

# Shower thoughts and second chances – 1388 words, 48,880 total...

By Holly Lisle

I'm pretty sure I've talked before about getting ideas about the day's work while standing in the shower. Today was a spectacular case of that.

I'd thought I knew what today's scene was going to be – it was dark, and grim, and scary, and I was all geared up to get in there and get the words, and as I was zipping through my shower (always the step before heading in to work), the still, small voice in the back of my mind said...

*What if your Main Character in Terrible Trouble doesn't go where you planned?*

*She and her companion will still be in Terrible Trouble™, you'll still have "what's waiting on the other end" waiting on the other end... but...*

*What if, instead, you make this one tiny change to what you were going to do, and see where that takes you instead?*

I held that question in my thoughts as I zipped through the speed version of rinsing shampoo; ran a few possible variants on the tiny change while toweling off (though I'm pretty sure I removed some skin in my hurry to get to the computer); and hit the story where I'd left off yesterday with the new, better, tougher, more-difficult-to-write scene in mind.

I love what I got, in spite of the fact that by the end of it, I was typing through tears.

By chasing "what if", and by then following the "who, what,

when, where, why, and how” of that to their logical conclusions, today I wrote my favorite scene in the series so far.



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