

Wrote a song for Ohio Novel #2 today – 1024 words and out of time

written by Holly
February 1, 2021
By Holly Lisle

I came in a bit short on the word count today, but working my way through the creation of lyrics for a Celtic Rock Band and having the lyrics include an essential clue my main character has to figure out in order to bring a new kind of help to one of her allies took some time and the peculiar kind of hard work that writing to a rhyme scheme and meter always includes.

I love what I got.

And today I got to work in a bit of stuff that introduces a character who's going to be important in Book 3 (and beyond.)

I also managed to bring back to life a writing class that has been unavailable for about two years. It's a nine-week free class – The Beginning Writer's Working Tour.

I know I have some writers following this blog, too, so this is for you guys. This particular free class focuses on one essential fiction skill each week for nine weeks, and serves as a nice introduction to writing better fiction. As well as a way to ease back into writing fiction if you've been away for a while, or stalled, or blocked.

And with that, I'm done for today. ☐

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Long, Hard Day – BUT... Replotting and WORDS accomplished – 1488 Words, (73,883 TOTAL)

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Today I realized that I'd planned and outlined more than I can fit into 90,000 words.

I figured out my number of chapters, figured out that I'm averaging 3000 words per chapter, and had to remove about five segments of story from my existing outline – and now will finish the book in just five more chapters, one of which I wrote a lot of today.

Which meant re-outlining the ending. I'm not doing any cliffhangers in this series. Every single story has to stand on its own, in spite of also holding down a big piece of the action of a whole MUCH larger story that will take place over five books.

But I did the re-outline, tightened up a lot of the action, and replotted the ending.

And discovered that by doing this, I'm gonna have a LOT of fun doing the rest of these chapters.

Hope you have a wonderful weekend. I plan to.

And I'll be leaping back into the novel fray with delight and

enthusiasm next Monday.

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Trauma, memory, and my main character – 1283 words

written by Holly

February 1, 2021

By Holly Lisle

I got some of my favorite words in the series this morning. (1283 of them, in fact.)

My MC (main character) had a BAD morning a couple chapters back, and finally made it back home in this chapter – worse for wear, but not as much so as one would have reason to expect.

She's discovered – as a lot of us do – that there are things she left in her past that haven't quite finished with her.

She'd discovered – as a lot of us do – that she isn't exactly the person she believed herself to be, and as memories catch up with her, she's realizing that she might not have as much reason to like herself as she thought she did.

Like everyone, she has some monsters in her closet.

Hers just have bigger, pointier teeth than yours or mine.

And at one point way back in her past, one of those monsters might have been her.

And I got to pull in some bits from my own experience on dealing with trauma, and how it catches up with you even years after the fact and shakes you when you're vulnerable and unprepared.

She's tough, my MC.

She'd better be. Because I know what's coming down the road for her over the next couple days of writing, and she doesn't.

Oh, yes. Because some of my characters tend to eat the way I'm eating at the time, she's making good use of keto. (Except for the cookies.)

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Memory holds some dark nights within it – my MC is facing a bad one today. 1341 words, and good progress.

written by Holly
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Yesterday there were no words. There was, instead, me cutting

prices of all my writing classes over \$20 by 50% – the economy is not great, and indications on whether it will get better or worse are all over the place.

I'll raise prices again when the economy recovers.

So no, there was no Tuesday post.

But today was a good writing day.

My hero is learning a number of new things about herself – painfully. But the truth of what she's discovering, while it's scary, is still the truth. And the more she comes to grips with her past and what she's had to pay to be alive already is about to pay off by introducing her to some new tools she didn't even know she had.

And there was a dragon.

She thinks.

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What your side-eye sees ... 1259 words, and whistling in the dark

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I had a very good Monday morning. A registered nurse working night shift in the intensive care unit came under my main

character's scrutiny for being a bit... pointy about the tooth-ular region.












Both the day shift RN and my hero's doctor are having a hard time believing her. Except that she has big credibility elsewhere...

Including that she can prove she lost 27 pounds in one day. (In the world's worst EVER "don't try this at home" process, no less.)

And I finished Chapter 20.

So below I have a screenshot of what remains.

Chapter 23 and 25 are already written (and the words are already in the count, so there aren't going to be any easy days or big jumps in word counts there).

 Chapter -20
 Chapter -21
 Chapter -22
 Chapter -23 *
 Chapter -24
 Chapter -25 **
 Chapter -26
 Chapter -27
 Chapter -28
 Chapter -29
 Chapter -30

But I know where I'm heading tomorrow. My main character goes home from the hospital to discover that during her ridiculously short stay, something has changed inside her.

