



Project Feeling Dead?

A Quick-Start Reset for When Your Draft Goes Cold.

1. Add a Wildcard Element

- ☐ Drop in something weird or unexpected
(e.g., a ghost, feral animal, mysterious neighbor, espresso machine with opinions)
- ☐ Ask: “What’s the last thing my character expects to happen?”
- ☐ Make that thing happen

2. Swap the Stakes

- ☐ Identify the scene’s current stakes
- ☐ Ask: “What does the character risk emotionally?”
- ☐ Rewrite the scene with that pressure turned up

3. Write the Weird Scene

- ☐ Pick a scene that feels too offbeat, too risky, or too “out there”
- ☐ Write it anyway — fully commit
- ☐ Keep it if it surprises you; toss it if it bores you

4. Break Your Own Rules

- ☐ Switch POV for a page (just to test it)
- ☐ Flip the tense or timeline
- ☐ Let a side character narrate or take over for a scene
- ☐ Challenge one “rule” you’ve been following and rewrite without it

5. Ask: “What Would Make This Fun Again?”

- ☐ Make a list of 3 things that might bring joy back to this draft
- ☐ Choose one and try it today — even if it feels chaotic
- ☐ Repeat tomorrow with zero guilt

REMEMBER:

You don’t have to fix the book.
You just have to **wake it up**.