First revision pass

Blank chapter worksheet

Chapter / scene _____ Point of view _____

What choice does the character make? _____

What consequence reaches the next scene? _____

What must the reader already know? _____

Which text establishes that fact? _____

Gap: missing decision / repeated beat / broken chronology / loose setup

Repair order: change the cause first, then the dependent scenes.

First repair _____ Chapters affected _____

After revising, read the join between the scenes. What now follows clearly?

First revision pass

Worked example: the ferry ticket

Ch. 4: Mara refuses to leave. Ch. 5 opens on the boat. The decision to board is missing.

Cause: her brother sends a message saying he will be at the far bank at dawn.

Repair 1: establish how the messenger knows where to find her.

Repair 2: show Mara reading the message and choosing to leave.

Repair 3: remove the paragraph in chapter five that says she never heard from her brother.

Read back: the ticket now pays off the choice made at the end of chapter four.