

DMP Revision – Friday, and I'm running long... by an estimated 30,000 words [FRIDAY SNIPPET]

[By Holly Lisle](#)

I knew this would happen.

The raw first draft of the novel was 50,718 words in length.

I figured during my read through revision that I'd add 10,000 words (because in revision, I always end up adding words – my first drafts are thin).

So I thought, *Hey, I'll shoot for 60,000, but I'll give myself a little extra elbow room on this one, just because.*

So I set my top limit plan at 70,000 words.

As of today, if I continue as I'm going, the novel is going come in at 81,000 words.

Eighty. One. Thousand.

My line-for-scenes build-out gave me 34 chapters, same as the raw first draft.

But this time I know what's going on from the very beginning, I know the world I'm writing in, and a lot has to happen in each chapter to get me where I'm going.

I'm contemplating eliminating the three POV scenes for the villain – but that's still on the table. If I don't show him from his own POV, it's going to be significantly tougher for readers to understand WHY he's doing what he's doing.

Word count for today: 254 words. It meets my one-chapter-per-day revision schedule.

Those 254 words comprise one full scene from my villain's POV. It's my compromise for now. I'll do the villain POV scenes, but keep them short, tight, focused on his actions.

When this goes out to my bug-hunters, I'll get feedback on him, and work from there.

FRIDAY SNIPPET (this is my current opening to the novel).

[The Snippet Disclaimer: This is raw first draft, Copyright Holly Lisle and All Rights Reserved. Do not quote, review, or bug hunt. The contents of this snippet are subject to change, and during revision I will not see any problems you find here.]

In the beginning, there was the Hero. And the Hero moved Heaven and Earth to create a place of Joy and Excitement, a retreat from the Suffering and Toil of Humanity. And the Hero declared that access to this Second World beneath the World – this glorious Underworld – should be made a human right given regardless of race, color, creed, or ability to pay to every human being on the planet.

And so it was done, and all of Humankind rejoiced.

Introduction to The History of The Underworld: The Authorized Edition, by Nathan Ardement

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Dead Man's Party Revision – Wednesday, and the NEW character arrives.

[By Holly Lisle](#)

Today, just like Monday and yesterday, was 100% new words. 2115 of them at final count, probably about twice that many that I actually wrote to get the ones I kept.

Everything I wrote today required new settings, new names, a completely different starting point – every single word was brand new.

So what makes this a revision, rather than a different first draft?

The fact that this time through, I know exactly where I'm going and why, what I have to accomplish with each chapter to get it to the end that I know is coming, and what each scene has to do.

I have my provisional outline, the weight of an entire first draft and entire write-in revision and the brutal crucible of the week spent in the Monastery building my focus outline.

All the crud fell away from the story when I did that, and what I'm writing now is stronger. Better.

Still going to have to have a deep edit by Matt, still going to have to be bug-hunted by my bug hunters.

But... even though every word is new, this is pure final revision, and I've been here before with other books.

So...

Today, my Goddess of the Underworld had help from the new secondary character I realized during revision I was going to have to bring in to show the world through the eyes of a normal human being who had been one of those most harmed by the world before the Apocalypse.

I ended up writing about twice as many words as I kept. Had to keep tossing out the “As you know, Bobs” that tried to creep in.

But it was a good writing day.

Now onto the next stuff.

