

Unremembered Loss

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

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NaNoWriMo

For you that have subscribed to my newsletter for a while (thank you by the way) you might recognize NaNoWriMo as the National Novel Writing Month, which is the November of every year. I participated in it several years ago, and the result was my second novel.

During NaNoWriMo writers from around the globe try to write a 50,000 word novel in one month. That's 1667 words a day for 30 days. As November was quickly approaching I got the NaNoWriMo bug. However, I stopped myself. I realized that having two novels in the "edit" phase was not the time to distract myself with writing another novel.

This year I decided to take the goal and motivation of NaNoWriMo and focus it on my editing. So was born NaNoEdMo, or the National Novel Editing Month. I decided that I would take that 50,000 word goal and focus it on my novel *Unremembered Loss*. The current editing task that I'm working on is rewriting the half of my novel that was written in third-person and rewriting it in first-person.

From a simplistic point of view that is changing all the "he" and "she" in the text to "me" and "I". At a deeper level it is turning my

often rambling descriptions and dialogs into a personal account. Adding more personal insights and feelings, while removing the glimpses into other people's thoughts.

The other goal of my editing is to balance out the four stories I'm telling. My protagonist – Annay – is the main character, and at the beginning of this editing cycle about half the words were about her. The sidekick – Hector – is the other main character and had about a third of the words. That left one sixth of the words for the antagonist – Latem – and the Guardian – Master Gee.

While I'm not trying to balance the three out – this has always been Annay's story – what I'm trying to do is made sure that the other three stories are more evenly sprinkled in. This means that I'm fleshing out the other three stories and making sure that not too many pages go by without checking in on them.

To give you an idea of where I was and where I've gotten to, I'm going to give you some numbers from the spread sheet that I created to keep track of all this – both to help balance out the story and to motivate me to keep editing.

When I started I had 122,390 words written down. Of that, I had 35,074 rewritten and edited. Which means I was 29% of the way done.

On day 29, which is the day that I'm writing this newsletter, I've written, rewritten and edited 84,180 words, or 69% of the novel's original length. I've added 2,001 words to the chapters that were already written and have written 5,000 words in new chapters.

As of tonight, I have 763 words to go on the 1,667 word a day pace. I'm taking a break to finish writing this newsletter instead of doing my editing, but it should be no problem to finish by Thursday night. I'll probably finish tonight.

When done, I'll be 70% of the way through the original text, which means if I can keep up this pace I'll be done by New Years, which was the goal I set earlier this year. If I keep adding words at the rate I have been, then I'll be about 65% of the way through.

In any case, it feels good to be making so much progress and I so want to have this novel done. Stay tuned next month to see how close I am by at end of the year.

And wish me luck.

This newsletter comes out monthly. It often contains news about the two novels I'm writing, the occasional a short story, discussion about writing, or other 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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