She's about to face one of those long, dark moments of the soul.

I don't envy her.

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Fat's Where It's At – A quirky scene, and 1657 words. AWESOME writing Friday!

written by Holly

February 1, 2021

By Holly Lisle

I have been beating the crap out of my main character on a regular basis – she has a dangerous and very weird job, and she's pissed off some seriously WRONG folks.

Over the last few writing days, I've been clobbering her.

Today, while recovering, she started looking at herself through a different lens. And because she's starting to change

the way she sees the world...

She's started asking better questions.

Today's scene was a LOT of fun to write, and I discovered (right along with my main character) something that I didn't realize was going on, hadn't planned, and didn't expect.

But what my MC and I discovered today fits perfectly, and it moves the series in a direction it needs to go.

Today, she asked the first of many RIGHT questions she'll need to answer to get to the eventual truth.

On Monday when I get back to the book, she's going to come to the wrong conclusion (the book I'm writing now is, after all, only the second book in the series). But this is most definitely going to improve the directions in which she's looking for the correct answers she will eventually uncover.

I'm truly happy with the way this series is building.

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Fun with the ICU, nurses, and

some disturbing staffers – 1303 words on Ohio #2

written by Holly

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Writing today was a delight – I made myself laugh several times while my MC dealt with being in ICU as a patient, and dealing with the staff, the discomforts of being stuck in ICU... and getting the first hint that even the hospital might not be as safe for her as she had hoped.

I used to be an RN, and while my preferred specialty was ER, I worked both as an ICU nurse and covered in the ICU the year I was a nursing supervisor (supervising was my LEAST favorite job ever. I much preferred being staff).

In any case, my main character discovered that one of the folks wearing scrubs might not be... well, *folks* as we define them on this planet.

Considering how she ended up in the ICU in the first place, this could end up being a big, bad problem for her. For other staffers.

Or it might be something entirely unexpected – even by me.

I know where the scene has to end up, but what happens between here and there is still up for grabs.

And as you can see, I'm now 66,866 words into the novel.

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A great writing day, and beating up my main character some more. Big Fun!

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I had to do it last of the things on my list, but after writing and sending out a couple of emails today, I set down with the words, fell right into the story, and got 1215. As shown by the picture above, more than I need to hit my deadline, if slightly fewer than the 1250 I generally shoot for.

I love the words I got. My main character is in such big trouble, and her new best friend is about to be involved (next chapter), and this guy I loathed when he showed up in the first book is turning out to be a pretty decent human being underneath it all.

A lot of my old life as an RN is sneaking into this book in tiny bits and pieces.

Which is to say – my main character is having a helluva time. Because she isn't the nurse.

She's the *patient*.

<insert evil laugh here>

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**Oh, boy! Hurt my character,
wrought vengeance on an
evildoer, and made myself
laugh... in 1356 words!**

written by Holly
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Excellent Monday! And how often does anyone get to say that?

I rolled into work this morning (a few hours ago) with my Conflict Sentence in the right corner of Scrivener.

That's Protagonist Versus Antagonist in Setting with Twist in 30 words or less. Today's chapter sentence was twenty-nine words, and was the aftermath of her going out for a run to see if she could get herself hurt.

Seriously.

There was surgery. Projectile vomiting. More surgery. Pain, confusion, fear, and danger... and some wry and kind of snarky commentary from the subject of all this awfulness, my main

character – it was funny as hell, fun to write, and I went over my daily word limit again.

I love this book.

I love this world.

And I'm in the final third, hitting deadlines and even getting a bit ahead on them, with three more books to write after this one. And I can't wait.

Well, I can. I have to. But today is what, if you're a writer, you wish all days were like.

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When a Main Character Trips over a Secret Past – and 1310 words.

written by Holly

February 1, 2021

By Holly Lisle

You think you know who your main character is by the time you get her more than halfway through Book 2.

More than that, you KNOW she knows who she is.

So today, my MC discovered that an event in her life that she thought had gone down one way did not. And she discovered something about herself, who she was as a kid, and what she did as a kid, that shocked the crap out of her – and me.

It was a beautiful writing day, I LOVE the words I got, and what happened today fits in perfectly with her rocky past, and events that happened in the first book – stuff I didn't even realize I was setting up until all of a sudden it was on the page.

There are times when you go in a direction like this, trusting your gut, and it doesn't work out, and you hate every piece of what you write that day.

This ... Not one of those times.

AWESOME WRITING DAY!

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