

Unremembered Loss

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

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How long is it?

Wow, the month sure goes fast when you're working 50+ hour weeks. It seems like yesterday that I sent out the last newsletter, but here it is again, time to do some writing.

I did make some good progress on my novel this month. I did well in January and February, then nothing in March and half of April. It feels good to see more chapters checked off as rewritten and edited. I've also recorded which character is the POV (point of view) character for each chapter, which other characters appear in each, and which characters are referenced.

With all that information, I've been adding chapters to fill in the gaps in the appearances of my main characters. One of the comments I received from my editor was that I needed to either cut or elevate two of the characters; Samuel, my Guardian Character, and Latem, the lieutenant of the antagonist. I'm still working on their story arcs.

The chapters in my book are very short, often only a page or two (while some are much larger), since they are written as journal entries and transcribed stories. I've complete 25 of the original 107 chapters, which is 23%. I've added 8 chapters so far, pushing the number of completed chapters to 33, which will put my total at 141 chapters.

The original word count for those 25 chapters was 25,900 words. With the added chapters those chapters are now up to 28,000 words, an increase of 8%. If this rate of increase holds, that will push my novel from 113,000 to 122,000 words. Several people have asked how long my novel is, and as it turns out the answer is not straight forward.

There are lots of things that go into page count:

- Font
- Font size
- Margins
- Blank space in chapter headers
- Blank space at the end of chapters
- Page size

So I formatted my 33 chapters the way some web-pages recommended: Garamond 12 point, single spaced. 0.5" margins left, right, bottom. 0.75" on top, chapters on new pages.

After I got all the formatting done, which included making sure all my chapters were the "chapter" style, and all my prayers were the "prayer" style, I changed my page size.

At 5.5" x 8.25", my 33 chapters came out to be 91 pages. At 5.25" x 8" (another common size) it grows to 97 pages. That equates to 308 words per page and 289 words per page, respectively. Using that on my expected word count of 122,000 words that would yield books of 396 and 422 pages.

I did some quick calculations, comparing it to the book I'm currently reading, *A Symphony Of Echoes*, which is 328 pages long. My 396 to 422 page long book will come in at 1.2 to 1.5" thick.

Doing all of this has taken the better part of this evening, which is unfortunately too short, but the results are encouraging. I was afraid my book was going to be too long, 122,000 words feels very long when you editing. But when compared to the Harry Potter books, some of which are true monsters, 400 pages feels long, but not too long.

Well, maybe a bit too long.

The Harry Potter books:

• Philosopher's Stone	223
• Chamber of Secrets	251
• Prisoner of Azkaban	317
• Goblet of Fire	636
• Order of the Phoenix	766
• Half-Blood Prince	607
• Deathly Hallows	607

So, there you have it, I'm 23% done with the editing and rewriting of my 400 page book. For comparison, my other novel is 65,000 words which would come out at 162 pages or 0.5" thick.

Speaking of my other novel, *The Rise and Fall of Man*, maybe its time that I pull the trigger on that one and send it in for its final round of edits. I think I've decided that I'm not going to get the art done for it that I want, and I don't have time to work on both books.

What do you think? Should I call it good enough and send it out, or should I keep trying to find an artist that can create the art work I've always imagined it would have?

If you read last months newsletter and sent me your story pick, thank you. I've received five replies, which is less than 10% of my mailing list – which make me a little sad. But you still have time to send in your choice to doug@agoodtale.com or find my post on Facebook.

I'd love to hear from you, it will only take you a minute and won't cost you anything.

Doug Clarke

p.s. Quick survey, when my novel comes out, would you want a hard cover, paper back or e-book edition? Remember, I can't sign the electronic copy.