

CampNaNo Newsletter #3



(Image courtesy of National Novel Writing Month)

This week's news

Hey {{ contact.FIRSTNAME | default : "there" }}.

Last week was not a good week for me. I spent too much time (3 days) trying to sort out the Windows 11/Office 365/Scrivener 3 hissy fit, more too much time (another 2 days) having to reinstall everything and tell everyone what had gone on, and the rest of the time catching up on all the time I'd lost. This meant I didn't do anything for CampNaNo until Wednesday. And then it was a massive sort out because I was determined to meet this project deadline this month.

Friday - Sunday

Apart from doing the shopping and attending a Monkey Dust gig, the entire weekend was spent catching up on ghostwriting. I'm not going to go into detail because that's a different diary. I will, however, say that Sunday was a ghost shift. I finally got to bed at 4am on Monday morning.

My 'weekend'

I didn't plan to take Monday and Tuesday off, but on top of everything else, the poet very thoughtfully shared his latest cold with me. We know that he gave it to me because I was about 2 days behind him. I lost at least another night's sleep and then, of course, we currently have this heatwave (and no air conditioning). We also had a few errands to run, so that's why Monday and Tuesday became my weekend this week.

Wednesday

On Wednesday I took one look at my schedule and knew that something

had to give. I'd love for it to be the ghostwriting or the editing, but I'm committed to those current jobs in progress at the moment and the editing job has already taken about two months longer than it should have done.

I was determined that my own work wouldn't be the one to suffer as, after all, that's why I gave up the rat race in the first place: to concentrate on my own writing. I was also determined to complete these 10 stories for CampNaNo, not least because I've promised those lovely folk at NaNo that they'll get a copy of the anthology.

So, after a bit of thinking (aka playing mindless games), I think I came up with the correct solution.

I'd go back to the true meaning of NaNo and just write 1st drafts of 10 stories. No 2nd drafts, no polishing, no proofreading, no subbing. Just pure, simple, dirty writing.

If I kept the 1st drafts to 1 hour a day over 2 days, ∴ 2 days each, if I started draft 1 of story 2 'tomorrow' (on Thursday), and if I wrote at the weekends, I'd still manage to write the remaining 9 stories by 31 July. The next 2 stories are already brainstormed and outlined. I could also start brainstorming story #3 'tomorrow' too, outline it the day after, brainstorm story #4 the day after that, and so on.

All of my draft 2s, all of my proofreadings, and at least 2 more entire books not included in this challenge, were moved to 1 or 2 August for me to sort out then, as well as the series blog posts.

Once I'd done that, it felt as though the weight was lifted. Fingers crossed the rest of the week goes well too.

Thursday

After a few false starts and not knowing quite how to start, I eventually got going on the next story. That was all I needed, really, to get over that starting hump and get something down. I didn't have a full run at it, though, and hope to finish this draft tomorrow (Friday).

Progress

Here's a progress update. It's not much different to last week, but keep everything crossed I have a good few days over the weekend:

- *Around the Campfire*:
- *Harvey's Festival*: outlined
- *Bramble Jelly*: Draft 1 started
- *Silver Darlings*:
- *Fireworks at Killiecrankie*: a short story from Killiecrankie: brainstorming in progress
- *The Last Pirate of Penzance*:
- *Killer Queen*: a Marcie Craig short story: bubbling
- *A Guy for Penny*:
- *The Curse of Tutankhamen*: a Toni & Bart short story: bubbling
- *The Kite Festival*: a Molly's clan short story: Draft 1 = 1,533

This content has not been reviewed by National Novel Writing Month. For more information, please visit nanowrimo.org.

Diane Wordsworth

Doncaster, England

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