

The Best Laid Plans Have Gone Asunder

You would think I would know better by now....

After declaring in the February newsletter, I would finish the first draft of the second book I want to tell you: Well, the first draft isn't done yet.

I've finished Chapter 19, and I'm sitting around 55,000 words. It's been a painful process (literally). For those who missed it, my reason for the slow progress is: I broke my wrist on February 15th after I slipped on ice.

I didn't go to the hospital because I don't want to go anywhere, thanks to our climbing COVID-19 cases and the slow progress in rolling out the vaccine because of supply issues. Because of these reasons, I waited a week before I approached my doctor about an x-ray. After my initial visit with my family physician, I moved from a "possible fracture" (x-ray #1) to "Yup, you have a fracture." (X-ray #2 was done seven days after the first one.)

Let me sum up by saying even though it's been more than a month, I might still end up at the hospital to have a cast done because it looks like there might be a problem in how I'm healing. (I purchased two braces from local stores: the first was for a sprain, and the second brace had a splint in it, thereby avoiding a trip to the ER.)

The irony isn't lost on me that in my attempt to avoid one hospital trip, I've made three trips: 1) to my doctor's office and 2) to a clinic to have x-rays done. I'm the poster child for why you should still go to the hospital for something serious, even during pandemic days.

It's okay. You can laugh.

Now what?

"My word count is now at 36,000 words, and I'm writing Chapter 13."
(February 2021 Newsletter)

My word count is now a little more than 55,000 words. Given the circumstances, I think that's good progress, no?

Schedule (Revised)

*****NOTE:** The schedule below is subject to change without notice due to, whatever...

- April – August: Finish 1st draft, revisions, submit to an editor, and complete revisions. (Moving forward, I'm keeping my dates flexible. ☺)

The Surprise “Life Card”

Life gets in the way sometimes with writing when accidents happen, family members get sick, dogs get sick, snowstorms happen, and your roof leaks. (Okay, the last one hasn't happened to me yet. I'm knocking on wood as I type this...)

But I'll keep going. This isn't the first time I've been delayed, and I'm sure it won't be the last. I'm in this for the long haul, so I'll be at my desk moving forward. Slowly, but moving forward just the same.

And those two short stories that have been accepted by literary journals? Sorry, they're not up yet. When they are on the websites, I'll be sure to include them here.

Right here, in this spot. I won't change the format. I promise.

Onward,

Penelope



Author Bio:

Penelope Hawtrey is a Canadian writer of short stories and novels. In December 2019, she released a children's fantasy novel, *Dragon in the Mirror: Into Canonsland*, the first book in a planned series. She's currently hard at work on the second book with a tentative release date of late summer/early fall.

Connect with Penelope at the following sites:

Website: <http://www.penelopeshawtrey.com>

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/penelopeshawtrey>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/pshawtrey>