



Lian Tanner

Web: liantanner.com
Facebook: [liantannerauthor](https://www.facebook.com/liantannerauthor)
Instagram: [liantannerbooks](https://www.instagram.com/liantannerbooks)

Create an interesting villain

I love writing about villains, especially when they are selfish, arrogant and nasty. But I have to be careful, because no one thinks of themselves as a villain. Not even the most horrible person in the world.

They believe they are the hero.

No one's thinking, 'I'm an evil person, and I'm doing this for evil reasons.' They're thinking, 'I can fix this much better than those idiots.' Or, 'No one offends *me* and gets away with it.' Or, 'I really need this information, and if I hold this person over a shark-infested sea, I'll get it.'

So when I'm creating a villain, I have to remember that they don't think of themselves as a villain. Instead, they tell themselves that they're just being sensible. Or that they're working for the greater good, and people will thank them in the end. Or that this is a dog-eat-dog world, and anyone who doesn't realise it is a fool.

Find the story that the villain is telling themselves, and you're more than halfway there.

So here's today's challenge. Create a villain who thinks they are the hero of the story.

Lian Tanner

Illustration: Sebastian Ciaffaglione