

Do you own and play Minecraft? Want my spaceship models?

written by Holly

November 9, 2012

By Holly Lisle

Yes, I'm a geek.

Using Minecraft, I built life-sized walkthrough models of the spaceships I write about in **Hunting the *Corrigan's Blood*** and ***Warpaint*** from the schematics I drew. I did it to keep myself from making stupid location mistakes in the stories. (And let's be real...it was fun. And when I was a kid, I used to pray to God to send me to space instead of heaven if I died. At this point, building my own spaceships in Minecraft is as close to space as I'm ever going to get.)

Thing is, they're pretty cool. I did them for myself, and I use them for story accuracy—but when I mentioned them to an interviewer, he got really enthusiastic about them. And pointed out that it's possible to make copies of maps that other people can then download and use in THEIR copies of Minecraft. (Something I'd known, but hadn't considered in relationship to myself.)

So I thought it might be cool to zip them up and let the folks who buy the books download them as a "Thanks for buying the books" gift.

But...would this even interest you?

THE POLL (primitive, but it works)

Do you play Minecraft?

Vote Here. Would MUCH prefer you use your BACK button to comment on the weblog

Would you like to get full-sized walkthrough Minecraft models of the spaceships in the books when you buy any of the Cadence Drake novels?

Vote Here. Would MUCH prefer you use your BACK button to comment on the weblog

Use your browser BACK button to return from each poll after voting.

By the way...

Vote will give me a rough idea of the percentage of my readers who'd be able to use the maps.

Comments and questions will let me know what you're actually thinking. I appreciate both. ☐

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Cady (in Hunting the Corrigan's Blood) hit #8 in

her category on Amazon

written by Holly

November 9, 2012

By Holly Lisle



8.

Hunting the Corrigan's Blood (A Cadence Drake Novel)

Holly Lisle

★★★★★ (7)

Kindle Edition

Auto-delivered wirelessly

Kindle Price: **\$4.99**



Hunting the
Corrigan's Blood

Tuesday night, HUNTING THE *CORRIGAN'S BLOOD* hit #8 in Books/SF/Space Opera on Amazon.com.

The book was hovered around the top ten all day yesterday, and is #20 right now.

I want to thank the folks who bought the book, who recommended it, who wrote reviews. With Cady having a good kickoff, it makes my chances of finding a readership for

WARPAINT much better.

If you liked the book, please tell friends with similar reading tastes. I appreciate your help letting people know it's out there, and it's worth their time.

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WABWM: How Battle Plans Fall Apart (But Still Keep Working)

written by Holly
November 9, 2012
By Holly Lisle

9:03 AM

Have been working since about 7:00 AM. Am both behind and ahead on the revision.

I'm doing Chapter 9 right now, which in theory would put me behind (since my schedule today calls for me to have STARTED on Chapter 11.

However, with two exceptions where I'll have to add entirely new scenes, I've done a complete write-in while I was working, which puts me several days ahead.

"No battle plan survives first contact with the enemy."

Nor did mine. I realized the first chapters needed only cosmetic changes. I'm pretty sure the last chapters will need

only cosmetic changes. And because I had a week to think about my target while I was getting HUNTING THE CORRIGAN'S BLOOD published, I had already worked my way through the big changes I have to do in the middle to make it right before I sat down—so when I wrote out my target, it took me about an hour rather than a couple days.

I'm already exhausted—the hours are as long as I feared—and I know I'm missing emails and posts and notes and everything else.

But I think I think I think I'll be able to hit my preferred publication deadline.

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WABWM: Down to the wire, doing the stress dance

written by Holly
November 9, 2012
By Holly Lisle

10:04 AM

Have been working since 7:30 AM.

Am in full-blown “holy shit, I'm outta time” mode now.

What I *needed* to get done

yesterday...

#4-Transfer corrections to e-pub versions.

#8-Set up the sales pages for my site, Amazon, B&N, Apple, and possibly Kobo (Kobo is not impressing me) (Dreamweaver, Fireworks, WordPress.

#12-Write the cool newsletter promo entries, teasers, and other spiffy stuff that should have been done months...or AT LEAST weeks...ago.

#14-Set up the HTCB Coupon for early-bird readers who buy from my site. (This is going to be ONLY for folks who are on the Cadence Drake list.)

What I GOT done yesterday.

#4-Transfer corrections to e-pub versions.

