

# Unremembered Loss

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

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## Sixty-Five

That's how many short stories are in my anthology, *The Rise and Fall of Man* at the current moment. Looking at the post-its on my wall, it sure looks like a lot.

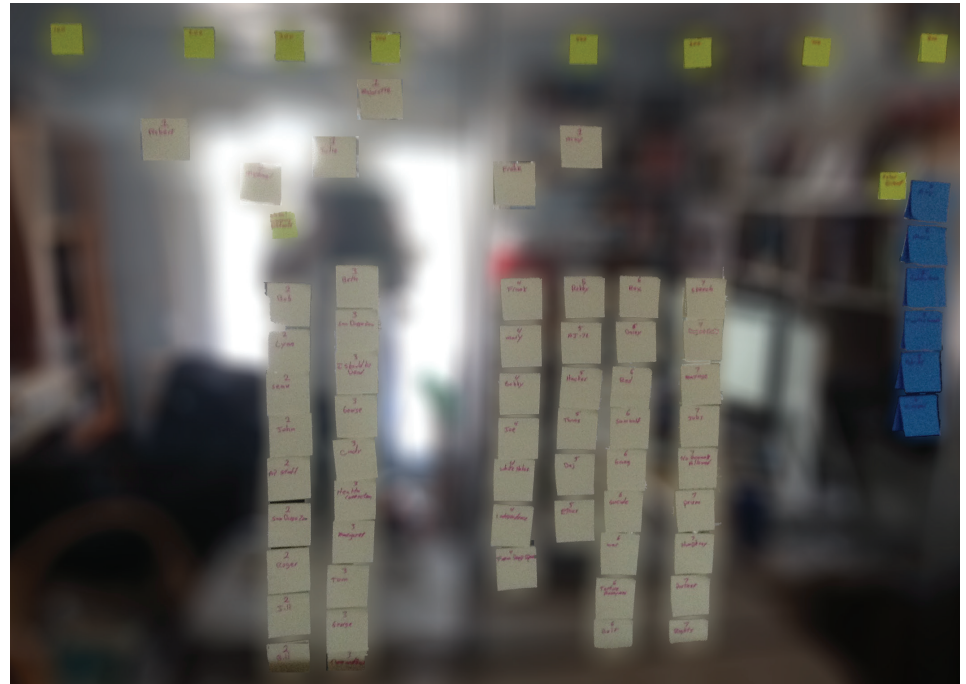
So why are they on post-its on the wall? Good question and I have several answers.

1) My editor suggested that I date each story so that as the reader goes through the stories they have an idea how far in the future they are. On the far left I have 100 years in the future and on the far right I have 800 years and the post-its will move as I figure out where they go to build a time-line.

2) A lot of the stories, especially in the first two chapters, need a rewrite. They lack the passion and personal emotions that the later ones have. The post-its will be a way to keep track of which stories are done.

3) By putting the post-its on the wall I can see that some of the chapters are "short" when compared to the others. By having post-its I can see both which chapters are short and where the stories within a chapter fall on the time-line. That way, I can add additional stories to round things out.

4) At some point I might want to shuffle the stories within a chapter, by having the post-its I can add a sequence number to the chapter number I already have.



5) I hoped it would give me motivation. I'm not sure how that's working. The post-its have been there for almost two months and I've sort of sorted the first chapter's stories. None of them are marked as done.

6) I have a few "major" events that I have to track. They need to go on the time-line and I have to decide how all the other stories relate to them. As I go back and edit the stories, I can add references to these major events so that the stories feel more placed in time.

7) I'm trying to figure out what kind of illustrations I'm going to add to the book. The original idea was to make a history book and so it should look like one, with pictures, graphs and sidebars. I can

start adding different color post-it with the kind of graphic I want. I'll keep track of where I'm getting each graphic and its status in a spread sheet – post-its are only good for so much.

8) And most important of all, sticking post-its on the wall is fun.

Well, there you have it – my life with 75 post-it notes on my wall. Now if I can get rid of one a week that means it will take over a year. One a day would be two months. Maybe I should shoot for three a week and stretch for seven.

Until next month, I hope your life is easier than for my characters.

Doug