

SCHEDULE FOR WRITING A NOVEL (Indie Publishing)
(indicates 4 catchup/move-ahead months without excessive writing)**

JANUARY: Write 1-paragraph synopsis and horrible first draft of the basic story without character development, chapters or descriptions. (50,000 /31 days = 1,612 words a day.)

****FEBRUARY:** Break story into chapters to help you see structure and pacing. Start deleting unnecessary backstory to avoid information dump.

MARCH: Focus on theme. Refer to theme in each chapter in some way. Work on world building. What is unique in the setting? How does that affect story, conflict, character development and interaction with each other and with that setting?

END OF Q1: Reevaluate and reassess

APRIL-MAY: Develop main character; major secondary characters, antagonist and sub plots. Continue fleshing out chapters, incorporating plotting to move the story forward. You should end with a well-developed second draft.

****JUNE:** Write a 2-page synopsis.

1. This synopsis will help you focus your story for further revisions. You will clearly see plot and pacing
2. Give synopsis to trusted readers. Ask: what would be your biggest challenge/struggle/pain? Is the premise believable? What about the story intrigues you?
3. Give synopsis to your critique partners with MS (September). Their feedback will be more valuable if they know where your story is going.

END OF Q2: Reevaluate and reassess

JULY/AUGUST: Revise manuscript. Tighten where needed; expand where needed. Third draft.

**** SEPTEMBER:** Send full manuscript to trusted readers for feedback. Meanwhile, plan marketing and launch activities.

END OF Q3: Reevaluate and reassess

OCTOBER: Incorporate changes from readers. Do tight copy edit. Begin formatting manuscript. Create book cover.

NOVEMBER: Final revision

****DECEMBER:** Upload manuscript and cover; order proof copy and revise as needed. When it's perfect, release and celebrate! (And keep marketing.)