

Unremembered Loss

For all the news and information from the world of Rathrae, and for the story *Unremembered Loss*

Issue 101

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86, 43, 82 – It's all how you look at it

Another good month. I didn't get the 50,000 words done that was my target, but I did finish editing 31,315 words and wrote 4255 new words. That puts me at 105,532 of my original 123,166 words edited and rewritten in first-person, which is 86%. That means if I can keep up my editing rate of 1,000 words a day I'll be done with my 17,734 words in 18 days.

The more significant challenge is the new words that I still have to (get to) write. In my outline, I have 13 chapters left to write. At my current average of 1052 words per chapter that's 13,672 more words to write. Since I've written 10,214 new words so far that's means I'm 43% done writing new words.

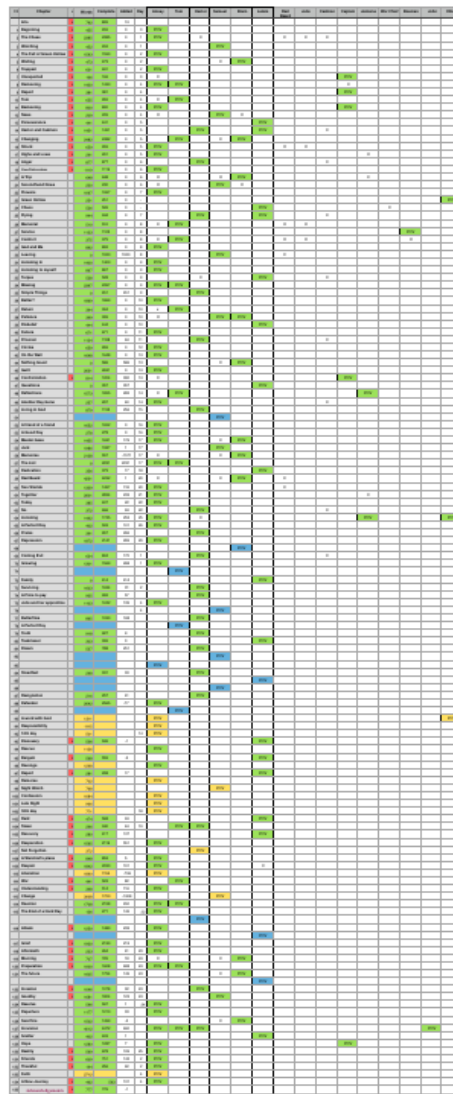
Adding those two number together I get 31,306 words to go, which is uncannily close to the 31,315 I did this month. Adding it all up I'm 82% done. All this means that if I push just as hard in February as I did during the first 28 days of January, I could be done by the end of the month.

I know that all those numbers might just be numbers to you, but to me, it means that I'm so close. While this does give me a lot of optimism, I have to throw in a reality check. The chapters I have left to convert into first-person are probably some of the hardest to rewrite. Also, the chapters I have to add require careful work because I have to weave the added work into the existing story – making this new thread relevant on its own while not interrupting the flow of the current story.

So there you have it. There is some fear in me over the idea of finishing, and I had to give myself an out in case I can't write the 1,000 words a day. Well, if I start out the month trying to write 1,667 words a day, and using the last two days of this month to get a running start at it, finishing next month still seems feasible.

Below is a snapshot of where I am. You're not supposed to be able to read it but instead look at the pattern of colors. The two green columns on the left are the chapters that are done. The yellow rows in the same columns are the chapters that have to be rewritten. The blue rows are the chapters that I haven't written yet.

The clump of yellow chapters is the end of the second act. It's tough getting it to work in first-person. Also, the trigger that causes the transition needs work. So I skipped them.



The boxes on the right show who's telling the story. Some of the chapters are told by two characters (alternating), so there are two boxes on those rows.

You can easily see that the 1st column has the most boxes. This column is for Anay, my main character. In fact, she wrote 63 of the 136 chapters.

The 4th and 5th columns are two people really writing from the same point of view (the guardian character), and together they have 25 chapters.

The 3rd column is for my secondary main character, the Sidekick, he wrote 21 of the chapters.

The 6th column is the contagonist, and he wrote 19 chapters.

The 2nd column is the Emotion character and he has 17.

To finish out the story, there are 8 chapters written by background characters. For a total of 153 entries in 136 chapters.

The last thing on this chart are the red boxes. These are the chapters that I've completed the automated grammar checking on. I started doing this analysis last month using a program called Grammarly. It finds grammar problems, for me mostly commas. It also finds wrong words like 'to' vs. 'too' and overused words. It is also pointing out a few issues with adverbs and adjective usage.

I have 82,000 words left to run through Grammarly, maybe I'll spend the next two days on that, so all of the completed chapters are indeed completed.

That's it for this month. I hope you enjoyed getting into the depths of where I'm at, and thanks for the support.

Douglas