

DTD-447 words, in which my heroine scares me

written by Holly

August 31, 2009

By Holly Lisle

Okay. Aleksa is tougher than I thought. A lot tougher.

And scarier.

I got her story tonight, and the scare wasn't the story itself, which made perfect sense in context.

It was this bit, right here.

"You can't blame yourself—" Mike started to protest, but Aleksa stopped him.

"I don't," she said. "[Spoiler snipped.] I have never felt an instant's remorse for what I did."

This line changes her. Puts her in a different category of character. Still heroic, but darker. If she were a superhero, she could no longer be Superman. She'd have to be Batman—the Frank Miller Dark Knight version.

I ended it there, because now I need to think. I need to come to grips with the line. With her sea change. With the affect this has on the rest of the book. If you're new to writing novels, you might not realize that a single line can divert an entire novel into a new channel, the way a single fallen tree can cause silt build-up, the creation of pools, eddies, and backwaters, and the shifts in erosion patterns that can over time change the course of an entire river.

So.

I'm thinking. Meanwhile...

How's your writing coming?

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DTD – 569, and my MC confesses

written by Holly

August 31, 2009

By Holly Lisle

Okay. Tonight was nothing like what I expected when I sat down to write.

I started a scene with Aleksa, my main character (MC). It was supposed to be a sad little romantic scene where the man who loves her asks her again to marry him, and she turns him down.

But in the middle of the scene, she said, "I don't deserve to be loved," which was nothing like what I'd found out about her before.

And then she went into the story of what happened to her after her family was murdered, but before she came to live with relatives in the US.

I knew she had her demons. Tonight she showed them to me, and for the first time, I understand her life and her choices, as well as her need for solitude, and for the first time I can see the precise shape of the conflict that she'll have to deal with at the end. I can understand now why she has as much reason to say 'no' as to say 'yes' at the final question, and

what personal horrors she will have to overcome to give the better answer.

It was a stunning night for me.

How did it go for you?

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Weekend Magic, Phase 2

written by Holly

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By Holly Lisle

And now it's Saturday, and I'm still enjoying my time away from words. Deep in thought on my plot, though, which keeps trying to twist the wrong way on me.

How about you? Good words? Any words?

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Weekend Magic, Phase 1

written by Holly

August 31, 2009

By Holly Lisle

Saw **Adam** today – excellent movie about a young man with

Asberger's Syndrome, and a young woman with a disastrous father. Well worth your time if you're looking for something that isn't, say **G.I. Joe**.

Bad movies never bother my writing. Good ones sometimes do, because like good fiction, they have a magnetic pull that drags my own writing compass in the wrong direction – away from the story I need to tell and toward the story someone else already told. Main reason I don't read fiction while I'm writing.

But, anyway...

How's your writing going so far this weekend?

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DTD – 567 words, and my hero revisits a memory

written by Holly

August 31, 2009

By Holly Lisle

Sam remembers something that happened in his past. It doesn't sound like much, but It was. It gave me huge insight into the character, and allowed me to introduce a tiny slice of his extraordinary past into the story.

It was a reflective bit, too... pacing-wise, a moment away from what has to this point been a pretty tight, action-filled, and destructive opener.

I'm pleased with what I got.

If you're playing Write A Book With Me on level 2, you're only in for 500 words. I got rolling and ran a bit over.

So. How's your writing going today?

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DTD — 356 Words, and a shocker

written by Holly
August 31, 2009
By Holly Lisle

Writing along, writing along, and suddenly there's another dead body in my path, and it would solve the two deaths upstairs...except the dead guy had nothing to do with it.

I'm feeling my way through this story, and events are building nicely.

How're you doing?

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Back to 33 Mistakes for a bit

written by Holly
August 31, 2009

By Holly Lisle

For the next few days, I'm working like mad to get all the 33 Mistakes books I have up on the website.

My editor ended up not being able to do them, and I want to have them done before I start writing the **How To Revise Your Novel** course. My authors have already been waiting a long time—I don't want all of them just hanging there, waiting some more while I write HTRYN.

I have some great stuff, too. Russia, Contemporary Life, Hostelling, Early American History, Camping...

Watch for them as they show up in the shop.

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DTD – 619, and Twisty Little Plot

written by Holly

August 31, 2009

By Holly Lisle

Agh. Frustrating. I got the coolest plot twist tonight—one of those beautiful inspirational Muse things that you just love to have fall on your head—and I can't say a word about it because it would be a HUGH spoiler.

But writing was Really Big Fun tonight, as witness the fact that I got a bit carried away and ran 119 words over my planned top limit.

For those of you pacing me, very sorry about that. Your limit still tops out at 500.

And I hope you have as much fun with your writing as I had with mine.

This was a total blast.

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DTD – 303 words, and a leak in the system

written by Holly
August 31, 2009
By Holly Lisle

My detectives were beaten to a witness they needed by someone who didn't want her to talk. The circumstances suggest someone close to them may be working for the bad guys.

Scene bit tonight went well.

I apologize for my scarcity in the WABWM comments. Margaret and I are setting up the infrastructure for How To Revise Your Novel, and I'm also laying out the process for the course, and working in the questions folks asked. It's surprisingly tiring work—the level of concentration it takes to figure out which thing to present in which order and which examples to use to demonstrate techniques, surprised me with Think Sideways and is surprising me again.

I'm still reading comments, but not commenting often.

Very excited to cheer on those of you who have finished first drafts recently, though, and hit deadlines.

How are your words coming?

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DTD – 484, and the start of Contagion

written by Holly

August 31, 2009

By Holly Lisle

I wrapped the scene with Mike and Aleksa at the dig...it took off in an interesting direction. Apparently Mike has other things going wrong in his life besides the forged artifact buried in his site, something Aleksa noticed that I hadn't.

Interesting the way characters play off of each other.

And I started Contagion, the next scene with Sam (my male lead), and found out something about the way he sleeps that surprised me. He's being called in to the scene of an ugly murder involving two witnesses he needed.

It was a good writing night. I'm tired—long, happy weekend, a lot of brain down-time, in which I figured out the lesson structure for How To Revise A Novel (a very good thing), but in which I did no actual work.

Hope your weekend was wonderful. How are your words?

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