

Unremembered Loss

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

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So ends NaNoWriMo and my attempt to write 50,000 words in one month.

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Writing Every Day

A month of writing 1667 words a day has been interesting. I have been both surprised at how easy it has been and how hard.

In the format I'm writing it is three pages a day. I've kept up the pace most of the days. I fell behind the weekend before Thanksgiving and struggled all week to catch back up. With three days to go I'm 100 words ahead and so I'm taking the time to write a newsletter.

The trip has been an interesting one, as I've written a collection of short stories all tied around the theme of the rise and fall of man. I did two collections of "hint stories." These are stories that are fifty words long. Here is an example from the section *Man's Legacy*, in a group of hint stories called *Remembering*. This story is told by some sort of genetically enhanced animal.

The wolf walked towards me as I cowered in the corner. My life would soon be over. Out of nowhere she jumped between us. The wolf lunged and caught the woman's arm. She screamed - I ran. She shocked the wolf, it released her, then ran. She died for me.

The story doesn't tell you much, but you can feel emotion that the animal has at being saved by someone else. You can wonder how this event will change the animal. Wonder at the legacy this kind of act will leave.

I also wrote a lot of 250 word stories. The problem with 100 and 250 word stories is they don't make a very big dent in 50,000 words.

The longest story is 2,082 words in length. To date I've written 70 short stories with an average length of 644 words. Looking back on the month, that is a lot of different stories, with a lot of heros, problems and solutions.

In doing the stories, I had a lot of fun writing the ones about enhanced animals. In making some animals smarter and able to talk, I was able to explore the human experience from a different point of view.

One of the stories is a reflection of the civil rights issues from the 60s. Another is a look at the need to conform to societies standards. One is about assuming you know something about someone else before you meet them. One is about loosing your child to a gang, and another is about war. One is about addictions and another about having everything you could possible want and still feeling empty inside.

As I hinted in last months newsletter, the Amish have turned out to be the heros of my story. With their reliance on God and their own hard work, they are the ones who are best suited to live with out technology.

They not only have the skills to continue living, but they have the moral fabric to be the example of what men should be. There are stories about them reaching out to help strangers, turning the other cheek when thousands come looking for food, their faith in God, and their willingness to bring people into their world.

With three days to go, I'm trying to wrap things up.

So what will December bring?

This is a question that I've been pondering a lot. I have three projects underway now and it feels like I should focus on one and finish it.

It feels like the one closed to being done is the devotional. It is all written and in review with my editor (mother). It feels like a small enough project that I could self publish it and start selling it, or giving it away, by word of mouth. I have also thought about working up an hour long talk to go with it that I could give at local churches. I think it would be very cool to help encourage people to serve more.

I'm tempted to keep working on this month's story. The next phase - turning it into an iPad application with interactive graphics and games - would be lots of fun, but it would also be lots of work. I would need to find someone to help with the graphics, and I would have to improve my Flash writing skills.

On the other hand, my novel is where I think I should be putting my time. It is written and I've been doing revisions on it. I really want to get the novel to the point I can give the whole thing to some friends to read and also feel like it is good enough to send off to an editor and feel like I'm getting my monies worth.

On another writing front, I'm going to try and do the character blogs more regularly. I've been neglecting them and they are important to me. I think there are more stories to tell.

I have three weeks off as a Christmas break, so I should be able to get a lot of work done on something.