# ${ }^{\text {the }}$ Author's Accountability <br>  

A Day-by-Day Guide for Writers
NaNoWriMo Edition 2020

## INTRODUCTION

"Guys, I need this in my life: An Author Accountability Guide."
The Researcher
"Yeah, we should do that!" The Architect
> "That's a great idea! Someone should do that!"
> The Cheerleader

And so we became Someone. The Taskmaster

0nce upon a time, there were four Muses who decided to create a planner/ guide for writers. This magical book would be a new resource for those seeking to set goals, track progress (not just word count), and enjoy the Museinspired motivation to stick with it for an entire year. Thus, the Author's Accountability Planner was born.

We hope authors find this book useful through each stage of their writing journey. Writing and creating, whether full-time or part-time, require time and organization. This planner is designed to help track time, provide recommendations, and share what the Muses have discovered to be game changers on their own journeys.

Throughout the year, everyone faces the challenges of self-doubt, procrastination, and Life in General (Remember the 2020 pandemic jolting everyone around the globe?). It's okay! Every week, the Muses are here to guide you through this adventure.

We will get through this together.

Discover our Publishing company here:

## 4HorsemenPublications.com

## How to Use This Book

The Muses have spent countless hours fine-tuning the functionality of this book (by deciding if it should record writing time or beyond that). In the end, the Muses decided to account for all of the time spent doing writer-type things (brainstorming, writing, researching, editing, marketing, etc.). Many books discuss word count, but so much more happens before, after, and during the process of laying a book on paper (both physically and digitally).

Finishing the story is the single most important and difficult part of being a writer. To succeed, writers need accountability, someone or something to keep them motivated week after week. The Muses are here to keep the adventure moving forward, fight writer's block, and offer strategies to achieve year-end goals. Life is unpredictable, offering a variety of momentum-destroying reasons. This book can help you fight through those tough times while maintaining high morale.

In the end, only YOU can write YOUR story. You're here now, ready to do this. Let's go!

## THE LAYOUT

The annual version of this book contains four parts: Introductory Material (you're here!), Goal Setting, Month-by-Month Tracking, and Year Review. Each month has three sections: Monthly Prep, Weekly Overviews, and Monthly Review. This special edition only covers the month of November.

## Tracking Daily Accomplishments

Authors know that writing is more than sitting in a chair and putting words to paper (or screen). Word count is only one component of the writing process. A whole realm of prepping, marketing, research, and editing gets left out of all those other planners! We want you to be accountable by tracking all of the time you devote to your writing. Throughout this planner, the Muses have divided daily writing time into several different categories: Word Count, Brainstorming, Editing, Marketing, Research, and Reading.

Track your progress in these categories every day. It's okay to put a zero in a few places and focus on one task. Reviewing this information later can be

| Daily Accomplishments |  | Friday 29 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Woro Count: | MAREETMG Hours: |  |
| BRANSTORMNG HOURS: | RESEAPCH Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: | REAOMG Hours: |  |

eye-opening when you compare good and bad weeks. In the end, use these pages to fine-tune your writing schedule, optimizing your output for all your writing needs. Some of us perform better when pairing tasks with one another; other times we reach higher word counts after reading and researching. Use these numbers to maximize your potential and make goal setting more rewarding.

## Word Count

You know this one! Word count is a common measure among authors to track their progress.

## Brainstorming

Some of us are pantsers while others are plotters. At times, we combine strategies! Either way, we spend some time prepping a story, even if it's an hour at the cafe writing on a napkin.

## Editing

Most writers work on more than one project at a time. Divide your attention between writing one work while editing another. One story might be completely drafted but still needs revision and editing. This step should never be skippedwhether posting to a blog or pitching to agents or publishers. Check your work.

## Marketing

If you dream to be famous, build awareness, or publish books, it's important to keep your author platform active by engaging on social media, writing blogs, posting advertisements, sending out newsletters, hosting events, and more. Automate as much as possible, scheduling your posts in advance to give yourself more time to create content. Don't risk losing your reader's interest!

## Research

Whether researching how to buy a horse or a new method for writing dialogue, count your time. You're working! As a writer no less! These hours count too. ting. Some projects might be more demanding than others, so log your time!

## Reading

As writers, we hear this advice often: Read what you're writing! It's true! Read widely and often-both in and out of your comfort zone. Pick up a classic or treat yourself with the newest release. Engage in the writing world in every way.