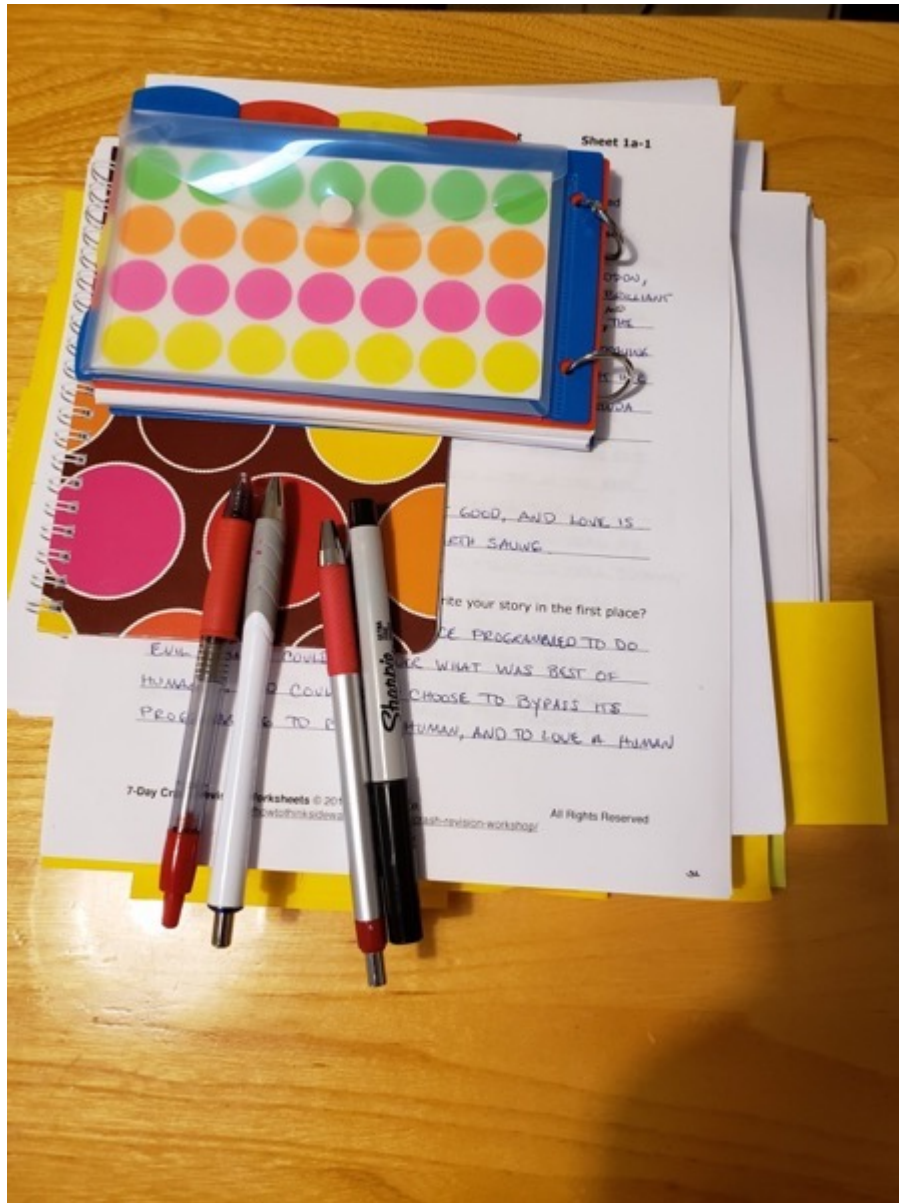
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Dead Man’s Party – The Write-In Revision is done.

[By Holly Lisle](#)

Have been working on the read-through/write-in revision of Dead Man’s Party for the past month or so. Finished it today after a four-hour hard push.

So the next step, which starts tomorrow, is to build the color-coded index card line-for-scene, which is my PLAN for



FIXING IT.

That should anywhere between a day or two and a full week of heavy lifting.

Since I couldn't find any of my favorite index cards, I'm improvising with some plain white ones that I had in a neat little Oxford ring binder, and color tabs I located in one of my "Office Supply" drawers that I'll stick on the right edge.

These colored tabs indicate :*

- **GREEN:** No changes or small changes – Up to 24% of the scene needs to change
- **YELLOW:** Moderate changes – 25% to 49% of the scene needs to change

- **ORANGE: Big changes** – 50% to 74% of the scene needs to change
- **RED: BRUTAL OVERHAUL** – 75% change up to toss scene, write something completely new.

I might have two or three green cards.

I already know I have three or four red cards.

In between, I'm going to be living in the yellow-to-orange zone, and I'm betting I'm going to end up with MORE orange.

I'll show you the card outline when I get it built, and give you the actual Scene Count and Damage Report. Being realistic rather than hopeful, it will probably take me the rest of the week to get this done, and MAY run over. I'm out of practice, and this is a process that gets easier the more often and more FREQUENTLY you do it.

