

A Giggly Scene, A Wicked Secret... and I Love You, Tomorrow

written by Holly

June 13, 2022

By Holly Lisle

No big secret that these books are set in a decidedly sideways version of the Ohio town in which I live. I love this place, and I'm having a wonderful time building some seriously wacky shit into what is in reality a lovely old town with a great history, and some fine and friendly people.

Today I got to pull out one of the oldest tropes in SF (because I have no compunction about playing with elements of science fiction in my fantasy series, so long as I can then twist them straight back to fantasy), and I laughed my ass off when I realized how I was going to use the damn thing.

I left a note in the chapter so that I remember tomorrow the revelation I had right at the end. I've learned NEVER to trust myself to remember tomorrow's cool thing if I don't leave a note.

Fortunately, Scrivener is great for letting you leave notes.

And I'm so excited to write what I realized that I was tempted to keep going.

So... 1250 words exactly today, and 64,003 for the book, and I'm five chapters from the end. *And I love, love, LOVE the words I got today.*

NOW, however, it's on to the next thing. I have seven tons of lesson reminders yet to build to get everything over on HollysWritingClasses.com working the way it's supposed to... and

I need to get at least half a ton of them built today.

So with words finished, and the start of today's headache already moving in like clouds before an oncoming storm, I'm going to go do lesson reminder links in lesson reminders for writing classes for at least one hour.

Get Holly's Free Fiction Sampler, plus Weekly Fiction Updates, and when these books go on sale, *get invited to the launch.*

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**In spite of a bit of uphill-
ery, I got there. 1281 words,
62,753 total**

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And I managed along the way to muddy my feet on Vikings, evolutionary biology, predator psychology, and something that looks like next Monday it could traipse into the realm of the steamy near-miss.

I also had a lot of wicked fun, got in a couple of funny one-liners, and at the end of the day (and the week), I'm pretty pleased by where I am in the novel, and what awful things I'm going to do to my main character next week – all now set up by

the casual and off-hand hints in the book related to the items listed above.

So with that, I'm going to take my damned headache and head off into the weekend to put my feet up and NOT think about the stuff I set up today.

I'll get a much fresher take on all of this if, as I come back to it next Monday, I've had a chance for forget why I put that stuff in there, so that I'll be able to clearly see what fits, and what was overkill.

This is pure How To Think Sideways stuff, and I absolutely love when it clicks like this.

But anyway...

Hope you have a great weekend. I plan to.

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SURPRISED!!! Two characters who went missing reappeared today with a helluva story...

written by Holly

June 13, 2022

By Holly Lisle

I didn't know what to expect when I sat down to write today, and what happened when the words started rolling in came at me from out of left field.

The whole writing time was pretty perfect – it answered a question I thought I'd lost track of, allowed me to bring back two folks I loved, and just FLEW as I worked my way through the scene.

1369 total words for the day and 52,059 on the novel... and I'm in great shape to pick this back up on Monday.

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**Wow! 1412 words, two hours...
And LIGHTNING struck! (Or...
“Am I making a huge
mistake?”)**

written by Holly

June 13, 2022

By Holly Lisle

I'd written myself into a corner yesterday, and I had absolutely no clue what was going to happen next.

See... Brain writes the outlines and the overall planning. Gut, however, writes the words, and Gut – like a willful horse – is entirely capable of getting the bit between his teeth and galloping straight toward whatever suddenly looks good.

Over the last few days (my time, not hers) my main character has experienced an appalling revelation, a near-death experience, and an unexpected triumph combined with a terrible loss...

And I thought she was still heading toward the same basic end-story objective, but getting there by some strange side paths.

I was still having to get there by pure pantsing, because I left my line-for-scene outline a couple chapters ago in pursuit of The Better Idea.

But today I found myself staring at a wall where I realized I'd just caused the utter obliteration of the ending I thought I was going to write.

Brain was muttering...

