

Finished Book 3 Outline, Three Scenes into Book 4 – and the mysterious origins of the funny bits.

written by Holly

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By Holly Lisle

As I've mentioned before, I outline. One 30-word sentence per chapter (knowing even as I do it that I will write extra, unexpected scenes; will write AGAINST some planned, outlined scenes; and will come up with some shit out of nowhere that suddenly has to be in the book, and that changes everything).

Mine is a messy, gory, grubby process that leaves a lot of bent and broken stuff in its wake – which is why I am the Small God of ferocious One Pass Revision.

But first, I outline.

And today I finished the Book 3 outline, and got three GOOD scenes into book 4.

Things are twisting, shifty, getting messy and scary and grim in the main storyline – and the funny stuff never appears in the outline. The funny stuff only happens when I'm actually writing, when my Node Of Perversity observes that one character has a bad addiction... and then follows another character unknowingly feeding that character's addiction to its logical conclusion.

Which made me laugh my ass off, and made Matt, my editor (and husband), laugh so hard he snorted. That almost never happens, so it was a huge win.

But that's all shit I can't plan.

The PLAN is dark, and twisty, and dangerous, and filled with people I love getting deeper into muck they're going to have a helluva time surviving.

I just have faith that Smartass Holly will show up while I'm writing that stuff, and make all the rest of us laugh.

No word count. It's pointless in outlining. But finishing Outline 3 and getting partway into Outline 3 is GOOD progress.



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