Maybe the Inspiration Fairy will land on my head and hit me with its vicious little mallet. If that happens, this will go faster.

BUT...

The thing you want to avoid at all costs during your revision read-through and write-in is to make the discovery – after your first draft has cooled off – that the novel is nothing you want to finish: that you don't care about the people, the conflict, the world, the twists.

And that didn't happen.

Even in the midst of the wreckage I love this. Love it much more than I thought I would. Revising it is going to be a big, hard, dirty job. But it's SO going to be worth it.

And this is the ONLY thing I'm going to be working on (excluding the necessary stuff of paying bills, answering emails, spending time on the forums, and dealing with the

nearing Big Chaos).

This gets half or more of every workday until both the revision replot and the final type-in are done.

This part can take a long damn time. Or it can go quickly. And I am a lousy judge of which way any particular revision is going to fall.

I just know, though, that I'm going to love doing this one.

*The colored index card process is part of [How to Revise Your Novel](#).

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Dead Man's Party: Wrote the SERIES ending...

[By Holly Lisle](#)

DEAD MAN'S PARTY

Last week I wrote a stand-alone ending for Dead Man's Party.

This week, because I had one week and one chapter left, I wrote a series ending, and showed how I built out pieces of story that do not exist in the first draft, but that, if I decide I want *Dead Man's Party* to be the first book in a series – (all perhaps with titles of songs by Oingo Boingo...) – I could do that.

The writing went well, and now the novel, completely finished

in first draft whether I want to write it as a stand-alone one-off or as a series, **gets a 30-day (or slightly more) breather** before I head into revising it.

Which means Monday is now an open fiction writing day.

Wednesdays through Fridays are all The Ohio Series, Book One.

Tuesday is going to stay Marketing Tuesday. I need it. A lot.

Monday, though...

THE EMERALD SUN

Starting next Monday, I'm rereading and annotating Moon & Sun – both The Ruby Key and The Silver Door, and out of them pulling the characters, worldbuilding, and conflicts I need to resolve in book three, which WON'T be called The Emerald Sun, but which I'll be calling that for now, until I've finished the first draft.

Once I have that done, I'll start writing M&S III on Mondays. It won't be finished terribly quickly. But this way, it will finally get done.

HOW TO WRITE A NOVEL

The completion of my demo novel ALSO finishes the writing portions of my [How to Write a Novel](#) class.

This week I'll be building Lesson 38, in which I show folks who have finished their first novel how to streamline and adapt the processes in the course into their own personal, flexible, reusable novel-writing system.

And then I'll be building the Class Bonus. Still three days left to go on the vote on that, and there are still some folks who have not voted.

And the voting for the top few possibilities is CLOSE.

I'll be building a lot of the other suggestions as inexpensive paid workshops or little classes. Not all. But there were a lot of really good ideas folks came up with in suggesting what they wanted as their included bonus, and I think a lot of other folks might find them helpful, too.

Not going to say anything that might influence the voting (like hinting what the leaders are at the moment).

HOWEVER... This is everything on the ballot

- How to brainstorm and create bonus stories to promote a novel or series
- My personal Getting Shit Done daily writing system, in detail
- Behind the Scenes: DMP and the No One True Way novel-writing process
- 25 Alternative Idea-Generating Methods for Novels
- How to Resurrect and Complete Your Hard Drive Zombies (So They Stop Eating Your Braaaaaainz)
- How to Turn a Stand-Alone Novel into a Series
- Tutorial: Getting Your Novel Into Print
- The Conflict Resource: The Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of Great Conflict
- Interweaving Multiple Story Threads in Big, Complex Novels
- Alternatives to and Adaptations for the Provisional Outline

And these were the five suggestions that were more broadly applicable that I kept off the ballot. I will probably do them as stand-alones.

- How to Find Your Home Genre
- Writing at Production Pace
- How to Work Around POV Limitations
- How to Foreshadow and Misdirect in Fiction

And this thing I think I'll just do as a freebie for everyone:

▪ My Favorite Writing Tools, Services, and Stuff

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Dead Man's Party: Finished the novel first draft

[By Holly Lisle](#)

I finished another novel today – this one pretty much on schedule. I'd planned it for 50,000 words, and came in at 50,085.