"Right... That thing you blew up yesterday was supposed to be the heart of your conflict for another five books after this five, and now... BLAMMO? You sure you want to save what you did yesterday? You can go back. Back is SAFE. Back in KNOWN. Back is the PLAN... and you liked the PLAN when you wrote it."

Gut held firm. Gut said, *"Don't be a chicken. You knew yesterday's stuff was cool when you wrote it, and now you want to wuss out and go with what's safe? C'mon! Grow a pair!"*

Small side note here while I point out that my gut is kind of a jerk sometimes... but it's almost always right about the fiction, so I have learned to look past the taunting to the meat of the argument.

Which is that what I got yesterday was really cool. Gut is absolutely right about that.

It isn't what I planned, but it's better than what I'd planned. It isn't Safe. But Safe in fiction, the Known in fiction, the Expected in fiction... are always okay.

They are NEVER fucking amazing.

And today I had to look at the loss of some words to return to the Safe Known. Or to keep moving forward in pursuit of the hope of bringing home something fucking amazing...

With the acknowledged very real possibility that I will fall on my face, absolutely wreck this story, and then have a gruelling, long slog through it when I go back through to do the One-Pass Five Book Revision <shudder> that waits for me at the end of this process. Where I will end up turning it into the book I'd planned to write.

I'm choosing to chase the chance to make this fucking amazing.

This may be a serious tactical error on my part, and if you find me in here next month muttering, "Yep... should have got back to the outline..."

Then...

You're invited to say, "Well, I thought you were nuts when you veered away from your plan into fresh new territory."

Not yet, though. Let's see where this goes.

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OHIO 5: Small words, but yesterday's revelation continues to spawn big things

written by Holly

June 13, 2022

By Holly Lisle

I got 272 words and now have 12,393.

And what I got built on big, scary things that I discovered

yesterday, and gave me a nice new segment of the same scene.

I'll be glad when I can spend more time on Ohio 5, but we're in the last stages of replacing the old HollysWritingClasses.com software with the new software, and there are a ton of things on that which I have to be around for and to be a part of.

We thought we'd be doing the move today, though (in which case I would have gotten NO words), and we'll find out later today whether we'll be able to do it tomorrow.

We have just ONE sticking point. I'm hoping today it comes unstuck.

I wanna get back to writing FULL-time again.

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Yippee!!! Good News on Ohio 5 & Writing Site Updates!

written by Holly
June 13, 2022
By Holly Lisle

I had a blast this morning. Lost track of time, (and as a result got twice as many words as the last few writing days)...

And I got a kick-ass start to Chapter Two. My MC is in trouble, her entire town is in trouble, and in MY tomorrow but her next three seconds, she is going to get some awful news.

Which I am really looking forward to writing.

But, with 506 words for the day, 3,122 words for the book, and a nice, solid start to Chapter 2, I must now go work on the website.

I'm working on the emails that will bring groups of HWC members back to the site after we replace the school with the new software. I also have some "techie for other folks, but I have to set it up" stuff to do today.

So, having had a whole lotta fun with the words, I now go to do spiffy "new school awesomeness" website stuff.

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FICTION WRITERS! Sign up for Holly's Thursday Writing Tips

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Why I shut down my Patreon fundraiser

written by Holly
June 13, 2022
By Holly Lisle

I'd intended to send a *Questions & Answers* email to my *How to Write a Novel* launch list, but that's going to have to wait. Instead, I did THIS.

Closed my “Move out of Florida while writing fiction” fundraiser.

Here’s why – it’s this clause in the Patreon Legal Agreement

<https://www.patreon.com/legal>

By posting content to Patreon you grant us a royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, sublicensable, worldwide license to use, reproduce, distribute, perform, publicly display or prepare derivative works of your content.

Understand that I read that clause and all the rest of them before signing up.

BUT... I’m not a lawyer, and I understood that clause to mean that Patreon was claiming the right to use my Patreon-created content (in other words, my POSTS) to promote the site.