## I Want to Be a Writer

Take a look at all the projects and stories you want to complete for this coming year and predict your word count for them. It's okay to fall over or underand you may massage these as the year progresses, but throw something out there to get started. Here's a rough scope of word counts to aid you in estimation:

## TYPES

Flash Fiction
1,000 word or less
Short Story
1,200-10,000
Novelette
10,000-30,000
Novella
30,000-45,000
Novel
50,000-85,000
Epic Novel
90,000-150,000
Textbook
50,000-250,000
Young Adult
50,000-80,000
Middle Grade
25,000-40,000
Chapter Books
10,000-20,000
Picture Books
300-700

## GENRE

Blog Posts
200-1,200
Romance
50,000-70,000
Paranormal
70,000-90,000
Fantasy
90,000-120,000
Crime
90,000-100,000
Mystery/Thriller/Suspense 70,000-80,000

Memoir
30,000-70,000
Science Fiction
90,000-125,000
Horror
70,000-100,000
Historical
80,000-120,000
Erotica
7,000-50,000

How many words will you write this NaNo? $\qquad$
How many words did you complete last year? $\qquad$
How many projects will you complete? $\qquad$

## THE MUSE PAGE

We can't leave you alone. That's why every week you get a little bit of something from each muse to help you through your 7-day struggle. The content here will change up often with a combination of inspirational quotes, exercises, fun facts, writing tips, and so much more. We hope we can make you smile, take a breath, and feel inspired to keep at it. This is hard work, we know! We're writers too!

## JOIN A WRITER'S COMMUNITY

First, we'd like to invite you to join the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook. There. You now have joined an author's community filled with folks who are actively trying to stay accountable! Also, there's a lot of writers communities out there. Check with your local library, colleges and universities, cafes, writing associations, and more. If you prefer online, many of these have options with a variety of hashtags on Twitter and Facebook by location and genre. Find workshops, classes, or give personal experience and advice. The greatest myth is the assumption that being a writer is a solitary ordeal. No. It's not. It doesn't have to be. Now, go into the light!

## NANOWRIMO RESOURCES

No matter your location in the world, you can participate in NaNoWriMo. Starting in September and October, many library systems host special events in conjunction with local NaNoWriMo chapters to help prepare participants for this special event.

Every November, writers can connect with resources, networks, and events online and within their region. Signing up on the NaNoWriMo website, whether you plan to participate or not, keeps you informed on what's happening online and locally throughout the year. The website connects you with your NaNoWriMo home region, allowing you to follow calendars, hop in forum discussions, and so much more, like year-round online sprints and NaNoWriMo Camp sessions in months that might be more aligned with your schedule and outside of holiday seasons. You may not be writing the novel in November, but that doesn't mean you can't join festivities and workshops!

We strongly believe writing isn't a solitary venture, but an opportunity to build a writing community anywhere, both physically and virtually!

## OUR FAVORITE GO-TO BOOKS

Every author has a shelf (whether on a folder on the computer or a physical bookshelf) of those books that inspire and aid. Here are only a few of the books we have found useful in our own journey.

Romancing the Beat by Gwen Hayes

## Naughty Word for Nice Writers by Cara Bristol

## Crafting the Character Arc by Jennie Jarvis

The Complete Revision Workbook for Writers by Arielle Haughee
1,000 Strong Verbs for fiction by Valerie Howard
1,000 Character Reactions from Head to Toe by Valerie Howard

Woe Is I by Patricia O'Conner<br>On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King<br>Danse Macabre by Stephen King

Save the Cat! Writes a Novel by Jessica Brody
Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott
Eats, Shoots, \& Leaves by Lynne Truss
Coffee Break Writing by John Gillard
The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller by John Truby
Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer by Roy Peter Clark
The Emotional Craft of Fiction: How to Write the Story Beneath the Surface by
Donald Maass

Writer's Bane: Research by Valerie Willis
The Author's Accountability Planner 2021

## The Cheerleader

Hello! So great to meet you! I love supporting writers! If you can't tell, I'm excited to have you here and for the opportunity to be your muse. My goal is to send you positive vibes, inspire your creativity, and encourage you to reward yourselfoften. Let's make magic happen!


## THE ARCHITECT

Your prose is beautiful, and I'm here to help you keep it polished and publishable. We are building your writing together, so look for my advice and reminders at every turn. This is about mastering your craft, and you don'thave to do it alone.Let's build amasterpiece together!

I write young adult epic fantasy and adult paranormal romance.

Favorite Book: The Blue Sword by Robin McKinley

## THE TASKMASTER

Staying focused and on point can be difficult. Oftentimes writer's block can derail days if not months of effort. I'm here to keep you on task! One way to do this is through constant evaluation and setting goals. I will be here to create a sense of urgency while keeping you moving forward in one way or another. Now, let's get to work!

