LIFE'S LITTLE CORNER · AI NOVELIST PRODUCTION LINE

The Series Bible Starter

The continuity matrix that keeps a multi-book series from contradicting itself — characters, timeline, who-knows-what, open threads, glossary and a pre-publish QA checklist, with genre add-ons.

Free printable PDF · Full Edition (60+ pages) available separately

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Why a series bible: readers notice what you forget

By book three, you will not remember whether the mentor's scar is on the left cheek, how many years separate the prologue from chapter one, or which character was told the secret. Readers will. A series bible is the single place where every **fact** lives — written once, checked every time, so a mistake is caught by a spreadsheet instead of a one-star review.

The system in four moves

- **1. Record** every fact the moment it appears on the page (not what you meant, what you wrote).
- **2. Tag** each fact with book and chapter.
- **3. Check** new scenes against the facts before drafting; check finished books against the matrix before publishing.
- **4. Close** every open thread: every promise the story makes must be paid off in its book, or by the end of the series at the latest.

What goes where

Need	Use	Pages
Series at a glance	Series overview sheet	3
Who someone is	Character sheet	4
When things happen; ages	Timeline	5
Who knows what, when	Knowledge matrix	6
Names, places, spellings	Glossary + world facts	7
Detail consistency across books	Continuity matrix	8
Promises to pay off	Open-threads ledger	9
What changed by the end of each book	Book-end snapshot	10
Before you publish	QA checklist + AI prompts	11
Your genre	Genre add-ons	12

Series overview sheet

Series title	
Genre / subgenre	
Reader promise (1 sentence)	
Series premise (2 sentences)	
Number of books / status	
Core theme	
Central question (answered at end of series)	
Series-wide rules (content, values, POV, tense)	
Recurring element(s) in every book	
Canonical spellings: author, series, key names	
Book 1 — title / one-line hook	
Book 2 — title / one-line hook	
Book 3 — title / one-line hook	
Book 4+ — title / one-line hook	

Example of a filled "Reader promise": "A magic-and-mystery fantasy where every power has a price and the heroes are forced to choose who pays."

Character sheet (one per significant character)

Full name / nicknames	
Role in the series	
Age (Book 1) · birthday	
Appearance: height, build, hair, eyes, marks	
Voice: speech habits, favourite phrases	
Want (external)	
Need (internal)	
Flaw / lie believed	
Secrets (and who knows)	
Skills and limits	
Key relationships	
Arc — Book 1	
Arc — Book 2	
Arc — Book 3	
Dies / leaves / changes in (book, chapter)	

Filled example (excerpt)

Field	Entry
Name	Mira Valen · "Mi" to her brother
Appearance	5'6", scar over left eyebrow (from age 9, shown Book 1 ch 3), grey-green eyes
Voice	Short sentences when nervous; never swears; says "Fair" instead of "okay"
Want / Need	Find her brother / Learn to ask for help
Secret	Burned the archive herself — known only by Tomas (Book 1 ch 22)

Timeline and ages

Fix the calendar before you draft. Write every event in story-time (not page-time) and compute ages from it, so "three years later" never accidentally means five.

Story date	Event	Book / ch	Who is present	Ages (A / B / C)	Notes

Age check

Age at event = event year – birth year (minus 1 if the birthday has not yet occurred). Work it out per event; the Full Edition adds an age calculator.

Knowledge matrix: who knows what, and since when

Most plot holes are knowledge holes: a character acts on information they could not have. List each important secret or fact across the top, each character down the side, and mark the chapter where they learn it.

Character	Secret 1:	Secret 2:	Secret 3:	Secret 4:	Secret 5:

Mark each cell with **B#.C##** (book and chapter learned) or **—** if they do not know. If a character acts on a fact before that chapter, you have found a continuity error.

Glossary and world facts

One line per name. Record the exact spelling and how it is pronounced or hyphenated. Many errors are just spelling drift: Zayan/Zayyan, Westgate/West Gate.

Term	Type	Canonical spelling	Definition / notes	First used

Places and objects

Name	Description (fixed details)	Where is it now?	Last seen (book, ch)

The continuity matrix (the heart of the bible)

One row per fact that could be contradicted later. Log it when you write it. Search your notes for a subject before you describe them again.