I DID NOT think that they were claiming the right to use and abuse the content I was giving my patrons. In this case, three monthly chapters of the raw first draft of one of my current novels in progress, Dead Man’s Party.

A friend emailed me with a link to this post, however:

<https://www.thepassivevoice.com/the-beginning-of-the-end-for-patreon/>

Turns out, I was wrong. Patreon is claiming rights to my novel.

So I’m out. I sent the first copy of this email to my patrons using a private Patreon post, and then I shut down my Patreon fundraiser, and am now trying to figure out how to actually close my account.

I’m not letting this kill my dream of moving us out of Florida...

...(hopefully before the next hurricane, if not the start of the hurricane season).

How you can help, if you want to –

IF YOU'RE HERE AS A WRITER:

I have created original classes ranging from under ten dollars to way over a hundred. If one of the classes I offer could help you, then you buying it would help me.

MY COMPREHENSIVE CAREER-LEVEL CLASSES (in recommended order)

***** How to Write a Novel *****

<http://hollyswritingclasses.com/class/how-to-write-a-novel.html>

(IN LAUNCH: On sale ONLY through Tuesday APRIL 8 – Final Discount Launch)

How to Revise Your Novel:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/how-to-revise-your-novel.html>

How to Write a Series:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/how-to-write-a-series.html>

How to Think Sideways: Career Survival School for Writers:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/how-to-think-sideways.html>

WRITING CRAFT SERIES (Each class is under \$10)

Create a Character Clinic:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/characterclinic.html>

Create A Plot Clinic:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/plotclinic.html>

How to Write Page-Turning Scenes:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/pageturningscenes.html>

WORLDBUILDING SERIES (Each class is under \$10)

Create A Language Clinic:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/languageclinic.html>

Create a Culture Clinic:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/cultureclinic.html>

Create a World Clinic:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/worldclinic.html>

WORKSHOPS & MID-SIZED CLASSES (PRICES VARY)

How to Write Short Stories:

<http://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/how-to-write-short-stories-class.html>

How to Write Villains:

<http://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/how-to-write-villains.html>

How to Write Dialogue with Subtext:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/dialogue-subtext.html>

Title Cover Copy Marketing Basics:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/titlecovercopy.html>

How to Find Your Writing Discipline:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/writingdiscipline.html>

How to Find Your Writing Voice:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/writing-voice.html>

How to Motivate Yourself:

<http://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/motivate-yourself.html>

Beat Writer's Block:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/beatwritersblock.html>

FREE, INCLUDED WITH (also Free) SITE MEMBERSHIP

How to Write Flash Fiction That Doesn't Suck

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/free-flash-fiction-class.html>

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IF YOU'RE HERE AS A READER:

You can help out by buying some of my indie-published fiction.

SHORT STUFF, CURRENTLY AMAZON ONLY:

Light Through Fog:

<https://www.amazon.com/Light-Through-Holly-Lisle-Singles-ebook/dp/B0096F4HY0/>

Rewind:

<https://www.amazon.com/Rewind-Holly-Lisle-Singles-Book-ebook/dp/B00AY10HAE/>

Strange Arrivals:

<https://www.amazon.com/Strange-Arrivals-Twisty-Fantasy-Tales-e-book/dp/B00E0WMYRW/>

FANTASY – ARHEL TRILOGY

Fire in the Mist:

<https://books2read.com/FireInTheMist>

Bones of the Past:

<https://books2read.com/BonesOfThePast>

Mind of the Magic:

<https://books2read.com/MindOfTheMagic>

DARK SCIENCE FICTION-ISH

SETTLED SPACE

Both of the Cadence Drake novels – *Hunting the Corrigan's Blood* and *Warpaint*, are off sale while I come up with new titles and new cover art for them, and new key words, descriptions, and other marketing that allows me to correctly put them in front of the audience that likes a few vampires and a bit of horror with its spaceships.

