

# An Astonishing First

By Holly Lisle

This is my twenty-fifth-ish book (it's right around there, but I don't feel like looking at the bibliography to count). It's the first 250,000 word novel I've written. (You might argue, validly, that *The Secret Texts* is a single novel in three covers, but it was not written that way. It was written as three 125,000-word books, over the course of about three and a half years.)

As I discovered today, doing a quick math check to make sure I wasn't falling too far behind on my schedule, it is also the first book on which I have ever, at ANY point in the project, gained ground.

If you do a search on **Talyn** in the little weblog search engine here, you'll find the entire list of project stats and work projections I posted when I started this thing. To save you time, though, I'll repost the relevent projection I first posted on April 30th, 2003.

=====

Words per day

=====

Seven days a week (195 days) 1254 wpd

Six days a week (156 days) 1672 wpd

Five days a week (130 days) 1986 wpd

The three, averaged, equal 1637.333 wpd. That was how many words I had to do each day to get the book done on time, depending on how many days per week I worked. Based on my current progress through the book (I have 103,892 words done at the moment) those stats have changed.

Here are my new current projections, including in parethesis

the number of days left.

=====

Words per day

=====

Seven days a week (112) 1304 wpd

Six days a week (96) 1522 wpd

Five days a week (80) 1826 wpd

The three averaged equal 1550.667. I have actually given myself an extra 86.666 words per day of buffer. In the five and six-day ranges, I actually need to do fewer words to still finish on time, though because of the narrowing of the day ranges and the equalizing effect that has as you get closer and closer to a goal, in the seven-day range I have to do a few more. Usually, as I'm nearing the midpoint of the project (day 97/98 will be the actual midpoint) the five-day projection has reached such Brobdingnagian proportions – 3000 words or more per day – that I have to acknowledge that I couldn't have a bad writing day or take two days off in a row for anything less than a disaster. Say comet hitting the planet ... something like that.

2000 words per day is working well for me, and my buffer, which I've had to use a few times, is healthier than ever. And that's a remarkable first. RAH!

Oh, yeah. I have written 95,300 words since April 30th, 2003. (On **Talyn** alone, not including all the **Midnight Rain** stuff I've done, e-mails, community posts, this weblog, or the Broegga stuff.) Is this a good time to mention that I'm about 2000 legitimate e-mails behind, and starting to realize that most of them aren't going to get answered?

Contents © Holly Lisle. <https://hollylisle.com> All Rights Reserved