

Unremembered Loss

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

Issue 71

July 2015

Comic-Con 2015

I got to go with Emma and Rory to Comic-Con again this year. We had a great time. Two things stand out – from a writing point of view.

* * *

The first was a talk Emma and I went to. The talk was about how to succeed doing a project like writing. The take away for me was that you need three people on the journey with you: a coach, a cheerleader and a score keeper.

The coach is the one that tells you to keep pushing, the one to give you advice, the one that won't let you give up.

The cheerleader is the one that tells you you're great, that you're doing good, that the you're almost done.

The score keeper is the one that keeps you honest, keeps track of your progress and tells you to go back and do it again when what you've done isn't good enough.

The point was, you need all three AND one person can't do more than one of these jobs. Now a writer might be able to do one of these jobs themselves, but they need at least two more people to help them.

So what does that mean to me. I've been trying to do all three jobs myself and not doing a very good

job at it. I need to find myself a coach, a cheerleader and a scorekeeper. One of the other things they talked about was having a specific, measurable, obtainable goal – something the scorekeeper can keep track of. As part of the talk we were each given a piece of paper to write down our goals. Here's my goal:

Specific: finish the first draft edits of my novel, *The Rise and Fall of Man*, and send it back to my editor.

Measurable: by the end of this year, edit 120 pages and write 10 additional stories.

Obtainable: Five pages edited every week. One new story written every other week.

You all can now join my team and become my score keepers. Each month in this newsletter I'll report on how I'm doing towards the goal. Your job will be to keep score.

* * *

The second was a new thing I did for myself. One of the things I really like doing is talking to people about my writing – and writing in general. The problem is, I'm too unsure of myself to go up to strangers and start conversations.

I've often thought about making a sign that says "Come chat with me about writing." Well this year I did it. I took it with me Saturday and didn't have the courage to use it until I was waiting in line with Emma for a Sunday panel. I rolled out the sign I had made at Staples and stood by a bench and waited.

I felt pretty silly standing there for an hour, with hundreds of people walking by, with no one stopping to say, "Hi." But I kept at it and finally someone stopped – actually two someones. He was a writer and she was an illustrator. We talked for 20 minutes. We exchanged business cards. The next day the illustrator, a 20 something young woman who just graduated from collage as an illustrator, sent me a link to some of her work. I looked at her work and liked it. I sent her the details of a project I'm working on. She seems excited about the project. I'm waiting to get a proposal back from her.

I stood there for another two hours and talked to one other couple for two minutes. I would call the whole thing a big waste of time, but I was standing there watching my little girl sleep in line, so I was doing something important. More important than talking to four people was the fact that I was able to get past my fears and do it.

Other Highlands from Comic-Con:

Ideas are worthless – creating something good is a lot of hard work.

Being successful requires any two of the following three things: skill, luck, perseverance.

I learned how to write a comic book. I also learned that the artist get paid 15 times more than the writers per page.

There are a bunch of good looking shows coming out this fall/winter: Supergirl, Colony, Limitless, Containment (maybe), Dark Matter (maybe)

And some good returning show: Sherlock Victorian special, iZombie, Falling Skies, The 100 (maybe).

We met someone at a booth and talked a while. She is local (sort of) and might want to play D&D with us. I gave her one of my books and she insisted on paying me for it.

Both Emma and Rory went in costume on Saturday and lots of people knew who they were dressed as and said how great they were (good job Cindy).

Hanging with the kids (we missed you Cindy).

Meeting all the people who were there for the first time and being one of the old-timers.

Talking with Travis Hanson, my favorite cartoonist, who I get to see once a year at Comic-con: www.beanleafpress.com

Not working for five days.

Dreaming about being on the other side of the table.

My Progress

As of July 26th, my progress towards my goal of getting my edits done on *The Rise and Fall of Man* are as follows:

Target: 10 pages edited

Actual: 15 pages completed.

Target: 0 new stories written.

Actual: 0 new stories written.

Next month:

Target: 20 more pages edited.

Target: 2 new stories written.

Super Heroes

I received a very good response from the three women that I featured in last months Super Hero story, *Ratman*.

I sent a copy of the newsletter to the General Manager where I and the three woman work, asking if it would be appropriate to send it to everyone at our site. He forwarded it on to HR. Long story short they approved it and it should be sent to everyone in the next few days.

I can't wait to hear what everyone thinks of the story. Since they all know the three women, I'm curious to see if I captured anything of them in the story. Did I capture the essence of Dena, Kyra and Mary, or did I just use their names?

I'd love to know what you thought of the story. Would you like to be a super hero in one of my future stories? How about the villain? Send me an e-mail and let me know.

I'm thinking of doing another super hero story next month. I'm going to be at camp for a week – away from my computer and the internet. But I'll have my iPad and a trusty pen and paper.

Good idea? Would you rather see a different kind of story? I'll spend some time writing stories for *The Rise and Fall of Man*, but I won't be able to do any editing.

I'll let you know how it goes.

Doug

Sign-up at <http://www.douglasclarke.com/lists/?p=subscribe> to make sure you get next months newsletter.