



End-of-Year Reflections

Happy December, friends!

I write this knowing we'll all be especially busy in the coming days, whether that's with travel, seasonal work, or celebrations. It may seem early to wish you Happy Holidays, but I've always been a big supporter of going offline this time of year – a sort of digital hibernation, if you will. I hope in the best of ways that you'll get to unplug, but for now, I'm thankful for a small portion of your time.

In this letter, I'll be taking a look back over the last three months. I'm not the New Year's resolution type in the strict sense, but I do believe in a reflective period that can then be used to frame and guide the coming year.

A lot has happened!

My Website, Newsletter, and Authorly Social Platforms Launched

My
LinkTree

In essence, I went public – truly public – with my dream. It was one of the most nerve-racking things I've done as an adult; rarely have I felt more vulnerable, even though becoming a published author (and fully aware of the realities that would achieve it) has felt something like destiny for nearly twenty years. Thanks to you, I've felt buoyed-up from my plunge!

- You can now find **me** on **seven social platforms**: [Facebook](#), [Bluesky](#), [Tumblr](#), [Reddit](#), [Pinterest](#), [The StoryGraph](#), and [Goodreads](#). While some of these are more like summer homes or a patisserie I stop by when I'm in the area, I'm happy to be there. Come say hello!
- My **novel** itself went live on **two review sites**: [The StoryGraph](#) and [Goodreads](#). You can also find it/me on [BookNotifications.com](#).

- Across all my homes, my number of followers/subscribers and visitors has **doubled** since I started things up in mid-September. That's a big extended family!
- My website has grown to include a casual off-topic [blog](#) and the [Manifesto for Independence](#), my article explaining and encouraging the support of self-publishing.
- As of writing, almost all of you found time to take a chance on my [Prologue and Chapter 1](#). Thank you, it really warms my heart.

I Began – and Postponed – a Kickstarter Campaign

Postponement may not seem like a victory, but for me and my family, it was. I believe that when it comes time to offer it to you again, my dear readers, it'll be your victory too, because this time it'll be **better and brighter**.

- This was a steep learning curve, and I'm glad to have done the learning ahead of time! When I'm ready to launch again, my hope is that it won't be fraught with as much stress and I can focus more on what I can offer you.
- Molly's surgery went well and she continues to recover, meaning I can feel assured of her well-being as we move into next year.
- It was so encouraging to see how many of you not only were ready to support my campaign right away, but checked in with Molly. Sometimes I can get lost in the business side of things, so being reminded that this is about **human connection** at the end of the day was sorely needed.

The Inaugural ARC Team Assembled

I ran my very first ARC campaign* in October, at first focused on first- and second-degree connections; I then decided to open it up again in November, this time with a focus on new readers who didn't know me whatsoever! (There are some of you reading this now – a special hat-tip to you!) It continues to be a wonderful learning experience, and I wait with bated breath for **January** to roll around to hear what my team thinks.

- I ended up with more applicants than I expected! A huge 'thank you' to everyone who applied. I intend to do the same for future books.
- **My first-ever star rating is already in on Goodreads!** Thank you, Tiffany, for the **four stars!** Not too bad of an icebreaker, if I say so myself.

**For those unsure, an Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) campaign is an occasion where authors send out free, early (i.e., pre-publication), polished copies of their book with the hopes of getting a review in exchange. It's a crucial step in generating social proof and buzz, and helping new readers find the book!*

I Made Renewed Strides with Book 2

Although I've come to question the timing of the traditional Novel-Writing November, I did make a go of it! I didn't complete the 50,000-word goal (it was about half that, in the end), but significant progress was made and moreover, after so long in the weeds of the business of Book 1, I find myself eager to **write** again.

- Did you know you can check my progress on Book 2 [on my website](#)? Look for the little progress bar!
- Here's a secret just for you: my working title is *Nectar for Wasps*. I'll leave you to guess why that might be!

So What's Ahead?

My birthday is Christmas Day, so outside of modest celebrations for that, I'm looking forward to a quiet end to December and 2025. It's been such a whirlwind this autumn! Come January I will be busy preparing for the run-up to the March launch, which includes a few things I have planned for February. As always, you'll be the first to know what's on the horizon.

I have a lot to be grateful for. Whether that's making new friends and meeting peers, learning new lessons and skills, or seeing the ripening fruits of my labor, 2025 was filled with both the expected and the unexpected. Happily, I don't think 2026 will be any different except in one key detail: I'll have all of you at my back. Sincerely,
thank you.

Until next year, may your winter be bright and your joys many, and as they say in Kiva, "*Uushbaht ru'onrel*." – be safe as you go.

With love and gratitude,

Tamara S. Harker

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