Sure, anon! I can give you a few tips based on what's worked for me.

Most important thing for writing is reading. When you've read a lot of things you can understand what you like to see in writing styles and what you don't like. You can then start building on that. I know my style changes based on the last really good book I read (I will absorb Tamsyn Muir one of these days).

In terms of structure, despite my actual Full Time job (developer herder) I'm usually not very organised. I will have a "master doc" where every idea I have goes. This is what it looked like for Haunting:

- Luz falls through at least one rotten floor
- It's revealed that Amity watches their channel a lot
- All college aged (Luz/Willow/Amity 21, Gus - 19)
- Gus has a fake ID that just doesn't work in any bar ever
- Luz and Amity meet up in a diner to talk and Amity refuses to order anything so Luz shares her milkshake with her
- Eda is Luz's mom's girlfriend
- Luz can't drive, Eda drops her off on her motorbike when going places
- Any time someone touches Amity she short circuits
- Stares are her hand whenever Luz brushes it
- Luz absolutely tucks hair behind her ear and she short circuits mid-sentence
- Willow has dressed up in a wolf costume at least once specifically to scare Boscha

As you can probably tell from looking at that list, not all of these initial ideas make it in.

I refine some of these ideas into specific scenes I want to write/read.

#### Scenes:

- Luz finds out Amity survives on takeout and invites her over for dinner. Eda teases Amity who forces down the food. ("Are you sure it's not too spicy?" "YES" "You're crying. "NO I'M NOT")
- Amity finds out Luz has made out with Willow and dated Skara and explodes internally (as she's never dated)
- Luz gives Amity an otter toy to make her feel safe at night
- Amity watches their YouTube show all the time
- Gus and Luz investigating a house and falling through a floor
- Getting chased by police
- Finding that Blight Manor is in fact haunted
  - Sidenote: Amity doesn't talk about the haunting because she thinks it's her (based on reading that poltergeists attach themselves to teenage girls)
- Amity's parents died in a car crash - she assumes that the haunting is them, but it might be something else...
  - Ed and Em have been left the family business
    - Actually EM was left the family business, Ed is her secretary

So these have a bit more info attached, though still vague. These will be adjusted as they're developed further and written.

From these scenes I start to assemble structures for how I want the chapters to play out.

# Chapters

# Chapter 1:

Establish setting-

Scene 1:

Gus and Luz examining an old house, Willow filming

Scene 2:

Editing the short and posting to YouTube Scene 3:

In class Luz gets a text asking if she's Luz Noceda, the Ghost Hunter

Scene 4:

The ghost hunting gang <u>rock</u> up to Blight Manor. Willow groans because she knows the family. They're greeted by Ed and Em who invite them inside.

These chapter plans will contain the scenes above, with a larger skeleton to help link things together. Once I've got a few chapter outlines, I can think of overarching narratives and common themes. For Haunting, one of the important themes for me was recovery (if ghost stories are metaphors for grief narratives then recovery must be an exorcism). Another that was constantly in the background of every chapter was food (cooking to show love, hunger, food as a link between humanity and the spiritual world in just about every story about going between the world of the living and the dead). So I developed the avenues of the story based on those. Another, less prominent theme was language and communication. I think between the characters there were six languages aside from English that showed up (Thieve's Cant, Welsh, Korean, Spanish, Latin, Epic Greek). I tried to make each character relate to each of those themes somehow - the twins use a language only they speak, Gus is trilingual to communicate with his buddies, Amity tries to learn Spanish for Luz, etc.

Following on from that, once you know how your themes will play out and what connection they have to your characters, you can start focusing on their inner lives. Every single person experiences things differently. I know it's something that can be annoying, but I like to switch pov in scenes pretty often. It gives me a chance to start a scene with how one character is feeling and then check in on the next, to try and give everyone a say in what's going on. I prefer ensemble stuff. There's so many cool characters in toh, and I want the chance to write all of them. I know there's folks that kinda shove Gus and Willow off to one side or have them just wordlessly follow Luz from scene to scene, but that doesn't feel like it would be satisfying to write. And the it doesn't seem like it would be in character for Luz! She's constantly checking in on them, even when we have times like now when canon is experiencing a little bit of a Willow and Gus drought.

That's a long way of saying if you switch POV, you can start figuring out how each person sees a scene. Once you've got that and gotten into their heads, you can figure out how they feel which can really aid you in writing dialogue. My other tip for dialogue writing is to find something dialogue driven and pay attention to it. I tend to watch a lot of comedy and listen to a lot of radio plays and fiction podcasts, and that's a definite help. Also, make notes on how the character speaks in canon! JK Rowling can kiss my ass, but here are some notes on characterisation and speech I made for my Harry Potter fanfics back in 2011:

# Harry's speech patterns

swearing under his breath, he shouldered open his bedroom door. There was a crunch of breaking china: He had trodden on a cup of cold tea that had been sitting on the floor outside his bedroom door. "What the —?"

