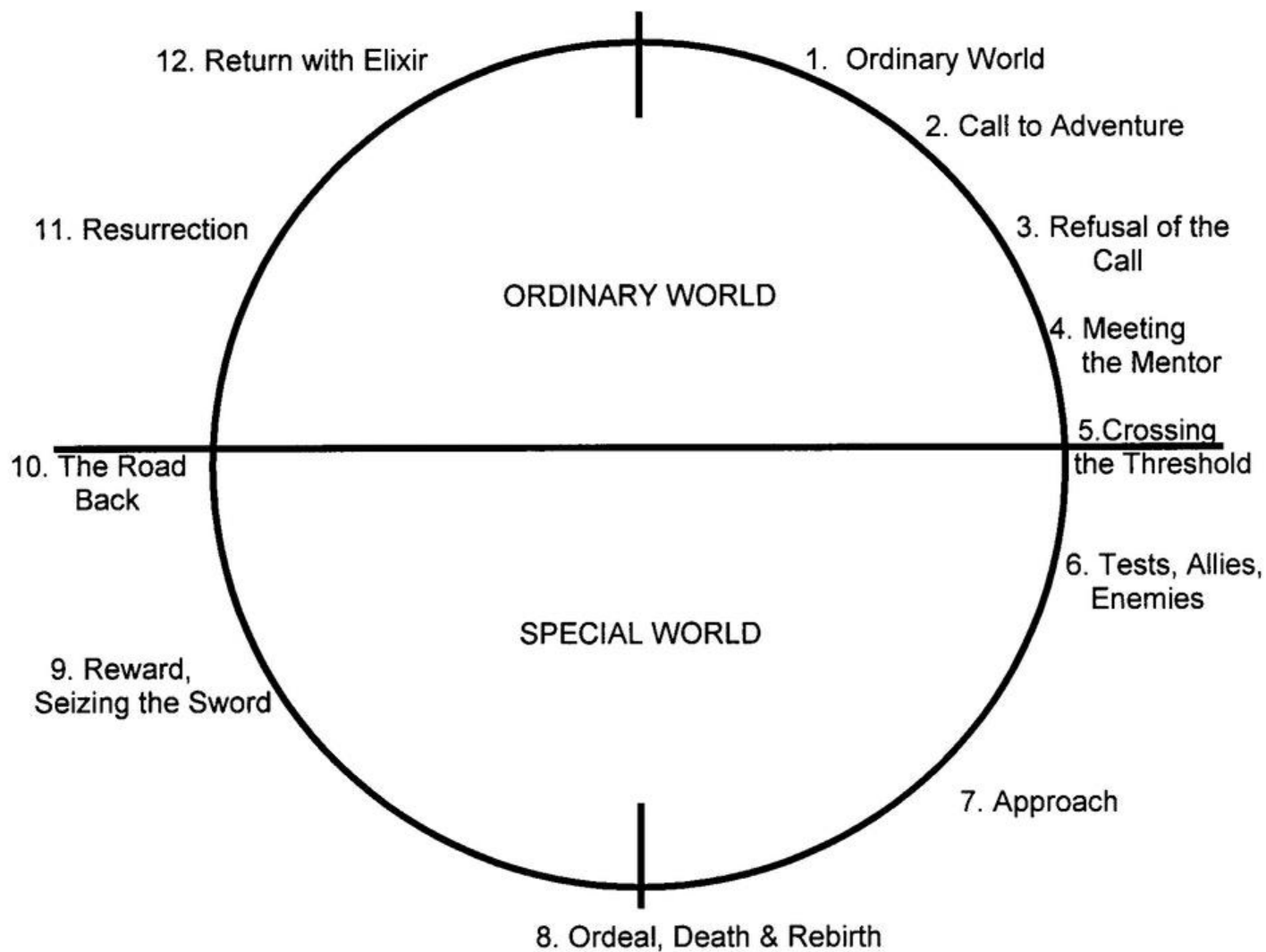


THE HERO'S JOURNEY





ACT 1

So This is Christmas

In the beginning there were Christmas tables where I didn't feel I could bring all of me to the table. The presents I received confirmed that no one understood what I wanted out of life, including myself.

How to be a Professional

I have a job as a writer and hence am a professional writer. I don't write every day. I have an idea for a book about the Christmas presents and what they will reveal to me in my life. Inspiration is there but I don't write until I get fired.

A Family to Fix

My brother and I decide we must fix our broken family. He's now trying to start his own family with his spiritual fiancé. We plan a trip to the U.S. to bring all the Utkus under the same roof in 15 years.

A Brush with Mr. Story

I enroll to a Story seminar taught by the legendary and very father-like Mr. Robert McKee. In the U.S. I bear witness to a Voodoo queen making money effortlessly and at the seminar, I'm reunited with a writer friend whose heart I'd broken.

Finding the Founding Fathers

In DC, we are all together as a family but nobody speaks to each other at the table. There's an invisible separation between all the members of the family who'd hurt each other over the years. My brother and his fiancé are facing a separation. Will we overcome?

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ACT 2

No Honey, No Money

I take a Seth Godin course and realise that I have not built an asset as a writer and get into the practice of writing regularly. I piss people off in the process of writing from an insensitive and inconsiderate perspective. I'm not maternal and as such my writing sucks.

My Own Private Matrix

As I approach the birth of my second child, I'm more concerned with building a business than preparing for the birth. I piss off more people, including a writer who's turned his back on his gift and now calls himself a business coach.

Family Solar Systems

My second child is born and I'm trying desperately to become somebody within my family and we plan a trip to Istanbul to introduce my daughters to my mother's side and to reignite familial relationships.

Christmas comes with a new tradition of blind wine tasting the women introduce to the table.

Istanbul is a Pomegranate

Our family visits in Istanbul and the aftermath reveal that mum and dad, both firstborns, struggled with the issues of jealousy and attention-craving that I struggled with and hence why we are alienated from each other. I realise I can only fix myself when I anger my aunties and my cousin accusing them of being materialistic from my perceived higher moral ground. Akin breaks up with his fiancé and sends her back to Australia.

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A Celebration

I decide to throw myself a birthday party for my 40th against my family's warnings that it will reveal to everyone that I'm older than my partner and am over the hill with very little accomplishments in life.

The Holy Grail

I receive a present from my partner that I dismiss as ugly but it becomes my most valued possession – a mug with my daughters' photos on them. I realise I'm just like mum, who never appreciated any of the gifts my dad got her.

ACT 3

Reboot

I finally start writing this book. I have a mentor whom I paid, a memoir writer who published two books. Acknowledging her value with money is the magic which starts my transformation from wanna-be to a writer writing every day to finish the first draft of her first manuscript.

The Gift Wrap-Up

I appreciate all the wonderful presents I received for Christmas and am pleasantly surprised that my Australian family reads my blog article expressing gratitude for the presents they got me.