

Unremembered Loss

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

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Another Step Forward

I took another big step on the path which is my novel. The manuscript came back from the editor this month. This is the second round.

The first was about the story and the book overall. That one caused me to rewrite two-thirds of the book and edit the third that I didn't revise.

This round was about the English. The editor sent back the manuscript with track changes turned on. He had made over 10,000 edits. Lots of them were small stuff (dash vs. semicolon, toward vs. towards, periods, commas – lots of commas - questions marks).

There were also some more significant small changes like places I used "her" when Annay was talking about herself (where it should have been I). Those errors were probably left over from the conversion from third-person to first-person.

There were also a dozen bigger issues like when something was out of order in time or flow. Those problems took a little longer to fix.

I went through every single edit and approved 95% or more. Probably closer to 98%. It took a long time. A lot of the changes were formatting and the simple punctuation. I was approving those at two or three a second, but if my average was one a second that is still almost three hours. I guess that I spent about twenty hours in total.

With that under my belt (whatever that means), I went through the process of moving the text into In Design. The most frustrating part of that were the words I had in italic (thoughts and prayers) were

all changed back to regular text. I had to scan through all the text to find them. Luckily there weren't too many.

With that done, I moved on to Create Space. I want to get some printed copies of my book made so that I can physically see what it will look like and because I need some Beta readers.

That's the next step! I need to get a few people to read the whole book – cover-to-cover – and give me feedback. What I'm looking for from the group of reviewers is:

The overall flow of the book. Are there places that it moves too slow or fast?

Overall continuity. Are there parts that are confusing? Things that don't logically flow from one scene to the next?

Did I leave things unanswered? In the beginning of the book, I make a contract with the reader. I set their expectations. Did I fulfill my side of the contract? Did I pose questions I didn't answer? Did I answer too many questions I didn't raise?

Did I flush out the characters enough? Are there things I need to add? Is there significant history missing?

Do the stories seem real. Can you imagine people actually writing things like this in their journals? Does the dialog work? Is there too much or not enough internal dialog as the characters are writing their stories?

Does the story hold together theologically? Am I consistent in how I portray God's influence in the world? At least from each character's point of view. Do

my Christian beliefs show? Do I share my moral view without being preachy?

Is the story enjoyable? Are there too many dark and brooding parts? Does the reader end up caring about what happens to the characters? Does the story feel too long? Does the reader wish it would keep going? Would they want a sequel?

So...

With that said, who wants to be a Beta Reader? A lot of you have been getting this newsletter for almost nine years. I hope that means some (or even most of you) really want to read this book already. Well here's your chance.

I have the book uploaded and it's been reviewed. That means that in a couple of days I can place an order for Beta copies. The book is 600 pages of Garamond 13 point text. One hundred and fourth thousand odd words. Nine years of my life.

If you want to be a Beta reader, then please send me an e-mail and let me know. This is not the time to say, "I'll let someone else do it." This is the time to celebrate this milestone and help me drive this project to completion.

But, seriously, if you don't want to be a Beta reader (maybe you really want to wait for the hardback book to lovingly hold in your hands), that's fine, but still, send me an e-mail and let me know that.

Thanks for all your support and for that e-mail you're going to send right now. And Hey, tell a friend. Share an old newsletter.

Douglas G Clarke

This newsletter comes out monthly. It often contains news about the two novels I'm writing, the occasional short story, discussion about writing, and very off topic things like my woodworking projects. Go to DouglasGClarke.com to see back issues or to buy a lamp.

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