Wrote 1847 words in a smidge over a hour to get there.

I got a GOOD ending for the novel. Most of the time, great endings are something I build in revision, and this one has the bones to become much better.

Printed off the last of my pages. Next week, I'll write one final scene for the book, something along the lines of "Six Months Later..."

In it, I'll either tie the thing off as a standalone, or set up the some hooks for a series. Maybe both. I won't know what I want to do with this particular novel until I've done the revision, but as of this minute, I'm thinking one-off standalone.

I'm not sure that I want to write post-apocalyptic as a regular thing, and I resolved the cannibals and zombies in this chapter, so I'm not sure where I'd take it if I decided to go further.

But it was a damn fine writing day, and I like how it ended. Though it's pure scruffy, crappy first-draft writing.

The revision will be fun.

And I'll be using this novel as my demo for Streamlined Revision Process for my How to Revise Your Novel course, which needs this particular bonus lesson.

So even if it doesn't sell much, I'll get a lot of very good things out of this particular novel.

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Why I shut down my Patreon fundraiser

[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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Becoming Piers Anthony: The Not-Impossible Dream of 3 Books A Year

[By Holly Lisle](#)

A couple of things have changed in my life recently, one of which has been the writing of *Dead Man's Party*, my demo novel for the writing class I'm currently building, **How to Write a Novel**.

I've been dedicating one concentrated hour or so a week to the writing of the first draft (and a bloody awful first draft it is, too), but the bones of the story are solid, and it's going in a great direction, and it's turning funny on me all of a sudden.

And I've been reading through *Moon & Sun*, and taking notes, but they were not being very helpful notes.

Then, while Becky and I were talking about going back through the first two novels of my *Moon & Sun* series in order to pick up toys I'd left on the floor for the third book, I realized that I had not done an Octopus Map for the series.

So I built the Octopus Map (a core technique in my [How to Write a Series](#) class), and something that I mention in the upcoming **Episode 29** of [Alone in a Room with Invisible People](#).

Once I remembered to do it, it took me about half an hour to get the overall bones of the final story figured out. I still have to do all the reading and the finding and identifying of essential toys, and some scene-by-scene plotting, but I know what the story is now. That's big.

So...

At the moment Patreon is covering me for one hour of fiction writing a day, and the income from my fiction isn't currently enough to run beyond that.

And I'm writing the [How to Write a Novel](#) class, and the demo novel, and doing the podcast, and reissuing some of my novels, and getting others ready to go live...

But I've discovered from my writing of *Dead Man's Party* that I can get a lot of actual written fiction done in an hour, and I want to be seeing more progress than I'm seeing.

Because almost all of my hours have been eaten up by research for *Moon & Sun*, I haven't been seeing a lot of progress.

But this morning I was standing in the shower and my Muse said, "Piers Anthony said he worked on THREE books at a time."

And then I thought, "I have five hours a week, and *Dead Man's Party* is only taking one hour, and I could limit my current reading and noting in the *Moon & Sun* series to two hours, which would let me do... What?

"What third project?"

At which point, my Muse practically screamed in my ear, "The Wishbone Conspiracy!!!" With a muttered undertone of *you*

idiot.

As I've noted elsewhere, my Muse and I have an interesting relationship.

With *Wishbone*, I already have the world, the characters, the opening chapter, and even a bit of the plot worked out.

So I'm going to do this:

- Two days a week I'll be working on *Moon & Sun 3: The Emerald Sun*
- One day a week I'll be writing *Dead Man's Party*
- And two days a week I'll be working on Cadence Drake in *The Wishbone Conspiracy*

If my Patreon funding can go up to two hours a day, or if I can get my fiction income up by other means (which I'm also working on), I'll be able to increase that. Top level would be three hours a day, which would still leave five (plus the occasional evening) for creating **How To Write A Novel** plus emails plus forums...

I think even at top funding, or with a much-increased readership of my fiction, this will still work.

Monday I start finding out.

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