So I'm NOT going to have the weekend off. Everything that remains on the list has to be done by Monday, and some of it has to be done today.

Here's what's left:

1. Set up the sales pages for my site, Amazon, B&N, Apple, and possibly Kobo (Kobo is not impressing me) (Dreamweaver, Fireworks, WordPress.
2. Write the cool newsletter promo entries, teasers, and other spiffy stuff that should have been done months...or AT LEAST weeks...ago.
3. Set up the two-day-only early-bird BEST discount. (This is going to be ONLY for folks who are on the Cadence Drake list.)
4. Dur... Publish the books. (Not the thing you want to forget on your list.)
5. Print out my stripped-down list of HTRYN Worksheets so

I'll be ready to go on the revision next week.

Good luck with your words.

I'm running crazy now, but will be much saner next week, while I'm doing the WARPAIN'T revision.

{snicker...snort... :roll:}

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WABWM: Getting close to publishing HUNTING THE CORRIGAN'S BLOOD

written by Holly

November 9, 2012

By Holly Lisle

8:54 AM

Late start today. Have:

- Been in a panic over the music video and have been considering another hundred or so takes to see if I could get one I liked better (counterproductive, and I'm out of time)
- Been setting up the Cadence Drake website, and realizing that I haven't put together the cool promo newsletter I've had months to work on
- Have been designing a new header, layout, and THEME for the HTC'B site, because the other theme broke the damn video

- Have been, in other words, been in the final stages of a bad, bad case of “the book goes live next week.”

So. My list of **Done-Still To Do** looks like this today.

1. Proof and correct print version of manuscript (Pages). **DONE**
2. Upload final print version of HTC.B. (CreateSpace) **DONE**
3. Finish print cover layout. (Fireworks) **DONE**
4. Transfer corrections to epub versions. (Pages, Scrivener) **HALFWAY DONE (Will Finish Today)**
5. Transfer and adapt high-res print cover to low-res epub cover. (Fireworks) **DONE**
6. Redo solo vocal track for Didn't Expect That—the Corrigan's Blood song. (GarageBand, Fission) **DONE**
7. Write the cover copy for HTC.B. (Pages) **DONE**
8. Set up the sales pages for my site, Amazon, B&N, Apple, and possibly Kobo (Kobo is not impressing me) (Dreamweaver, Fireworks, WordPress.)
9. Put together the HTC.B music video, and get it on YouTube. (Fireworks, Keynote, Photo-to-Movie) **DONE**
10. Print out my stripped-down list of HTRYN Worksheets so I'll be ready to go on the revision next week.
11. **NEW ITEM** Find a better template for the Cadence Drake site and redo the whole thing before my little book launch. **DONE**
12. **NEW ITEM** Write the cool newsletter promo entries, teasers, and other spiffy stuff that should have been done months...or *AT LEAST* weeks...ago.
13. **NEW ITEM** Dur... Publish the books. (Not the thing you want to forget on your list.)
14. **NEW ITEM** Set up the HTC.B Coupon for early-bird readers who buy from my site. (This is going to be **ONLY** for folks who are on the Cadence Drake list.)

So here's where I am today.

#4-Transfer corrections to e-pub versions.

#8-Set up the sales pages for my site, Amazon, B&N, Apple, and possibly Kobo (Kobo is not impressing me).

#12-Write the cool newsletter promo entries, teasers, and other spiffy stuff that should have been done months...or *AT LEAST* weeks...ago.

#14-Set up the HTCB Coupon for early-bird readers who buy from my site. (This is going to be *ONLY* for folks who are on the Cadence Drake list.)

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WABWM: Music video, pre-pub work

written by Holly

November 9, 2012

By Holly Lisle

Forgot to put this up yesterday, so this is actually yesterday's list.

7:32 AM

The Wednesday list:

1. Proof and correct print version of manuscript (Pages). **DONE**
2. Upload final print version of HTCB. (CreateSpace) **DONE**
3. Finish print cover layout. (Fireworks) **DONE**
4. Transfer corrections to epub versions. (Pages,

Scrivener)

5. Transfer and adapt high-res print cover to low-res epub cover. (Fireworks) **DONE**
6. Redo solo vocal track for Didn't Expect That—the Corrigan's Blood song. (GarageBand, Fission) **DONE**
7. Write the cover copy for HTCB. (Pages) **DONE**
8. Set up the sales pages for my site, Amazon, B&N, Apple, and possibly Kobo (Kobo is not impressing me) (Dreamweaver, Fireworks, WordPress.
9. Put together the HTCB music video, and get it on YouTube. (Fireworks, Keynote, Photo-to-Movie) **DONE**
10. Print out my stripped-down list of HTRYN Worksheets so I'll be ready to go on the revision next week.
11. **NEW ITEM** Find a better template for the Cadence Drake site and redo the whole thing before my little book launch.

