

200,000 words?

written by Holly

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By Holly Lisle

For the first time today, I wrote a number greater than 200,000 on my **Talyn** word count card. The magic number is 200,954, and it's the word count I'll have if I get a full 3,000 words this morning. But you'll note that even if I only get 2,000 words, I'll be so close to 200,000 that I'd be crazy not to push for a few extra to take me over the top. I've been getting around 2,600 the last couple of days (following two days when I got miserable 1,200's).

Two days does not a roll make, but the story does feel like it's coming easier now; a good day today and the roll over that mystical round number 200,000 could be the noodge I need to create a **real roll**, that downhill gallop that makes finishing books such fun.

And, foreseeing questions ... the word count card is an index card I keep on the desk, upon which, each day, I write my word count goal for the day. (Used to do the same thing with page numbers, before I discovered the more precise art of counting words from my pal Lazette Gifford.) The next morning I cross off the old goal, and write in the new goal. My word count card for **Talyn** is actually now **three** index cards stapled together at the top. Which makes sense, since **Talyn** is going to be about three regular books long. I could do the same thing at the end of the document in Word, but I find the physical act of writing my word goal for the day, and the presence of a bit of paper that shows an ever-growing pile of ever-larger number encouraging.

So ... back to 200,000. Today should be the day. More as this story develops ... [g]

In chat right now, Word Warring for the words. Drop in if you get a chance. Check here to see if we're still in there. Click the **Community Chat** link.

6 AM EST. 197, 954 to start.

7:51 AM. 198,713. It's not coming fast, but it's coming.

8:33 AM. 199,100. Finally broke the 199,000 word barrier. And we have a handful of other Word Warriors running now.

9:15 AM. 199,607. Closing on it!

9:33 AM. 199,755.

9:51 AM. 199,941.

9:57 AM. 200,004!!!

10:30 AM. 200,113. Stopped for a bit to celebrate. Back at work now.

11:08 AM. Finished at 200,330. Time to go do Other Stuff. I

made my minimum, and now have more than 200,000 words total, and that's enough for one day. ☐ I'm HAPPY!

Huge thanks to the folks who hung out in chat with me, ran in the Word War, waved pom-poms from the sidelines, and offered suggestions when I stalled. You guys were wonderful, and made it a great morning.

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