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Whose Protagonist Is It Anyway?

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An Analysis of the screenplay Structure in *The Favourite*

The Favourite (2018), written by Deborah Davis & Tony McNamara and directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, transcends the traditional tropes associated with genre period pictures in its unique telling of the tale of two cousins vying to be in Queen Anne's favour during her monarchy. In this presentation I study the unique story structure of this film, which centers on three equally weighted characters. In contrast to the traditional single protagonist story structure, this film shifts the point of view making each lead character either the protagonist or antagonist depending on whose perspective you watch it from. The story is written somewhat like a multi protagonist novel that allows us to understand each character's views on love, power, loyalty, and how these differing views contrast with the other lead characters and pushes the story forward.