

Insane Plots

Tales from NaNoWriMo part II.

A woman in a blue knitted cap and scarf perched on her chair. On the table lay a bulging file folder, brimming with sheaves of handwritten and typed paper. "All of these" — she held up her folder — "are my notes for this novel." But, "my heroine hasn't left home yet," she said. Blue Cap is more than 11,000 words into National Novel Writing Month's 50,000-word goal, and her character must leave the village soon. Her notes had been sitting around for months, she said, but since beginning writing Nov. 1, the plot had become clearer. "I didn't plan that, but it's working," she said, delighted.

Another participant noted, "We are wired to do art, and there are so few opportunities." With NaNoWriMo, "we have a reason and other people to be accountable to." In the process of moving from Tigard, this writer hasn't met her word count goal. "It's not the end of the world if you don't make it," she noted.

The group is determined to "make it" —

in NaNoWriMo parlance, to "win." By next Sunday, when we meet again (from noon to 2 pm at Triomphe), each WriMo should have another 11,670 words on paper.

A young woman said, "I have seven subplots, but no plot."

We told her we will start a "What if?" thread in our online community at www.nanowrimo.org. For instance, someone said, "What if your character got into a car crash?"

After six days, the international word count teeters toward 150 million, from about 60,000 participants. The Eugene metro area now has about 146 participants. Registration is open until Nov. 25, at which point someone would have to write 10,000 words a day to win. But people do it.

Seven Subplots glanced around the coffee shop and said, "There are a lot of insane people out there." **EW**

Look for weekly updates on this project through November.

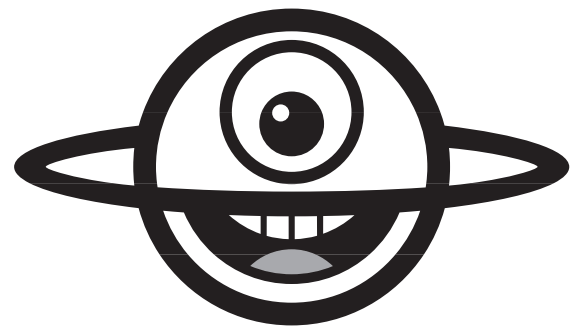
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