

# The Wishbone Conspiracy: Accidentally finished the novel today

written by Holly

April 26, 2019

By Holly Lisle

## This is awkward.

You have plans when you're writing a novel, you know what you're writing toward, you're moving along at your planned pace, doing your planned scenes, and you start writing a scene you know was coming and have been looking forward to writing...

And your MUSE shows you a character you have been writing about in emails, and writing toward in this book...

And the face you see is not the face you expected.

Oh, boy... not even a little bit.

You read what you just wrote, and you think... "What the hell? Where did that come from?"

And you can't even delete it, because it's RIGHT.

It isn't what you planned, but just as in life, fiction happens while you're making other plans.

When your plans weren't as good as reality, you just shut up and keep writing.

As for how this happens...?

The good, solid, gripping surprise that blindsides you, the writer, comes from your right brain asking questions you don't

hear, playing around with edges and corners of your story and your story world that your conscious mind isn't considering, knowing things your Inner Editor doesn't...

And when your Right-Brain Muse commits this startling change, your Inner Editor reads it, and instead of slapping the Muse with well-deserved admonishment for wrecking a perfectly good plan, it just mutters, "Damn, I wish **I'd** thought of that."

And you end the first draft of your novel ten thousand words and about a week and a half early.

For me, ending short of my planned word count is not actually a problem.

**I always run long in revision** – always end up adding in scenes to create some foreshadowing for important bits (and today's little revelation is going to need some of that) and tying things together, because I want to make sure my characters don't drop, "Suddenly, TRAIN" on anyone's head.

I am, in other words, not the jerk my MUSE is – the one who just dropped "Suddenly, TRAIN" on mine.

So for at least one week, I'll let *The Wishbone Conspiracy* sit. Since I'm not on a hard deadline, I'll probably be better off if I let it sit for a month.

And then, when I've recovered from the shock of actually being done with the first draft, and have had a chance to let all the words get cold, I'll print it off and revise it.

As Fridays go? So far, this one is... remarkable.

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# The Wishbone Conspiracy: 2014 words, and sneaking up on my ending

written by Holly

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Today I discovered something I did not know – that the layered conspiracy that pulled Cady and her allies into danger did so with way more initial planning than I'd realized.

That the horrifying crimes she uncovered and solved might have just been a convenient way for someone to get her in front of a much bigger and much older secret – something that has been legally murdering people for a couple hundred years.

There are two big questions I don't have answers for yet.

**The first is:** Why has it been brought to light now?

**And the second is:** EXACTLY why was it hidden in the first place?

I get a little shivery just thinking about the depth of deceit involved in this, and about what sort of terrifying secret might be tucked away at the back of it.

I'll get the answer to the first question by the end of this novel.

***The second question?***

That's bigger. A lot bigger. And the thing I think every time I look at it is... "When they find the answers, my folks had better be ready for the consequences."

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# The Wishbone Conspiracy: 2094 words, and a bit of grimdark at the end

written by Holly

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By Holly Lisle

Started rough, ended well.

That's been a theme lately. I love the words I got, but just getting started getting them was an uphill run blindfolded.

Once my guys started *Shooting To Thrill*, and came *Back in Black*, though, my fingers got moving and did not stop.

And at that point, I had the story twist on me in a couple of places and connect with my own childhood and personal experience at one point (look for the mention of Achilles tendons – I sliced my right one in two when I was seven, and pulled the details of the experience into a fight scene in this novel.

But this day's writing went dark. A murderer was exposed, and with him the details of the murders. And (very light but suggestive) details of what the killer was doing while his victims died.

I creeped myself out.

Just saying... The places were I have said the least, like the *Danya and the wolves* scene in *Diplomacy of Wolves* have been

the ones where I have taken the worst beatings from readers. In every case, it's been because I have given no details, and have left my readers to fill them in from their own imaginations.

I suspect this is going to be another of THOSE scenes.

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# **The Wishbone Conspiracy: Still in the exciting “first ending” bits**

written by Holly

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Herog decided to be difficult this morning.

I had what he was going to do all nicely planned out, and then it didn't go the way I'd planned at all.

Cady is now in a bad situation that's about to get worse, Herog is in a dreadful situation that he might not be able to handle, the first part of the truth about the Wishbone Conspiracy has been revealed as a fraud and NOBODY wants to believe their own eyes or their own senses, and while I know things that need to happen next, I have no clue right now how they're going to happen.

Things have the potential to get very messy and to throw some pain and heartbreak at people I like.

Tomorrow is going to be an interesting writing day. (Where the definition of “Interesting” is... *Oh, crap. How do I fix the mess I made?*)

**Oh, yeah.** And while it took me way to long to get them, I got **2054 words**. And I am very happy with them – at least, if tomorrow I can figure my way out of this mess.

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# The Wishbone Conspiracy: Down to the wire on Plot One...

written by Holly  
April 26, 2019  
By Holly Lisle

Today was fun. I got 2024 words, two complete scenes, and am now rolling out the end game for the part of the story that I haven't been hiding.

I've hinted a couple times at the part I have been hiding – it's cheating if you don't.

But by the end of this week, I should have the obvious story neatly wrapped up – and be getting into the complicated, scary, “conspiracy” part of the story at full speed, and with my usual wicked glee.

I'm so excited about Cady – and where she and her team are heading next.

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# The Wishbone Conspiracy: The twist that took me by surprise

written by Holly

April 26, 2019

By Holly Lisle

Had a hard time getting going today, but something Becky mentioned in one of our recent podcasts (with derision and loathing) turned out to be a step that helped...

