

Mistakes Writers Make With Genre — Brooks Elms

FilmCourage.com



[\(Watch the video interview on Youtube here\)](#)

Film Courage: Can you explain the three elements of creating a horror movie?

Brooks Elms, Screenwriter/Writing Mentor: It's a great question. That comes from [Blake Snyder](#)'s [Author of Save The Cat] idea about the monster in the house because Blake has this really wonderful, elegant way of thinking about genre that's different than what most people think about genre. When most people think about genre they think of sci-fi or western or horror or this or that or the other and Blake was like *Well that doesn't really help you write a screenplay*. What's a way of thinking about genre, a way of

unified elements that's gonna keep you focused on what matters for you to create a screenplay with core elements that has the tuning fork that sounds like wonderful expression of that genre? One of my favorites is that monster in the house genre and that requires a monster of some sort, right? But it need not be supernatural, could even be like a psychopath or something terrible and then a house that's confined the protagonist so that they can't get away... ([Watch the video interview on Youtube here](#)).



([Watch the video interview on Youtube here](#))

BIO:

Brooks Elms is a screenwriter and independent filmmaker. His specialty is grounded personal characters and writing story tension so thick it knots up your stomach. He's written 25+ screenplays, a dozen of them on assignment, and sold several scripts, including one this year with Brad Peyton as Executive Producer. Brooks was recently hired to rewrite a

screenplay started by an Oscar-winning writer. Brooks began his career writing, directing, and producing two indie features (personal dramas) that he screened all over the world. And Brooks also loves coaching fellow writers who have a burning ambition to deeply serve their audiences.

FILM COURAGE
NEW VIDEOS **5PM PST** DAILY  

FILM COURAGE 2
MORE **STORIES**, MORE **LESSONS**  