

SOCIAL HORROR STORY MAP



How to Use This Guide: Use this story map to build a socially-driven horror story rooted in real-world fears. This guide will help you align character, theme, and horror elements to create an impactful and terrifying narrative.

CORE CONCEPT

- What social issues does your story confront (e.g., racism, misogyny, class divide)?
- What emotional or psychological fear is tied to it?
- How will this issue manifest as horror?

PROTAGONIST AND PERSPECTIVE

- Who is most affected by the core fear?
- What perspective are you offering that hasn't been seen before?
- What is their internal wound or flaw?

THE HORROR ENGINE

- What supernatural, psychological, or monstrous element represents the issue?
- Is the horror literal (a monster) or symbolic (paranoia, society turning on them)?
- How does the horror escalate?

SETTING AND TONE

- What location reinforces the story's social message?
- How does the environment reflect isolation, oppression, or surveillance?
- What tone are you striking (satirical, bleak, surreal)?

TURNING POINTS AND REVELATIONS

- What key moments expose the truth behind the horror?
- How does the protagonist begin to understand the system they're trapped in?
- What sacrifices must be made to survive or fight back?

RESOLUTION AND MESSAGE

- Does your protagonist escape, succumb, or transform?
- What message do you want your audience to leave with?
- Is the ending hopeful, bleak, or ambiguous?