Today I have to correct the Scrivener versions for ebooks, then format each of them with the correct backlink pages and ISBN (I'm doing individual versions for each site on which I post the book.)

If I have time left over, I need to do work on my Cadence Drake site.

Here's a sneak peek at the music video. It sounds MUCH better if you have headphones on. It also sounds much better if you remember that I'm a writer who sings, and not a singer who writes... ☐

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQJqv5U03CY>

Anyway...

Write well. ONWARD!

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WABWM: This weeks, while WARPAINT cools down...

written by Holly
November 9, 2012
By Holly Lisle

Writing a book includes:

- Conceptualizing.
- Outlining.
- Writing.
- Revision.
- Production.
- Post-production and promotion.

It includes all of these steps whether you are publishing commercially or on your own.

So I'll be tracking all those other steps as I work through them on this board.

Today, the task on **WARPAINT** is to let it sit for a few more days so I can look at the whole book with objective eyes.

However, I'm in the witches' brew of production, post-production and promotion simultaneously on **Hunting the Corrigan's Blood**, and my task list for that book for THIS WEEK is as follows.

1. Proof and correct print version of manuscript (Pages).
2. Upload final print version of HTCB. (CreateSpace)
3. Finish print cover layout. (Fireworks)
4. Transfer corrections to epub versions. (Pages, Scrivener)

5. Transfer and adapt high-res print cover to low-res epub cover. (Fireworks)
6. Redo solo vocal track for Didn't Expect That—the Corrigan's Blood song. (GarageBand, Fission)
7. Write the cover copy for HTCB. (Pages)
8. Set up the sales pages for my site, Amazon, B&N, Apple, and possibly Kobo (Kobo is not impressing me) (Dreamweaver, Fireworks, WordPress.)
9. Put together the HTCB music video, and get it on YouTube. (Fireworks, Keynote, Photo-to-Movie)
10. Print out my stripped-down list of HTRYN Worksheets so I'll be ready to go on the revision next week.

So that's my week. Starting now by reading the corrections my HTCB ARC readers have sent me, and fixing typos and other small errors.

Okay. Have finished the corrections from the list of typos my HTCB readers got in last night and today. Will collect and check lists that come before 8 AM tomorrow morning as tomorrow's first job.

Now I need to see if I can get the solo voice track for *Didn't Expect That* recorded to my satisfaction.

And then there's the rest of that list..

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ARCs now available for 25 fans/readers who would like to review HTCB

written by Holly

November 9, 2012

By Holly Lisle

In the long, long discussion of the fallout from the John Locke debacle, I noted that getting reviews on your work is an agonizing process—that I have books that have sold thousands of copies and have obtained only one or two reviews.

The publishing industry has been giving ARCs to reviewers since there's been a publishing industry. Official reviewers however, almost all refuse self-published books, and almost all refuse ebooks, and since I'm self-publishing now, and the format I can afford to send out is PDF, I can forget about official reviewers.

At which point, one of my readers suggested that if I wanted to get legitimate reviews of my books posted to places like Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and Apple, I ought to create ARCs (the publishing acronym for advance reading copies) and give copies to some of my fans and readers, and let *them* review the books.

My fans who were quick on the trigger would get free copies, they would not be required to write reviews (though if you do, **it will help me out**, and anything that helps sales makes it easier for me to pay the bills while writing the next one). And there would be no question of buying reviews, creating fake identities to write their own reviews, or any other sleazy practices some folks are engaging in.

So I'm going to try this out for both **Hunting the Corrigan's**

***Blood* and *Warpaint*.**

I'll send out PDF copies of *Hunting the Corrigan's Blood* TODAY to the first twenty-five of my readers who state they'd like to act as book reviewers. Book reviewers don't review every book they receive, and you will not be required to review this one.