Possibly the cup of tea was Dudley's idea of a clever booby trap.

It was stupid, pointless, irritating beyond belief that he still had four days left of being unable to perform magic . . . but he had to admit to himself that this jagged cut in his finger would have defeated him. He had never learned how to repair wounds, and now he came to think of it — particularly in light of his immediate plans — this seemed a serious flaw in his magical education. Making a mental note to ask Hermione how it was done, he used a large wad of toilet paper to mop up as much of the tea as he could, before returning to his bedroom and slamming the door behind him.

(Immediately suspicious of Dudley, some elements of distrust towards people he views as having it out for him - can set this aside to work with them, but it's always an undercurrent. cannot heal himself, relies on Hermione to tell him how things work - she acts as a translator between him and the academic world. slams the door - grumpy teen.)

(Sidenote: I was a teen then, why was I calling Harry a grumpy teen? Imao past me). Definitely keep an eye on the theory posts that knock around Tumblr and Twitter, they're usually full of really fascinating observations on each character which can really play into how you write them.

Another note in terms of dialogue, anon! If you have a room with three or four people in it and only two are talking despite all being equal (i.e., Gus, Willow, Amity and Luz are all in a room but Luz and Amity are talking as though they're the only people there) go back and re-assign some of the dialogue. It just makes everything flow a little more comfortably and the reader isn't stuck with the impression that Willow and Gus are silently third and fourth wheeling in the bg hahaha. If you're not sure about writing group scenes, watch an ensemble show. Scrubs and Brooklyn Nine Nine are both problematic imo but they have the bonus of having a decent sized cast and plenty of group scenes with several characters talking that are usually super balanced.

(Just Consume More Dialogue Content in general, basically.)

In terms of environmental writing...one of the things I really like doing is to go over my first drafts and think, okay, what does this smell like, what does it feel like, what are the background noises you can hear. A lot of storytelling is setting a mood and a mood isn't only felt through what you describe a character seeing. I made a joke about the five things grounding exercise only being useful to me for being able to use it in Haunting, but it's handy for this too. Go through the five things grounding exercise, but in prose. Does the character run their fingers over grass that comes up to their knees? Can they smell stale air? Do they hear their footsteps echoing? It's really handy to open up the world and make your story feel 3D. Playlists also help by centering you in the emotional landscape of the scene you're writing.

This is...so much, but at the same time also doesn't feel like enough, anon. I also have no idea how long this is because I'm writing it on my phone hahaha. Please let me know if there's anything you'd like me to talk about more. Main takeaway: keep reading things that you like the style of! And absorb styles you enjoy like Kirby.

#### Traducción:

¡Claro, anon! Puedo darte algunos consejos basados en lo que a mí me ha funcionado.

Lo más importante para escribir es leer. Cuando has leído muchas cosas puedes entender lo que te gusta ver en los estilos de escritura y lo que no te gusta. Entonces puedes empezar a construir sobre eso. Sé que mi estilo cambia en función del último libro realmente bueno que he leído (uno de estos días absorberé a Tamsyn Muir).

En cuanto a la estructura, a pesar de mi trabajo a tiempo completo (desarrollador), no suelo ser muy organizado. Tengo un "documento maestro" donde van todas las ideas que tengo. Esto es lo que parecía para Haunting:

## imagen

Como probablemente puedas deducir al ver la lista, no todas estas ideas iniciales llegan a entrar.

Algunas de estas ideas las perfecciono para convertirlas en escenas específicas que quiero escribir o leer.

### imagen

Así que estos tienen un poco más de información adjunta, aunque todavía vaga. Estas se ajustarán a medida que se desarrollen más y se escriban.

A partir de estas escenas, empiezo a montar estructuras sobre cómo quiero que se desarrollen los capítulos.

### imagen

Estos planes de capítulo contendrán las escenas anteriores, con un esqueleto más grande para ayudar a enlazar las cosas. Una vez que tengo unos cuantos esquemas de capítulos, puedo pensar en las narrativas generales y en los temas comunes. Para Haunting, uno de los temas importantes para mí era la recuperación (si las historias de fantasmas son metáforas de las narraciones de duelo, la recuperación debe ser un exorcismo). Otro que estaba constantemente en el trasfondo de cada capítulo era la comida (la cocina para mostrar el amor, el hambre, la comida como vínculo entre la humanidad y el mundo espiritual en casi todas las historias que van entre el mundo de los vivos y el de los muertos). Así que desarrollé las vías de la historia basándome en ellas. Otro tema, menos destacado, era el lenguaje y la comunicación. Creo que entre los personajes aparecían seis idiomas aparte del inglés (el cant de Thieve, el galés, el coreano, el español, el latín y el griego épico). Intenté que cada personaje se relacionara con cada uno de esos temas de alguna manera: los gemelos usan un idioma que sólo ellos hablan, Gus es trilingüe para comunicarse con sus compañeros, Amity intenta aprender español para Luz, etc.

