

## *What's going on with that 2<sup>nd</sup> book?*

**Yes, I skipped the September newsletter.**

I know. These newsletters aren't going as planned.

World and personal problems have been impacting my ability to write. So, this is your October update. The next newsletter should arrive with the grey November skies. (Well, at least that's the case where I live.)

**Now, about the second book in the series....**

As mentioned in the August newsletter, progress has been slow going. For some reason, whenever I start a new manuscript, I take my time.

Yesterday, I buckled down and wrote 700 words for the second book. I always feel better when I make progress on my major projects. While the word count wasn't one of my highest, it was good to be with Jayden and her father again in the kitchen as they both tried to avoid talking about their emotions. And now, I'm about halfway through writing the second chapter.

On the upside, I'm starting to see a pattern with me where I'll stall when I start something new, and then I'll pick up speed once I know exactly where the story is going. The Urban Fantasy I'd mentioned in the August letter, I started in the fall of 2019, stopped around 7,000 words, and then picked it up again in the spring of 2020. From there, it took me only a couple of months to write the manuscript.

*I love it when I find my writing groove.*

**\*Insider Info on the 2<sup>nd</sup> book:**

Jayden's sixteen-years-old in the second book, so she's at a crossroads in her life where she needs to decide what career she wants to pursue. It's a difficult enough decision for any teenager.

But hey, when you live in two worlds, how do you decide?

## Other things distracting me....

...are short stories.

Let me count them.

*No, seriously, I'm counting them.*

I've created five short stories in the last few months. Three of the stories are less than 1,000 words, and the remaining are over 2,000 words. Each tale is different either in how it's written or the genre. Several pieces of writing are based on reality, and one is science fiction. Currently, they're sitting in the queue with literary journals while I chew my fingernails and wait for decisions to be made.

So, I guess, for now, it seems I don't have to worry about the "Idea" factory closing—it's busy building new stories inspired partly on either my personal life or on things happening in the world.

And that's a wrap for this newsletter. Feel free to check back on the Facebook page for *Dragon in the Mirror*, or visit my website <http://www.penelopeshawtrey.com> for the next update that should be posted in late November.

And, please—stay safe.

Best,

Penelope



### Author Bio:

Penelope Hawtrey is a Canadian writer of short stories and novels. In the spring of 2016, she released several short stories and three years later released her first children's fantasy novel titled, *Dragon in the Mirror: Into Canonsland*. This is the first book in a planned series. Currently, she's working on the second book with a tentative release date of late spring 2021.

Penelope's happily married, a sunny day runner, and she loves dogs. She continues to weave stories based in reality and fantasy with a cup of earl grey tea never far away.

Connect with Penelope at the following sites:

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

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

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