If you spot typos, send them to me as soon as you spot them, and I'll fix them in any version that is not yet in print.

I'll email all reviewers for this this book, first to send your your ARC, and then to send you the links to the book page on the various sites when it goes live. If you want a little copy of the book cover so you can also post the review on your weblog (if you have one) let me know and I'll send one along.

SO... if you want to read the book for review, reply to this post. (I'm NOT CHECKING EMAIL, so don't email a request). make sure you include your email address in the e-mail address box when reply (it won't show up on the site) and make sure it doesn't include typos, or your book won't arrive.

And thank you for taking the time to consider reviewing *Hunting the Corrigan's Blood*.

Important Note for Selected Reviewers

I send the first eight copies via direct email. I THEN notices that the PDF is 13.9 MB.

So if you didn't get your copy, Please just reply to your FIRST reply, and I'll resend via YouSendIt, which gives you a link from which you can download your PDF. I apologize for any inconvenience.

I'm sending the REST of the copies by YouSendIt.

Reviewers—you'll need to click a link in the email to download your PDF, but that's it.

I've now sent out all 25 personalized ARC copies to my Official Reader/Review Team #1 :D.

HUGE thanks to everyone who offered to do this.

If you didn't post quickly enough to make the first 25 this time, there are almost certainly going to be openings for reviewers next month when **WARPAINT**, the second Cadence Drake Novel, comes out. Folks who who read and reviewed **HTCB** will get automatic first consideration, but I anticipate openings left by readers who didn't have time to read **HTCB**, didn't have time to review it, and so on.

So if you hoped to be added to the review list, watch your email next month when I ask for additional reviewers for **WARPAINT**.

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**WABWM: Finish line on
WARPAINT tomorrow? Maybe...**

written by Holly
November 9, 2012
By Holly Lisle

7:23 AM

I'm almost to the end of this marathon, after which I'll need

to sit down, figure out my schedule, and announce how I'm going to do the How To Write A Series extension (I've figured THAT out and have started work on it, but I'm not where I can take the time to answer questions or discuss how it'll work yet).

And a list of other things about twice as long as my arm.

But today, I started writing before I realized I hadn't done my WABWM post yet...am that excited about the big finale, which I'm starting into now.

Got the guitar parts and lead and harmony vocals of Didn't Expect That recorded yesterday. Adam and I will have to get together once more to do post-production, but even raw, I like what we got. Need to figure out what I want in the music video—it's a book video, not MTV, so don't expect me dancing in a mini-skirt strumming a guitar with a bluescreen background of falling flowers or anything.

STARTING WORD COUNT: 75,823 (with some already removed, and some added)

GOAL: 1500+

Starting Scene: *The Silence*

Kick ass. Make names.

Onward.

12:51 PM

Took a while, but I got 1974 new words, and am pretty close to writing the end. I have 77,775 words total right now. (2225 words to go until I'm supposed to write THE END. I'm going over the stuff I'd planned for the ending, and cutting scenes, and I think I can get pretty close to that.

Ending scene: *The Sound*

I have to proof the print version of HTCB today so I can get that set up, and do the ebook versions over the next couple of days.

But if I push, I could conceivably finish the first draft of WARPAIN'T tomorrow.

And have comfortable elbow room for the revision, for once.

Hope your words are going well.

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WABWM: New song, lotta words, and Recording Day :D

written by Holly

November 9, 2012

By Holly Lisle

7:12 AM

Today I'm limited for time. My brother-in-law is coming over at 12:30 PM to help me record tracks for "*Didn't Expect That*," the song I wrote for **Hunting the *Corrigan's Blood***. I have to stop writing at 10 AM, because I have to set up my office as a recording studio (yay, Garage Band), dampen outside sound, get my fingers and voice warmed up, and get the words of the song in readable format for him because they're in my handwriting right now. He's doing the complicated guitar track. And backup vocals.

But I have good things to write today. My twist left over from yesterday. The next conflict bit.

STARTING WORDCOUNT: 74,038

GOAL: Best possible before 10 AM

Starting Scene: *The Silence*

So. Onward, with speed and ferocity.

9:49 AM

DAMN. Got 1772 words, wrote lyrics for a new song (straight into the story) and the twist spawned a twist, and both were beautiful.

Happy, happy, happy, happy. ☐

But out of time. Going to go set up for recording now.

Hope your words are joyous, too.

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