A partir de ahí, una vez que sepas cómo se van a desarrollar los temas y qué conexión tienen con tus personajes, puedes empezar a centrarte en sus vidas interiores. Cada persona experimenta las cosas de forma diferente. Sé que es algo que puede resultar molesto, pero a mí me gusta cambiar de pov en las escenas con bastante frecuencia. Me da la oportunidad de empezar una escena con lo que siente un personaje y luego comprobar lo que siente el siguiente, para intentar que todos tengan algo que decir sobre lo que está pasando. Prefiero las cosas de conjunto. Hay tantos personajes interesantes en Toh, y quiero tener la oportunidad de escribirlos a todos. Sé que hay gente que deja de lado a Gus y Willow o que los hace seguir a Luz de una escena a otra sin decir nada, pero no me parece que eso sea satisfactorio. Y, a decir verdad, ¡no parece que sea el personaje de Luz! Ella está constantemente comprobando en ellos, incluso cuando tenemos

tiempos como ahora cuando el canon está experimentando un poco de una sequía de Willow y Gus.

Eso es una forma larga de decir que si cambias el POV, puedes empezar a averiguar cómo ve cada persona una escena. Una vez que hayas conseguido eso y te hayas metido en sus cabezas, podrás averiguar cómo se sienten, lo que puede ayudarte mucho a la hora de escribir diálogos. Mi otro consejo para escribir diálogos es encontrar algo que se base en el diálogo y prestarle atención. Suelo ver muchas comedias y escuchar muchas obras de radio y podcasts de ficción, y eso es una ayuda definitiva. Además, ¡toma nota de cómo habla el personaje en el canon! JK Rowling puede besar mi culo, pero aquí hay algunas notas sobre la caracterización y el habla que hice para mis fanfics de Harry Potter allá por 2011:

#### imagen

(Nota al margen: yo era un adolescente entonces, ¿por qué llamaba a Harry adolescente gruñón? lmao pasado yo). Definitivamente, echa un ojo a los posts de teoría que circulan por Tumblr y Twitter, suelen estar llenos de observaciones realmente fascinantes sobre cada personaje que pueden influir mucho en cómo los escribes.

¡Otra nota en términos de diálogo, anon! Si tienes una habitación con tres o cuatro personas en ella y sólo dos están hablando a pesar de ser todos iguales (es decir, Gus, Willow, Amity y Luz están todos en una habitación pero Luz y Amity están hablando como si fueran las únicas personas allí) vuelve atrás y reasigna algunos de los diálogos. Eso hace que todo fluya un poco más cómodamente y que el lector no se quede con la impresión de que Willow y Gus son silenciosamente el tercero y el cuarto en la bg jajaja. Si no estás seguro de escribir escenas de grupo, mira un programa de conjunto. Scrubs y Brooklyn Nine Nine son problemáticas, pero tienen la ventaja de tener un elenco de tamaño decente y un montón de escenas de grupo con varios personajes hablando que suelen ser súper equilibradas.

(Sólo consumen más contenido de diálogo en general, básicamente).

En cuanto a la escritura ambiental... una de las cosas que más me gusta hacer es repasar mis primeros borradores y pensar: vale, a qué huele esto, qué se siente, cuáles son los ruidos de fondo que se oyen. Gran parte de la narración consiste en crear un estado de ánimo, y el estado de ánimo no sólo se percibe a través de lo que describe un personaje. He bromeado diciendo que el ejercicio de las cinco cosas me resultaba útil sólo para poder utilizarlo en Haunting, pero también es útil para esto. Haz el ejercicio de las cinco cosas, pero en prosa. ¿Pasa el personaje los dedos por la hierba que le llega a las rodillas? ¿Huelen el aire viciado? ¿Oyen el eco de sus pasos? Es muy útil para abrir el mundo y hacer que tu historia parezca en 3D. Las listas de reproducción también ayudan a centrarte en el paisaje emocional de la escena que estás escribiendo.

Esto es... mucho, pero al mismo tiempo tampoco me parece suficiente, anon. Además no tengo ni idea de lo largo que es esto porque lo estoy escribiendo en mi teléfono jajaja. Por favor, hazme saber si hay algo de lo que te gustaría que hablara más. Lo más importante: ¡sigue leyendo cosas que te gusten del estilo! Y absorbe los estilos que te gustan, como el de Kirby.