


January Updates

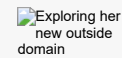
for
Beth Bowser's Readers

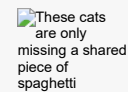
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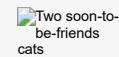
Monthly Reader Happenings

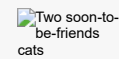
My January Writing Journey Updates

Happy New Year!!

 Exploring her new outside domain

 These cats are only missing a shared piece of spaghetti

 Two soon-to-be-friends cats

 Two soon-to-be-friends cats

January in Summary...

Things aren't too much better in 2021 as compared to 2020, but I guess we can't expect anything great to happen so quickly. We can feel a bit more secure with the state of our country at least, but COVID-19 just refuses to settle down! In my case, January is my birthday month so I tend to be a bit more depressed this time of year. Every year I never feel like I have accomplished or improved anywhere near as much as I'd hope and the passage of time is not kind and will never be. It's foolish to think 2020 could have any redeeming quality so of course, January of 21 would be no exception! But we did adopt an older cat from our local shelter who had been there for two years. Our existing kitten wants more than anything to be her friend, but she's resisting so far. The pictures in this email are of the newly adopted cat Mindy (tabby) and kitten Charlie (black&white)

In my writings, I spent quite a bit of time restructuring and organizing my novel, or WIP (Work In Progress), rather than write as much. I am happy, however, to report that I have currently have (after rounding) 60,000 words! I also now have a detailed list of scenes I have to write or finish and this equates to a not so imposing only 5 scenes! THE END IS IN NIGH! Don't you freak out friend reader, murder hornets didn't come back... I think. It's just a scary time for me as once my 1st draft is complete, I have to start the self-editing which is going to be painful. It's really hard to re-read your own writings and not think they are trash I have found.

If you were wondering about the story I had written about last newsletter, which was accepted to be published on 1/15, I received a notification that the publication was pushed back to 2/1 which is why this newsletter was pushed back to 2/2 so I could link to that story! Published by Gonzo Press, my nonfiction story about firefighters, paid, volunteer, and my husband specifically, Community Paragons ([web link](#), [magazine link](#)) is up and ready for you, my readers! Also, if you were wondering, I did not include any identifying information about which fire hall is his by his request. If you felt inspired to help after reading and want to donate, please donate to your local department. I'm positive they could use it!

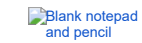
I haven't submitted anything to any publications in January so I have nothing new to report on any upcoming published stories. I'm still lazily looking for another home for the other nonfiction I was tricked into thinking was accepted. BUT, I did add toggle buttons to my website to show only the types of posts you are interested in reading! If you missed some of my earlier stories like [The Curio Shoppe](#) or the 1st draft of the [Back Cover Blurp](#) of my WIP and want to try them out, head on over to the website, go to my [Stories](#) page and click on the "Stories" toggle button! Or, if you are looking for a good novel to read, select instead the "Reading Lists" toggle and click through to find a book to read. Happy reading!

In other news, this month, my SHEG (Super Hardcore Editing Group) met only once as we got too busy with other life stuff. I submitted my first chapter and it, well, it's not good. It's not a complete scene, it's missing too much important information and here I thought it was too wordy and slow but I was told it needs **more** words??? Wow... Um, okay, confusion abounds! In my defense, I wrote chapter 1 a while ago and haven't touched it in a long time since I've been focused on completing the novel. But now I feel like I have to edit the chapters before I submit them which takes away from writing time... Eh, the life of a writer is all about conflicting priorities I'm coming to find.



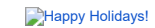
Red Rising by Pierce Brown was the first novel I had chosen in December and...

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 Blank notepad and pencil

A letter I wrote to a loved one I lost in 2020.

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 Happy Holidays!

For the aspiring author, three writing methodologies you can use when writing your fiction and/or nonfiction stories!

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