I write horror, paranormal, thriller, and erotica.
Favorite Book: "YOURS! As soon as you finish it! Get to Work!"

Let the NaNOWrimo
Planner Commencel

## Monihiy Prep

## November

"NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH! Sign up to participate in this international celebration, here: nanowrimo.org. Writing a novel alone can be difficult, but NaNoWriMo helps you track progress, set milestones, connect with a vast writers community, and participate in events designed to make sure you finish your novel. Oh, and best of all, it's free!

Nov 1 - Saint's Day
Nov 11 - Veteran's Day
Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving
Nov 26 - Black Friday

## What Does Your Month Look Like

| Holidays:___ | Weekends: |
| :--- | :--- |
| Weekdays:__ Other:_ |  |

What project(s) do you plan on working on?

What goal are you aiming to achieve?

What will be your biggest obstacle this month?

How will you overcome this? Or adjust for this?

What will be your End of the Month reward?

## Goals for this Month

Word Count:
Brainstorming Hours:
Editing Hours: $\qquad$
$\qquad$
Marketing Hours:
Research Hours: $\qquad$
Reading Hours: $\qquad$

Week 1

| Daily Accomplishments | Sunday 1 |
| :---: | :---: |
| WORO Count: | MAREETMG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAOMG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
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| Daily Accomplishments | Monday 2 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETMG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAOMG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Tuesday 3 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAOMC Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Wednesday 4 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAONG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Thursday 5 |
| Word Count: | MAREETNG Hours: REsEARCH Hours: READMG Hours: |
| Beanstorming Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Friday 6 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETMG Hours: REsEARCH Hours: REAONG Hours: |
| BeAISTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eorrwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Saturday 7 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: REsEARCH Hours: Refanca Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eorrwa Hours: |  |

## Weekly Overview

ExERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

## Truth <br> Dare

Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Total for the Week

| Word Count: | Marketing Hours:_____ |
| :--- | :--- |

Don't forget to color in your grid!

## The Cheerleader

A little reward goes a long way. Treat yourself at the end of this week!

# Plan out your novel three chapters 

 at a time. This will allow you to focus on your story in smaller chunks.What was your most awkward moment?
Or maybe someone else's you witnessed? Now add it in a story or something on par for your character! What did you learn about your character in that moment?

## It is the end of the

 first week... Did you start with a BANG or a fizzle? If it was a fizzle... LIGHT IT UP!!!!| Daily Accomplishments | Sunday 8 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Woro Count: | Maktetwa Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAONG Hours: |
| BeANSTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: Reforwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Monday 9 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: REsEARCH Hours: |
| BeAINSTRMING Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: | Readma Hours: |
| Daily Accomplishments | Tuesday 10 |
| Word Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: README Hours: |
| BeAINSTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eorrwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Wednesday 11 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAONG Hours: |
| BeANSTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Thursday 12 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: REsEARCH Hours: REAOMG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Friday 13 |
| Word Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAOMC Hours: |
| Beanstormina Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Saturday 14 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESARECH HOURS: READNG Hours: |
| BeAISTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |

## Weekly Overview

ExERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

## Coffee <br> Tea

Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?
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## Total for the Week

| Word Count: | Marketing Hours: |
| :---: | :---: |
| Brainstorming Hours: | Research Hours: |
| Editing Hours: | Reading Hours: |

Don't forget to color in your grid!

## The Cheerleader

## "Trust dreams. Trust your

 heart and trust your story." ~ Neil GaimanTHE ARCHITECT

Don't re-read what you've written. Keep moving forward. It's about putting words to paper and proving you can write a novel! \#Persist

We are all builders of worlds! I challenge you to take a place you've always wanted to go, and take your character there! Take your readers there! That cool cafe up the street? A hotel in Delphi, Greece?
What about that castle on an island you saw?
A tropical paradise? In Cancun? Little Bimini perhaps?
Maybe an ancient temple in Cambodia!

THE TASKMASTER

## PUT DOWN THE PHONE!!!!

| Daily Accomplishments | Sunday 15 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: READNG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: Refolw Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Monday 16 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETMG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAOMG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Tuesday 17 |
| Woro Count: | MaRkETNq Hours: RESEARCH Hours: READNG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Wednesday 18 |
| Word Count: | MAREETMG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: READNG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Thursday 19 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAOMG Hours: |
| Beanstorming Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Friday 20 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: READNG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Saturday 21 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMMG HOURS: | Research Hours: |
| Eortwa Hours: | READING Hours: |

## Weekly Overview

EXERCISE: Take 5 -minute to write something with the 2 words below:

## Artist <br> Singer

Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?
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$\qquad$

## Total for the Week

| Word Count: | Marketing Hours: |
| :--- | :--- |
| Brainstorming Hours: | Research Hours: |
| Editing Hours: |  |

Don't forget to color in your grid!

