

APPENDIX D – Scene Checklist

*A ready-to-use checklist for AI exploration,
drafting, or revising scenes.*

Purpose

- What changes by the end of the scene?
- How does it move character, plot, or theme forward?

Goal–Conflict–Stakes

- What does the protagonist want?
- What blocks them?
- Why does it matter emotionally?

Tension

- Does tension rise across beats?
- Are internal, external, and interpersonal conflicts braided effectively?

Beats

- Opening expectation
- First friction
- Escalation

- Reversal
- Crisis
- Fallout
- New tension

Atmosphere

- Does sensory detail reinforce emotion?
- Does the setting reflect or contradict the scene's emotional truth?

Dialogue & Subtext

- Does dialogue reveal fear, desire, or conflict?
- Is subtext present where appropriate?
- Are characters misreading each other believably?

Pacing

- Are there drags or rushes?
- Does every paragraph earn its place?

Continuity

- Are motivations consistent?
- Are details aligned with canon?