

Something On Paper

By Holly Lisle

Remember – the First Big Rule of Writing is **You have to write something on paper.** SOMETHING. Not something great. Not something good. It can, in fact, be something utterly suckiferous. But you **must write something.**

Between the big community blow-up, putting the community on its own site, being without air conditioning for a week in August in South Hellidonia in a townhouse that has no air circulation and heats up like Satan's nether bits at the smallest provocation, AND being genuinely stuck on a part of **Talyn** that was going wrong for reasons I couldn't hunt down and kill, articulate, or even figure out, the writing has been going **terribly**. I can nail down the date things went wrong. July 30th. (Read the July 27th entry for a real laugh.) Have not had a single good day of writing since then. And because the deadline on this project is so tight, and because I could feel days slipping through my fingers, I was starting to get frantic.

I was getting words every day. Not enough words – not by a long shot. Around five hundred most days, three hundred one really rotten day, one day a thousand. Way below my goal.

But I put something on paper every single day. Today, at wit's end about the time I'd lost, but with the problem with the book nailed down at last (revelation of the depths of the villain's depravity came too soon after introduction of the villain, which is going to take some solid re-writing to fix) I did the numbers again, just to see how bad things really were.

And, by God, they weren't that bad.

Remember The Rule. **You have to write something on paper.**

I have been following The Rule. Something. Every day, just get something. And that one thing – writing **something** every day – has so far kept my head well above water. I've lost a little ground. But not much. Here are my numbers.

Total words needed: 250,000

Words remaining – 135,382

Days remaining – 92

Words needed per day:

Seven days a week – 1471

Six days a week – 1631

Five days a week – 2051

This was still giving myself a full month to revise and rewrite. Feeling lighter in spirit, and cooler by far (the part finally came in and we have A/C again), I am now off to get some words for the day.

And I shall endeavor to avoid suckiferousness [g]. But if I can't, I will still get something.

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