

"I do, actually [see most movies follow a three-act paradigm]. I see setting up the conflicts, escalating the conflicts, and resolving them. But I also learned a long, long time ago about 'plot need': Will Dorothy get home? Will Bogart get Bergman? What is Rosebud? It is why you sit in your seat, and, for me, it is the question the character always asks. What does the character want? What is the conflict? To me, that is ultimately how it breaks down into three acts. And that is what keeps you in your seat. You want to find out if the character will get what they need or what they want."

-Lauren Shuler Donner