The Longview Chronicles (complete Series) is in the same universe – still dark, but without the vampires:

<https://books2read.com/longview-chronicles>

Or you can get the individual stories:

Born from Fire:

<https://books2read.com/born-from-fire>

Suzee Delight:

<https://books2read.com/the-selling-of-suzee-delight>

Philosopher Gambit:

<https://books2read.com/the-philosopher-gambit>

Gunslinger Moon:

<https://books2read.com/gunslinger-moon>

Vipers' Nest:

<https://books2read.com/vipers-nest>

The Owner's Tale:

<https://books2read.com/the-owners-tale>

STANDALONE URBAN FANTASY

Minerva Wakes:

<https://books2read.com/minerva-wakes>

PARANORMAL SUSPENSE

Author Page:

<https://books2read.com/ap/xbzgyx/Kate-Aeon>

Midnight Rain:

<https://books2read.com/midnight-rain>

Last Girl Dancing:

<https://books2read.com/last-girl-dancing>

I See You:

<https://books2read.com/i-see-you>

I have much more fiction that's commercially published, or which is out of print and has reverted to me, but which I have not yet republished.

I'm not linking to ANY of that fiction, because your purchase of used books or books where publishers haven't paid royalties in years will not help me.

So there we are.

I want to thank all my patrons again, and I am so sorry that I had to do this, but there is no way I can permit this:

Excerpted from Patreon Legal Terms

You keep full ownership of all content that you post on Patreon, but to operate we need licenses from you.

By posting content to Patreon you grant us a royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, sublicensable, worldwide license to use, reproduce, distribute, perform, publicly display or prepare derivative works of your content.

**No. Just NO.
Holly**

P.S. I have had one of my Patreon patrons already ask me how she could continue to support me on a monthly basis.

Here's the answer I gave her:

"I'll look into what's available. Right now, I'm crushed to discover the rights Patreon actually claimed, and worried about getting involved with any other site. So I'm in limbo. You'll find my blog at HollyLisle.com. I'll be keeping my folks there up to date on how I deal with this. It sucks.

Hugs, and thank you for asking."

Why is EVERYBODY on my blog, my mailing list, and in my forums getting this?

Because if you know me, you're probably either a reader or a writer. If you're a writer, you may be considering using Patreon, and you need to know. If you're a reader considering funding someone on Patreon, THEY need to know.

And this is the ugliest, broadest rights-grab I have personally ever seen. Or sadly, been caught up in.

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The writing shop on HollysWritingClasses.com is now live

written by Holly

June 13, 2022

By Holly Lisle

Even though my new Holly's Writing Classes site is still in high beta, I'm delighted to finally have the writing shop open.

We haven't made the site pretty yet, and for the moment the shop is very plain and simple (no frills), but things work now.

So I've brought back many of my previous classes, and am still working on getting the rest of them live.

I'm also building new workshops and classes.

The one I'm working on currently is **Title. Cover. Copy. Book Marketing for Fiction Writers.**

That's going to go live in the next couple of weeks. Following that will be a workshop on developing your writing voice.

I'm excited. It's taken a long time to get to this point, but I'm glad to finally be here.

And a quick note. **Both How To Think Sideways** and **How to Write A Series** are coming back, but are not back yet. Both classes are so big that we're having to develop better ways for students to navigate through them easily.

Just getting from page to page was a problem in previous versions. That will not be a problem when they go live on this site.

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Things Don't Look Good for My Future With Apple

written by Holly
June 13, 2022

By Holly Lisle

This is the follow-up post to *Uncrippling the Lesson*.

As I said I would, I paid my book packager to create a separate version of **How To Think Sideways, Lesson 6** that did not include links to Apple.

I uploaded the corrected version.

A couple days later, I got this message:

Dear Holly Lisle,

One or more assets from your submission, How to Think Sideways: Career Survival School for Writers, need to be replaced:

Ticket #: 1438977

Ticket Type: Book Asset

Apple ID: 541126811

ISBN: 9781937533304

Vendor ID: 9781937533304

Please note that the changes in this ticket were not executed. The ticket has been returned to you for additional corrections. Please make all of the changes requested below.