Subject	Attribute	Value as written	Book	Ch	Page / note
Mira	Eye colour	grey-green	1	1	
Mira	Scar	left eyebrow, age 9	1	3	
Tomas	Age	27	1	2	
The ledger	Location	in the harbour vault	1	14	

Open-threads ledger: every promise paid off

A thread is any question, mystery, vow, grudge, romance beat or setup the story promises to resolve. Log it when opened. Mark it closed when paid off on the page. Before each book ends — and again before the series ends — no thread may remain open unless you have decided it is a deliberate, signposted hook for the next book.

#	Thread / promise	Opened (book.ch)	Planned payoff	Closed (book.ch)	Status
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					

Series-constant tracker

Have a character, object or motif that returns in every book? Record what is already established — what others know of them, what they refuse to reveal, how they appear and leave — so each new appearance adds to the lore without contradicting it.

Book-end snapshot: the state of the world when each book ends

Fill one at the end of every book. It becomes the starting state for the next one, and the fastest way to write the "previously" section of your book-two blurb.

Book number and title	
Date in story-time	
Where is each main character?	
Who is alive / dead / missing?	
Who now knows the key secret(s)?	
Open threads carried forward (deliberate)	
Relationships: changed since start	
Power / status changes (rank, wealth, ability)	
Objects: who has what	
Teaser for next book (1 sentence, spoiler-light)	

Pre-publish QA checklist

#	Check	Done
1	Every named character's spelling is identical in all books (search each name).	[ ]
2	Ages and dates match the timeline sheet.	[ ]
3	Eye colour, hair, scars, heights are consistent.	[ ]
4	Each character acts only on information they have learned (knowledge matrix).	[ ]
5	Objects are where the last scene left them.	[ ]
6	Distances and travel times are consistent across books.	[ ]
7	Magic or tech rules are not broken without a stated cost.	[ ]
8	Every thread opened in this book is closed or deliberately carried forward.	[ ]
9	Dead characters stay dead (or return with a reason shown on the page).	[ ]
10	Series-wide content rules (values, language, romance, violence) are followed.	[ ]
11	The "previously" recap in the blurb matches what actually happened.	[ ]
12	Chapter and scene counts match the table of contents.	[ ]
13	The next-book teaser, Also-By list and series page are updated.	[ ]
14	The glossary matches the spellings used in marketing (blurbs, ads, listing).	[ ]
15	No real-world fact errors (dates, places, procedures) that a reader could check.	[ ]

Prompt pack: use AI as a continuity auditor

Prompt A · Fact extractor

Read this chapter and list every checkable fact in a table: subject, attribute, value, chapter. Include names, ages, appearances, locations, objects, injuries, relationships and what each character knows. Do not interpret — only list what is on the page.

Prompt B · Contradiction finder

Here is my continuity matrix: [paste]. And here is a new chapter: [paste]. List any statement in the chapter that contradicts the matrix, with the row it conflicts with. If unsure, say "possible".

Genre add-ons: what else your bible needs

Genre	Extra sections to add
Epic / fantasy	Magic rules and costs, factions and borders, calendar and seasons, family trees, languages, travel times, titles and ranks
Romance	Relationship milestones by chapter, what each partner knows, backstory wounds, family/community boundaries and values, who proposed what and when, series-couple status in later books
Thriller / suspense	Evidence ledger (who saw/touched what), timeline to the minute, alibis, weapons and locations, what the villain knows and when, legal/police procedure notes
Mystery / cozy	Clue ledger (clue, where planted, red herring?), suspect alibis, timeline of the crime, solve order, recurring townspeople
Science fiction	Tech rules and limits, distances and travel times, ship and station specs, species and cultures, timeline of history, who has what technology
YA / MG	Age and grade levels, school calendar, friend groups and alliances, rules the author sets for what is appropriate, running jokes
Historical	Verified dates, period vocabulary, dress, travel times by period, real vs invented people, sources used
Faith-based / values-driven	Beliefs and practices shown, community norms, vocabulary spellings and meanings, what is and is not depicted — a one-page values rule sheet

Link this kit to the others: put each open thread onto a scene card (Scene-Card Kit) and each system rule into the Magic-System Constraint Kit's rules registry.

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Want the full binder? The Series Bible Kit: Full Edition adds 6 character sheets, relationship and voice sheets, timeline, knowledge matrix, glossary, places, factions, world rules, a 4-page continuity matrix, threads ledger, chapter tracker, QA, a filled sample bible and an Excel workbook. Find it at lifeslittlecorner.com/resources.