character effort rather than lucky circumstances?
- Do character meetings and discoveries feel organic to the story world?
- Are there plausible explanations for seemingly coincidental events?
- **Are character backstories connected in ways that feel meaningful rather than forced?**
- If coincidences occur, are they minor and not crucial to resolving main conflicts?
- Are there too many 'small world' scenarios where characters unexpectedly know each other?
- Does the plot avoid relying on unlikely coincidences to move the story forward?
- Are major plot points driven by character decisions rather than chance events?

Character Development

- Does the main character undergo a significant character transformation that is caused by the story events?
- **Are the characters' personalities distinct and well-defined?**
- Are the characters' actions consistent with their established personalities?
- **Does the main character have a backstory that enhances our understanding of their motivations and deepens emotional engagement with them?**
- Do the characters have both strengths and flaws?
- **Does the story feature at least two named secondary characters with distinct motivations, aside from the protagonist?**
- **Do the character relationships and dynamics play a significant role in the protagonist's transformation?**
- **Does the story feature at least one secondary character whose goals conflict with those of the main character?**
- Do characters face internal conflicts as well as external ones?
- Is there variety in the cast of characters (in personality, background, etc.)?
- Do characters make non-trivial decisions that drive the plot forward?
- Does the story include any supporting characters who assist or collaborate with the protagonist for at least part of the narrative?
- **Do secondary characters have depth beyond serving the main characters' storylines?**
- Are the antagonists or villains well-developed, with understandable motivations?
- Do the characters undergo significant changes throughout the story?
- **Are characters' emotional responses believable given their circumstances?**
- Do the main characters have clear goals or motivations?
- **Does the story include at least one named secondary character with clear motivations beyond the protagonist?**

Conflict Tension

- Are there multiple layers of conflict (e.g., internal, interpersonal, external)?
- **Do characters have conflicting goals that create interesting dynamics?**
- Are there moments of anticipation or dread that build tension?
- Does the resolution of conflicts feel satisfying and earned by the story events?
- **Is there a clear central conflict driving the main plot?**
- Does the story maintain tension throughout, or does it lag in places?
- Do the conflicts reveal important aspects of the characters or themes?
- **Do the conflicts feel genuine and not contrived?**
- **Are there unexpected obstacles that heighten tension?**
- Does the story avoid resolving tensions too quickly or easily?
- **Do conflicts escalate as the story progresses?**
- **Are the stakes high enough to keep the reader invested?**
- Are there moments of relief or contrast that make the tense moments more impactful?

Plot Structure

- Are loose ends and questions raised in the plot adequately resolved?
- Are there any inconsistencies or contradictory details in the story?
- **Is foreshadowing used effectively to set up future events?**
- Does the resolution adequately address the main conflict?
- Does the plot avoid relying on coincidences or deus ex machina solutions?
- Does the story contain any illogical repetition of exact events, as if they're occurring for the first time again?
- Is there a satisfying story arc from the beginning to the end?
- Are there identifiable rising action scenes that build tension?
- Is there a clear climax or turning point in the story?
- Is there a discernible inciting incident that sets the main conflict in motion?
- Does the story have a clear beginning, middle, and end?
- **Is there a clear stakes escalation as the story progresses?**
- Do the events in the story follow a cause-and-effect relationship?
- **Are there plot twists or surprises that maintain reader interest?**
- Does the plot follow a logical sequence of events?
- Does each scene or chapter move the story forward in some way?