

The Book Math for DREAMING THE DEAD

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Big book. 300,000 words to do it right.

Figure a good, rich scene runs 2500-3500 words on average. Say 3000 words for convenience's sake. That's 100 full scenes.

So:

First, I need to finish breaking out the issues and interactions and conflicts for each of my themes. Give myself a full 5-day week to work this out.

Then, working from the theme break-out:

- 100 scene cards and Sentences Lite—figure 20 a day as a GOOD day's work.

□□5 days, or one work week.

- One week of schedule padding. □5 more days.

Then:

- WORST CASE SCENARIO: □300,000 words in 260 work days (12 months, 5-day weeks, 4.3-week month)□1153 words per day.
- BEST CASE SCENARIO:□300,000 words in 130 work days, (6 months, 5-day weeks, 4.3-week month)□2308 words per day.
- ROUND UP BEST CASE:□2500 words per day.
- Acknowledge that even if I can find people to hire to cover all the other stuff that I need to have done so that I can focus on writing, I'm going to have to spend

some blocks of time (probably one full week a month) on other commitments—things that ONLY I can do. That's 30 working days gone over a six-month stretch. I can either add words to the daily count, or accept that I'm going to have to add an extra six weeks to my best-case schedule.

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- ADAPTED BEST-CASE, WORDS ADDED: □300,000 words in 100 work days, (6 months, 5-day weeks, approx. 3.3-week months) □3000 words per day.
- ADAPTED WORST-CASE, WORDS ADDED: □300,000 words in 200 days, (12 months, 5-day weeks, approx. 3.3-week months) □1500 words per day. □
- I've done 3000 words/day before without breaking a sweat. Of course, I've done it before while driving myself absolutely crazy, too, so there's no guarantee. But that's what I'll figure. 3000 words per day, and figure on a best-case first-draft completion date of November 2nd, 2009, and a WORST-case first-draft completion date of May 3rd, 2010.

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