Her comment? A reminder that at one time I'd written to an eternally looped version of Classical Gas played by Mason Williams. That was back in the days when I was on publisher deadlines, we were eternally broke, and I was writing ten to twelve hours at a stint.

Today I was having a hard time hitting flow, so I dug Classical Gas out of mothballs, put it back on in Infinite Loop mode...

And just like that, the words flew.

My Muse knows that Classical Gas means, "You're going to sit here until you get the damned words—" and it has gotten much better about getting the damned words. <insert happy grin here>

And I don't have to do ten thousand a day, which makes the right-brain Muse much happier. So.

Got 2177, which puts me at 50,420 words total...

**Which means that I only have 19,580 words left to finish the**

novel.

I could run longer on the book, of course. I often do.

But the story is coming together the way I want it to, it's hitting the things I need to hit in the places where I need to hit them, and the totally unexpected twist that landed at the end of today's words won't add length to the story. Depth, definitely. And a bit of unexpected extra conflict.

Was a good, good writing Friday. ☐

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# **The Wishbone Conspiracy: Cady comes up with a terrible idea – 2101 words**

written by Holly  
April 26, 2019  
By Holly Lisle

Today went well, and when I say that, I say it with a positively evil laugh.

The little secret I've hinted at in the Settled Space series emails is now open knowledge to Cady and her team. Well, the fact that Cady has a problem is now open knowledge.

The person behind the problem remains well hidden.

So Cady and her folks are faced with the OTHER problem, the immediate one, where the guy who's massacring tons of folks –

and getting away with it – is going to keep getting away with in unless they figure out a way to stop him.

And Cady has come up with a dreadful idea that is the only idea that might work for solving the mass murderer problem.

I'll note, however, that it is a very, very bad idea.

So I've just realized it's about time to bring Herog back into the picture.

Today...?

GOOD story day.

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## **And I'm back to fiction, and Wishbone... Kind of...**

written by Holly  
April 26, 2019  
By Holly Lisle

Got 1883 words of the 2000 I'd planned for the day. Had, however, a brutal time getting anything done at all.

Have been fasting since Sunday, (just water and coffee and a bit of salt), and today my focus was just gone. So I broke my fast with some pecans and cheese.

Tomorrow will be a better writing day.

Did love what I got on *The Wishbone Conspiracy*, though.

The scene is coming together beautifully, and with a hint of external, hidden evil that's creeping into a discussion about a monster Cady and her team just shut down.

And I did get one solid idea about the main character down in my Ohio Series notebook. *The Ohio Series* is just a conceptual working title, by the way, and NOT what the series will come out under.

Setting up now to start on Lesson 32 of *How to Write a Novel*.

So outta here until tomorrow. ☐

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# Why I shut down my Patreon fundraiser

written by Holly

April 26, 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](http://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 Wishbone Conspiracy: A Fine Friday

written by Holly

April 26, 2019

By Holly Lisle

Spiffy, spiffy day today, though kind of horrifying, too. I followed Cady's situation to its logical conclusion, and she's **literally** up to her neck in one of those moments I would have previously identified as "bad," but which some of my readers have told me counts as horror.

Well, folks who have read and liked *Hunting the Corrigan's Blood* and *Warpaint* and are still will me for *The Wishbone Conspiracy* (working title) are made of stern stuff, and will get through this.

And having read through Ilona Andrews, I can state categorically that my "going dark" is not any grimmer than what she writes. (I know "she's" a husband/wife team, but the name is female and following a singular proper noun with a plural pronoun bugs the fuck out of me.)

## ***On that working title...***

Matt just finished re-reading *Hunting the Corrigan's Blood* for the sole purpose of brainstorming titles, and came up with a better title that fits the series. And did it by using Badger's poem at the end of the book.

My eyes still filled with unshed tears,  
I face the path where darkness crept  
    Before me, taking everything  
I once held dear and stripping from  
    Me joy's frail wings.

    Death stalks after.  
    Stillness follows  
All of Life's unceasing chatter;  
    If I win still I shall lose.  
Life's failures are but little deaths  
    That slink before.

Where once I flew now I must walk  
And stumble over stones and roots;  
Taste dust and ashes on my tongue  
    And bleed as failure's weight  
    Drives me to ground.

Wait. Knowing that I too must die  
And fall at last beyond the reach  
Of light and love and laughter I  
    Become unburdened: I become  
    Life's renegade.

I who have nothing left to lose  
Must now have everything to gain  
And driven down must now burst free,  
And take from Life what Life won't give:  
    I own my soul.

Life's a miser; death's a thief that

Steals Life's bread when darkness falls.  
I'll shame the thief; I will not weep  
But, head high, stand and fight and bleed.  
I will not call death friend; I will  
Not ask for softness; I will not  
Embrace the empty, silent night –  
And when I lose, as I must lose –

With neck unbowed and back unbent,  
I'll run the path where darkness creeps  
And scream and shout and pound the walls  
And death will cringe to hear me come –  
And Life, well-lived,  
Will weep.

The story behind that poem is here.

Using the same poem, I came up with a better title  
for *Warpaint*, and a better title for *Wishbone* as well.

Going to keep them secret for now.

I need to get some cold, hard split-testing numbers to see  
which are more marketable, because no matter what I happen to  
like, the title that encourages people to buy the book is the  
title that gets to go on the cover. And when I get the split  
tests set up, I don't want any hint of which title I might  
prefer floating around influencing people and messing up the  
voting.

Anyway... Got 2009 words, ended the chapter on an awesome  
cliffhanger, and am looking forward to getting back to this  
story next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, however, now I have to get work done on the *How to  
Write a Novel* launch.

It's getting close and I still have a lot of work to do.

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