

Why I shut down my Patreon fundraiser

written by Holly

April 4, 2019

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-ebook/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 Pointy Marketing End of

Writing Fiction: Old Dog, New Trick

written by Holly

April 4, 2019

By Holly Lisle

No big secret that I'm working hard on making my fiction a full-time paying gig again – my objective is to earn 50% of my income from fiction, with the other 50% coming from my writing classes.

Fiction has been shoved over in a corner for years, because, well – writing good nonfiction is about a million times easier than writing good fiction, and in general it pays a lot better for significantly less work. And at the point where my writing site broke, it was getting the nonfiction up and running again that kept us from ending up living under a bridge.

And, honestly, after being taken in by that con artist John Locke, I had any hope of making a living writing fiction crushed out of me for a long time – everything that including both “indie publishing” and “earn a living doing it” looked like a scam.

But writing fiction is the dream job I love – sitting by myself in a room talking to invisible people on a page, watching them do things I don't expect, finding better conflicts, bigger stories – and writing about what matters to me in THIS world that translates into *my* worlds.

I did it for free every spare minute I got for seven years before I sold anything. Did it as a commercial novelist working fiction as my full-time paying job for seventeen years. Throwing in all the years when I've been an indie doing fiction at least part time, I'm now over thirty years in on this – and it is STILL work I love.

When you find **WORK. You. LOVE...** you do not ignore that. It's rare. It's astonishing.

I'm writing hard again. Fiction is what bounces me out of bed every morning. Knowing that I'm writing the stories I love, and that they will not be destroyed by bad editors or cancelled by ordering-to-the-net publishing idiocy matters to me.

Knowing that if I can get my work in front of a broader readership, what I'm writing has a chance to matter more – to me because it will help pay the bills, but to MY perfect readers, who can find something in fiction that they love, that matters to them as well – that's what **MAKES** this the dream job.

I know how to write fiction. I'm good at it, and a good number of my students are making **REAL** money writing fiction after taking my classes.

They learned the “write good fiction” part from me.

Learning how to bring in serious money as indies? No.

That's the part I'm learning from them.

And here are the books and here is the software they have pointed me to that I am fighting with and fighting through in order to make fiction a business, while **STILL** keeping it MY fiction. Good fiction.

1. Mastering Amazon Descriptions: An Author's Guide: Copywriting for Authors
2. Mastering Amazon Ads: An Author's Guide
3. Rapid Release: How to Write & Publish Fast For Profit
4. How to Write a Sizzling Synopsis: A Step-by-Step System for Enticing New Readers, Selling More Fiction, and Making Your Books Sound Good
5. Become a Successful Indie Author: Work Toward Your Writing

Dream

6. KDP Rocket

None of these are affiliate links. They're just links to books I'm reading and software I'm using.

I do NOT yet have numbers to prove any of this will work for me. I can prove (using KDP Rocket) that my folks are earning what they say they are. That the writers of the books above (and the maker of the software), are earning what they say they are.

So this time, I can see that there is a path that leads from where I am to where I'm going. I am going to find my way down that path.

You're going to be seeing more split tests on this site. NOT just cover art. Sometimes cover copy. Sometimes blurbs.

If you'll help me out by participating in the split testing (just click whatever you like best), I'll be grateful.

The only data I'm gathering is clicks. Nothing personal, nothing identifiable, nothing that will track you across the web and show you damned advertising.

I'm simply learning the split-testing process to figure out how to write better cover copy and blurbs, and how to build better covers.

Whether you're a reader or a writer, thank you for reading this, and thank you for your help in clicking to let me know what you like.

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The writing shop on HollysWritingClasses.com is now live

written by Holly
April 4, 2019
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.



Holly's Writing Classes
Write Your Own Sky

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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HowToThinkSideways.com Site Move: LAST Chance to Correct Your Account

written by Holly
April 4, 2019
By Holly Lisle

The move over at HowToThinkSideways.com is starting

We're starting to move member accounts onto the live new software, new domain, and new classrooms this week.

In order to receive your new temporary password, you MUST have a working email address in your current account.

Here are the steps to make sure you'll be able to get to your stuff (INCLUDING free class, worksheets, and forums).

Step One: Check your current account

Log into your current account here:

<https://howtothinksideways.com/login/> (opens in new window)

If you cannot get into your account, create a Help Desk ticket for me here:

<http://novelwritingschool.com/support/>

Tell me everything you remember about your account:

- Full name
- User name
- current email address, plus any possible older email address that might have been attached to the account

NOT your password. Never give anyone your password.

Step Two: Once you're logged in, check your email address

Your email address is the first and most important piece of information where your NEW account is concerned.

It will be your sign-in name. It will be your contact address in case anything on your account breaks.

And it will be where your "This is your new account" email goes, which contains the validation link you MUST click in order to receive your new temporary password.

If that email address is wrong, you will not be able to get into your classroom, and following the move while the dust settles, I am expecting LONG lines in the Help Desk.

So check your email address in your account:

<http://howtothinksideways.com/myaccount/>

You cannot fix anything you see here. This is part of the software that is broken.

So if you have an email address linked to your account that no longer works,

create a Help Desk ticket for me here:

<http://novelwritingschool.com/support/>

- * Tell me the email address that's in your account
- * Tell me what it I need to change it to

At this point, fixing missing classes will just slow us down

We'll still have all the data and receipts we have right now, and will still have backups of your existing account and all previous purchases from my sites.

If you're missing anything, gather your receipts, and once you

can get into your classrooms on the new site, let me know which ones aren't working for you there. (They'll be the same ones.)

Right now, we have to deal with the part that will keep people out of their accounts completely.