Full book asset:

Competing Website(s)

Rejected Reason(s):

Competing Website(s)

Notes:

Jun, 29 2012, 12:13PM – Apple:

Book file contains links from competitors: Amazon, in the chapter Q&A 6, under “Question 9”

Jul, 18 2012, 4:54AM – Apple:

The following ticket task(s) have been updated by the feed:

Full epub

*Jul, 18 2012, 4:54AM – Apple:
Epub internals validation passed*

*Jul, 18 2012, 1:21PM – Apple:
Please Note: The original change request was not fulfilled.
Your changes were not saved. Previous issue was not
addressed. Please review your file before resubmitting it.
Thank you.*

Problem is, the changes WERE executed.

And I tested and uploaded the corrected file again, just to be sure. It's still blocked with the "Fix this first" ticket attached.

I've contacted Apple through their producer customer service. Best case, I'll hear back from them Monday, and this file and Lesson 13 will be cleared, and I'll be able to continue adding the rest of the course. In the best-case scenario, it may take longer than Monday.

Worst case...

...between Lesson 6, which Apple has rejected three times now (in spite of the changes it requested having been made), and Lesson 13, which is still unavailable, though with no error message to let me know why, I'm going to end up having to pull the course off of Apple permanently. I cannot offer just SOME of the lessons.

So for those of you who are die-hard iBookstore fans, I'm preemptively stating here: **"I have done everything I am willing to do to fix this."** If Apple does not want my course content, or the content of some of the lessons, on the iBookstore, **I CANNOT fix that.**

And if I have to pull the **How to Think Sideways** course from the iBookstore because some lessons do not meet whatever criteria Apple has set that are beyond what I can fix (*MEANING I will NOT rewrite ANY portion of the lesson content itself*), I will not waste my time trying to get **How to Revise Your Novel** accepted. Nor will I offer my novels there. Nor will I continue to make available those courses that have been deemed acceptable. Such of my presence as I am capable of removing, I'll remove.

(I have no control over my work offered by other publishers.)

If that means you'll no longer buy my work, I'm sorry. I'll note that DRM-free epub's of the course are available from my own shop, and they will work on your iPhone and iPad. **If your issue is buying things from Amazon, you don't have to.** If your issue is punishing me because I am not willing to jump through hoops beyond those through which I've already jumped...

...well, **you** wouldn't have gotten anything useful out of the course anyway.

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This is the price for a Short Courses Community membership.

written by Holly

June 13, 2022

By Holly Lisle

I'll offer two ways to pay:

PAYMENT PLAN PRICE: The price for a **SHORT COURSES Membership** is going to be \$5 a month for six months. After the final payment, the student becomes a lifetime member at the **SHORT COURSES** level.

At any point during the six months in which payments are being made, the student can quit and receive a refund for the current month, and will no longer be a member.

SINGLE PAYMENT PRICE: One payment, \$30. Student becomes a *provisional* lifetime member at the **SHORT COURSES level**. At any time during the first 60 days, the student can request, and receive, a full refund, and no longer be a member. After the first 60 days, the student becomes a lifetime member.

100% of either membership will be applicable to upgraded memberships. Meaning that at ANY TIME you choose to upgrade, you can apply the \$30 you paid for **SHORT COURSES** membership to your Think Sideways or Revise Your Novel memberships; in other words, you can give yourself a \$30 discount on either of those memberships. (Likewise, you'll be able to apply the cost of upper-level memberships to OTHER upper-level memberships.)

This was the price I'd originally intended to charge for **SHORT COURSES**, and no one gave me a good reason to raise it.

But SHOULD you join?

The price discussion brought up some interesting questions about the community and its value to writers, along with the question, "Why should I join?"

The short answer to this question is, in most cases, **you shouldn't**. Most writers are looking for a social venue, and won't benefit from the community.