## The Cheerleader

Motivation Recap: Set a timer for three minutes, and make a list of all the reasons WHY you are doing this.

If you get stuck writing, consider changing the structure of the story to spark new ideas.

Some families have weird traditions. In fact, in Roman families, the fathers could sell their kids into slavery. It was considered a patriarchal right, but a law was in place. If said child regained his/ her freedom, they could only sell them back into slavery three times max! At that point, they were deemed forever free!

THE TASKMASTER



## Hey you, yeah you with the Novel,

, keep it up...
Readers are waiting!

| Daily Accomplishments | Sunday 22 |
| :---: | :---: |
| WORO Count: | MAREETMG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: READNG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: Reforwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Monday 23 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETMG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAOMG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Tuesday 24 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAONG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Wednesday 25 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: RESEARCH Hours: REAONG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING HOURS: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Thursday 26 |
| Word Count: | MAREETNG Hours: REsEARCH Hours: READMG Hours: |
| Beanstorming Hours: |  |
| Eortwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Friday 27 |
| Woro Count: | MAREETNG Hours: REsEARCH Hours: REAONG Hours: |
| BeAISTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eorrwa Hours: |  |
| Daily Accomplishments | Saturday 28 |
| Word Count: | MAREETNG Hours: REsEARCH Hours: Refanca Hours: |
| BeAINSTORMING Hours: |  |
| Eorrwa Hours: |  |

## Weekly Overview

ExERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

## Turkey

Natives
Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?
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$\qquad$

## Total for the Week

| Word Count: | Marketing Hours: |
| :--- | :--- |
| Brainstorming Hours:___ | Research Hours: |
| Editing Hours: | Reading Hours: |

Don't forget to color in your grid!

## The Cheerleader

Write down your current word count:
Look at how AWESOME you are, you AMAZING Writer!

THE ARCHITECT

## Congratulations! You finished

writing a novel. But remember, it's not ready to query. It's time for revision.

Follow two other writers on social media who are participating in
Nanowrimo. If they can do it, so can you! THE TASKMASTLER

There are several things for which I am certain...
The \# 1 thing is: YOU DID IT!!!

Week 5

| Daily Accomplishments | Sunday 29 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Woro Count: | MAREETMG Hours: |
| Beanstorming Hours: | RESEARCH Hours: |
| Eorma Hours: | Refong Hours: |
| Daily Accomplishments | Monday 30 |
| Woro Count: | MaREETNG Hours: |
| BRANSTORMING Hours: | Research Hours: |
| Eorrwa Hours: | READNG Hours: |

## THE ARCHITECT

Now create a revision plan. First reread you novel. Gather your thoughts. Fix Big World Issue, then work your way to
Small Issues. Have several
beta readers provide feedback. Re-read. Stay positive. You can do this!

## Weekly Overview

ExERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

## Shopping

Mayhem
Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?
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$\qquad$

## Total for the Week

| Word Count: | Marketing Hours: |
| :--- | :--- |
| Brainstorming Hours:___ | Research Hours:_ |
| Editing Hours: | Reading Hours: |

Don't forget to color in your grid!

## Monthiy Activity Grid

Writing or Word Count

## Your Average Word Count for the Month

Total Word Count: $\qquad$ Divided by $\qquad$ days $=$ $\qquad$
Total for the Year So Far

Word Count: $\qquad$
Brainstorming Hours:
Editing Hours: $\qquad$

Marketing Hours: $\qquad$
Research Hours: $\qquad$
Reading Hours: $\qquad$

## Monthly Review

What was your top week?

What made your top week successful?

What was your biggest obstacle?

How did you overcome this? Or could do better next time?

What was your biggest achievement?

What inspired you most this month?

Did you discover a new writing tip or advice this month?

## Total for the Month

| Word Count: | Marketing Hours: |
| :---: | :---: |
| Brainstorming Hours: | Research Hours: |
| Editing Hours: | Reading Hours: |
| Total for the Year So Far |  |
| Word Count: | Marketing Hours: |
| Brainstorming Hours: | Research Hours: |
| Editing Hours: | Reading Hours: |

NaNoWrimo is Officially OVER!

You were AMAZING! But! Don't stop here!

Pick up a copy of
The Author's Accountability
Planner 2021!