□

We'll be moving people in groups

I'm the only one doing the help desk stuff (because I'm the only one with nearly years of receipts stored on my hard drive) and having 300 people in line in the help desk is incredibly stressful. (I know this, because I've had this happen before.)

Massive stress is not healthy for me right now.

So Dan and I will move a group, those folks will receive their confirmation and sign-in emails, if you're in that group, you'll sign in and promptly check for problems with your classes, I'll fix your account, and we'll move another group.

We have well over 10,000 people to move. This will take some time.

But you might be in the very first group, so today you need to make sure your email address will work.

Thank you for your help on this.

And I'll see you inside.

Write with joy,

Holly Lisle

□

LAST CALL – Free live writing chat today, with a little writing workshop thrown in

written by Holly
April 4, 2019
By Holly Lisle



I've set up today's writing chat so I should be able to answer some live questions along with the ones asked previously.

IF YOU HAVE WRITING QUESTIONS...

Today's topics are:

- Story Planning (Plotting)
- Character Development
- Writing from Different Points of View
- What About Genre

- Writer Myths AND Writing Myths
- Revision and Editing (Are NOT Synonyms)

And I have downloadable notes sheets and the worksheets for you, set up for the little “Quick Story Plot” workshop we’ll do in the middle of this.

The worksheets are printable, but if you don’t have a printer handy, you can do the workshop with just a notebook or loose-leaf paper and a pen.

No pencils. Pencils let you erase, and erasing breaks your discussion with your muse (subconscious mind).

If you’re already signed up, check your email for the link that will take you to the live page.

If you haven’t signed up yet, **HERE’S THE LINK:**
<http://app.webinarjam.net/register/4436/e963ecd928>

I hope I’ll see you there.

By the way, if you can’t make the live version, sign up to get the link to the replay—where you’ll still be able to download the worksheets and do the workshop, and get the answers to questions folks ask.

You just won’t be able to ask questions.

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Before the Battle, I Forget

#wabwm

written by Holly

April 4, 2019

By Holly Lisle

I forget I can't do everything.

I forget I can't work sixteen hours straight every day with no days off for two weeks without paying a price.

I forget that when I am doing a massive website overhaul, with software testing, course setup, and course formatting and production going on simultaneously, I lose my creative side.

I forget, and plan to write, too.

And then I'm in the thick of it, and I remember.

I spent the last two weeks nonstop, working with Margaret every day to get **7-Day Crash-Revision Workshop** finished and set up, and last Tuesday, I remembered all the things I'd previously forgotten.

Last week, excluding Monday, I got 36 words. And I got them all on Saturday.

My objective for today? Find my way back into the point where I left off on **Create A World Clinic**, and get 1000 words or so this morning.

P.S. Massive thanks to Margaret, who was building the last bits of the software I was testing as I was getting everything else ready, and then when I took it live, and then AS PEOPLE WERE BUYING THE COURSE, to make sure everyone got their course in a timely fashion.

Last week's course was the test to make sure I had a new home for HTTS, HTRYN, and HTWAS. Now we know that I do.

And take a nap today. I'm STILL fried.

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Back! Survived my journey through Heck. #wabwm

written by Holly

April 4, 2019

By Holly Lisle

Margaret (my amazing tech wizard) and I have been working fourteen-to-sixteen hour days regularly for a while, and the last week has been dawn-to-pass-out with neither of us doing anything else.

But the end result is that the software she built for me that will allow me to offer all my multi-lesson courses in classrooms with all the goodies right in place and lessons delivered on a schedule...

...well, it works.

Our live test was 7-Day Crash-Revision Workshop, which accepted a small group of students on Wednesday, and a larger group on Thursday.

The software still has some rough edges—it can be slower than we anticipated in getting students into their classes—but she's programming a fix for that now, and I've figured out faster ways to get to students with fixes for problems.

By the time **How To Think Sideways Ultra** goes live, it should be pretty smooth.

In celebration, I'm writing on **Create A World Clinic** today.

Don't even remember my last word count.

But there will be words today. And on the weekend. That's what I'm doing for fun before I start building the **HTTS Ultra course** into the classrooms next Monday afternoon. Because there will be words on MONDAY, too. ☐

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Almost there on 7-Day Crash-Revision Workshop #wabwm

written by Holly
April 4, 2019
By Holly Lisle

Still scrambling to get the **7-Day Crash-Revision Workshop** done and up. About there.

Have done a bunch of words over the weekend, but these don't count. Looking forward to getting back to **Create A World Clinic**. ☐

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Weekend “Write A Book With Me” Feb 1-3

written by Holly
April 4, 2019
By Holly Lisle

Margaret and I are doing the push to finish testing on the classroom; no words yesterday, won't be any today or tomorrow. We're close to done, but not there yet.

Hope you're getting lots, though. And good ones, too.

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Waylaid by Downton Abbey #wabwm

written by Holly
April 4, 2019
By Holly Lisle

The work I got on **World Clinic** yesterday, all 2487 words of it :mrgreen:, will have to suffice for today as well.

The third series of **Downton Abbey** came out yesterday. Matt and I had discovered the show right after the new year, and had already been through the first two series (twice) since then. So yesterday after I finished work, we ran some necessary errands, then went to Best Buy and picked up Series 3.

And sat up ALL night, finishing one episode, me saying “Next,”

Matt saying "You sure?" and us going to the next until he finally stopped asking and we just watched the whole thing. We finished at 5 AM.

Considering that I'd gotten up with the alarm at 6 AM the day before that made for a long day. So I decided to turn the alarm off (me getting into bed at 5:30, and it set to go off at 6). Slept until I woke up at 11 AM, starting work at noon.

I'll go straight into site work and getting **7-Day Crash Revision Workshop** finished.

Goal today? Get to bed early tonight so I can get words tomorrow.

But it was worth it.

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