The point, the purpose, and the value of the Writers' Boot Camps Community

I'm going to quote myself from one of my replies in in the price discussion:

*I'm **already** publishing HTTS and HTRYN as individual lessons on the big platforms (the HTTS lessons will go out to Hitch for compiling in about another week, once I have all the links updated in the lessons to reflect the new workgroups and the worksheet landing pages. This is old news. But I don't intend to charge Kindle's top 70% royalty price (9.99) for each lesson. I'm coming in significantly under that. (That MAY be new news. I'm not sure if I've mentioned this before.)*

*But my personal statistic (**90% of people who get the community for free don't use it**) is **WHY** I don't want to charge the maximum amount possible for the lessons, and to use that money to offset the price of community membership: I don't want people to pay for something they don't use. In other words, I don't want ten people to buy the course on Kindle, and have nine of them subsidize the one member who joins the community and gets as much out of it as my active current students do.*

So the question becomes...what does my community offer to students that makes it worth paying for, and why will some writers want to join?

And the answer to that is:

***The community supports the courses. Period.** It isn't a "social" community. (It has social elements—there are open discussion boards and the writers who use them have a LOT of fun discussing various topics.) This is a hard concept for*

most people to get, because almost all forums are essentially social gatherings, where people talk about work, but don't work.

The Writers' Boot Camps are built around work.

I've written something like a dozen courses now (*HTTS*, *HTRYN*, *HTWAS*, *Plot*, *Plot Outline*, *Character*, *Language*, *Culture*, *Scenes*, *Dialogue and Subtext*, *Beat Writer's Block*, *Motivate Yourself*, *Writing Discipline*, *21 Ways to Get Yourself Writing*, the upcoming *Mugging the Muse Second Edition Course*..., and the upcoming *Create A World Clinic*) okay, so *FOURTEEN* now available with two more on the way—*MTM: 2nd Edition* is due for release next week and *Create A World Clinic* is due for release when I wrap up this overhaul and get *WARPAINT* finished...

...And the community is the place where the people who bought the "textbooks" have a live class where they can work through their lessons with other folks who are taking the same courses.

The workgroups are now open, not assigned, and set up lesson by lesson. I'm currently building out the Short Courses boards with the individual lesson posts. (These have been empty until now, because until I had the software with which I could invite Short Courses students to join, there was no point in doing the work of building out the boards.) If you're already a community member and you log in and go to the new ***Mugging the Muse: 2nd Ed Workgroup***, you'll see how the *Short Course Workgroups* will work.

The community is my duplication of

the process I used to get published.

This is why I've gone to such trouble and expense to build the community and to build a way for new people to join it by choice.

I learned much of how to make my work publishable by belonging to a writers' group when I was just getting started. I didn't learn much from what the other members told me about what I was doing wrong. Or right. I learned from figuring out what THEY were doing wrong. And right.

So I've set up the community based around workgroups, where writers can present snippets of work that are giving them problems, and receive comments from other students on these. Where, lesson by lesson, they can work through my processes and techniques, and get and GIVE feedback from other students doing the same lessons. And where they can read through solutions discovered by students ahead of them.

*This is why the boards are private, why moderators monitor them, why I don't make the thing public and invite everyone to join. **It's a place for my students who want to accelerate what they're learning in the lessons** by taking what they've learned and applying the concepts and principles to work other than their own.*

My objectives with the community are:

- **High signal to noise ratio**—conversation stays focused on writing
- **High content to filler ratio**—the majority of the posts should give students something valuable for the time they've invested in reading them
- **High work to play ratio**--the boards are primarily dedicated to classwork, publishing, marketing, and self-promotion, not to general conversation

I've managed to maintain that so far...and while eventually I'd like to have enough active students in there to have regular posts on all boards all the time, I want to continue to do that by focusing on quality, not quantity.

And because my purpose with the community is to create a resource that will help writers publish their work, if they spend all their time hanging out on the boards rather than writing, I'M DOING SOMETHING WRONG.

I hope that answers your questions.

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