

# World Building in a Binder

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*For writers who prefer paper over Pinterest*

## My Binder System

### ▶ Series Bible

### ▶ Current Project Binder

- If part of the series, update and add relevant content to the Series Binder when project is complete

### ▶ Press, Reviews, Promotions

### ▶ Idea File

### ▶ Craft & Classes

## Building Your World

### ▶ Identify the type of world you are building

- Real Worlds
  - Present-day/contemporary
  - Historical
- Imaginary Worlds
  - Fantasy
  - Paranormal
- Alternate reality
  - Fantasy
  - Science Fiction

## ► Know the Rules

- Real Worlds
  - History
  - Calendar
  - Weather/Tides/Sunrise/Sunset
  - Places
- Imaginary Worlds
  - Impact of past, present, and future events
  - Expectations and limitations of magic, creatures, plant life, special powers, etc

## ► Read similar works

# Your World Needs

## The Places

### ► General description of the world and its people

### ► Setting elements

- Maps
- Places of interest
- Interior layouts
- Historical period
- Culture
- Season/Time

## The People

### ► Character/cast

- Full bios of main characters
  - [www.etsy.com/shop/SwanPressPrintables](http://www.etsy.com/shop/SwanPressPrintables)
  - Physical description
  - Personality traits
  - Accents
  - Morals/values/religion/politics
  - Internal struggles and motivation
  - Goals, dreams, and fears
  - Sacrifices and grand gestures
  - Growth from the start of the story to the “new normal”

- Short synopses of secondary and tertiary characters
  - Physical description
  - Relationship to the main character(s)
  - Purpose in the story (help or hinder)
- Relevant backstories

## **The History**

### **▶ Timelines**

- From the inception of the world to the present
- Major events
- Genealogy and family trees
- Birth and death dates (if applicable) of all characters
- Major and minor characters – know where they are at all times (at work, away at college, on vacation, on a quest, etc.)
- Calendar
- Plot points and events
- Be cognizant of holidays
- If writing contemporary, use an actual calendar (readers look this stuff up!)

## **Research**

### **▶ Things you need to create**

- My books: Fictional towns, a sportsplex, a cliffside resort, cabins, riding trails

### **▶ Things you need to become an expert in**

- My books: PTSD, military rankings and operations, Downeast, Maine, Queen Anne architecture, Savannah, southern cooking, traumatic brain injuries, horses, harbor seals

### **▶ Things that inspire you**

- Me: Love, God, faith, kindness, people who overcome hard things, New England through the seasons, cozy getaways

### **▶ Things about your characters**



- My books: Motivation, faith, emotions, character traits, family, outlook, work ethics, effect of childhood traumas, world/regional events during 2017

## Stay in Touch!

- Facebook.com/KerryEvelynAuthor
- Twitter @theKerryEvelyn
- Instagram @KerryEvelynAuthor
- Reader Group Facebook.com/groups/CranesCoveCrew
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## Notes:

# Suggested Binder Tabs for World Building

Tabs and topics should reflect your world. The more developed your world is, the more realistic it will seem to the reader.

- World description**
- Maps**
- Timeline**
- Calendar**
- Work schedules**
- Places**
- Cast**
- Bios**
- Special Objects**
- Food/recipes**
- Songs/verses**
- Photos & cover ideas**
- Languages**
- Story bits**
- Books in the series**
- Outlines/Plot Points**
- Style sheets**
- Input from Beta Readers**
- Research topics**
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