

Welcome!



Jillian David

Paranormal romance, adventure and suspense. Just what the doctor ordered..

Fastdrafting 101: From Concept to First Draft in Four Days!*

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(*YMMV)

If you get bored...

- I want you to at least be entertained by this talk. If we've gotten to the end and you need something more, feel free to ask me about:
 - The worst pitch experience in the entire universe
 - The world record for queries and submissions (two thumbs, right here, yo)
 - How *fabulous* it is to pitch a cruise ship romance right when all cruise lines get shut down for ... a pandemic
 - Bumbling into two 3-book deals like dopey Mr. Magoo
 - Satan in the vagina
 - Anything rural medicine, COVID related, obstetrics related – ask me anything!

Process overview

- You need an idea. Chew on it for a while before FD'ing
- Creating characters/interviews do at least a month ahead
- Pre-writing or detailed outlining at least a month ahead
- Re-outline, keep a notebook next to your bed
- Consider series arc or other characters' stories and make sure they'll fit. Consider plotting several books ahead.
- Pick a date and make sure it's set aside

Setting up the fastdraft: character interviews

- Find a character interview sheet and use it consistently. A good one takes more than an hour to fill out. Know the characters inside and out before starting. My sheet is geared toward PN/RS and blends several authors' sheets.
- Get a picture of your characters fixed in your mind or on computer/desktop
- Interview the heroine/hero/villain, ?secondary characters if important (in series – important for consistent language or mannerisms)
- Great resources: Writers Digest, well-storied.com, Google “NaNoWiMo + fastdrafting”, Goal/Motivation/Conflict by Deb Dixon

Outlining

- I use pads of paper and do a basic outline
- Then a few days later go back and redo it with more detail or “phrases” or any quirks and details that I want to put in there. Sometimes it’s a few lines of dialogue or an image.
- Timeline of book/series
- Redo the outline one more time
- Resources: numerous – ask authors what they use. I use Gwen Hayes’ “Romancing the Beat”

Time between outline/interview and fastdrafting

- “Live” with the characters, create scenarios of what they might do in certain situations/how they would react and why, ask a lot of “what if” questions
- Plug the plot holes BEFORE starting. Ask a lot of “why” questions.
- Tighten up timeline. “When” questions.
- Look at maps ahead of time
- Pick names PRIOR to starting!

Before/after comparisons

- The nurses and EMTs threaded additional large bore IV's into the patients' arms. Both patients were breathing on their own without risk of airway compromise at this time. (did Eric have an ET tube in that last book?) (doesn't Mariah see Vaughn sooner?)
- Staff threaded additional large bore IVs into the patients' arms. Both patients were breathing on their own. No airway compromise at this time, although both had head injuries, so their status could change rapidly.

Before/after comparisons*

- (Wyatt's mother is in the hospital, that's why he's there)
- (Also Izzy there and sees Kerr)
- Sunday morning rounds, and Mariah had her hands full of hot coffee mug and her mind full of test results for her critically ill patients from yesterday morning. Or was it night? Damn, everything was running together. She rubbed her eyes. At least a few hours' sleep last night and this morning's shower had her feeling marginally human this morning.
- At the start of Sunday morning rounds, Mariah had her hands full with caffeinated survival and her mind full of test results for the critically ill patients from early yesterday morning. Or was it two nights ago? Her days and nights ran together. She rubbed her face with her free hand as she trudged down the first floor hallway to the back stairs. At least a few hours' sleep last night and a good shower had helped. With any luck, the coffee would push her over the hump from marginally functional to semi-human. She rolled her neck.

Before/after comparisons*

“He was an accomplice to Zach and Sara’s kidnapping.”

“What? Why isn’t that sicko in jail?”

“Tommy Brand. Judge (true? Check). Family ties.”

Kerr ran his hand over his short orange hair. “He was an accomplice to Zach and Sara’s kidnapping.”

“So you had mentioned. Why isn’t that sicko in jail?”

“Did you get knocked out in a fight and forget that this area has some real close-knit ties? They have family members in law enforcement, school, and one uncle a judge. We’ll never get a charge to stick against any of them.”

Of course Vaughn knew about the judge, given how many times he’d stood in front of the man for sentencing, thanks to Sheriff Tommy Brand. What a winner, Tommy. That particular jackass had taken great pleasure in hauling Vaughn’s butt to the county jail, over and over. The Sublette County sheriff’s department probably had to reduce their workforce after Vaughn left town.

Before/after comparisons*

- What he did was inhale her scent of (XX and XX), which made his mouth fucking water. (something about his power flaring to cover her)
- Instead, he inhaled her mint aroma, which made his mouth fucking water, the craving stronger than when he wanted alcohol. Her scent also fired up his power again, and he gave in, mentally throwing the latch as he grimaced against the headache when the damned ability reached out to surround her and protect her.

Before/after comparisons

- “Yes. Just needed to hear your voice.” The tension from her memories released, like a (something that releases).
- “Yes. Just needed to hear your voice.” The tension inside of her dissipated like a boiling pot removed from the heat.

Before/after comparisons

- Vaughn kept on heaving large bales of hay from one location to another. “Can’t. Two more pounds to go.”
- (some mild banter about how he’s getting soft)

Vaughn tugged the hoodie tighter around his head and kept on heaving seventy pound bales of hay from one location to another. “Can’t. Two more pounds to go.”

“Yeah, thought you’d gotten pudgy.”

He snorted. “As if.”

Garrison jutted out his chin, begging Vaughn to take a swing at it. “Trying to impress someone?”

“Yep. The fight official at the weigh-in tonight.”

Before/after comparisons*

- (more about the setting w/ the hotel attached – need a made up casino name)
- Flashing her credentials at the back door of the Wind River Casino's arena(check names), Mariah's heart thudded, not from fear. Hell, with her brother fighting regularly for years, she felt right at home in the venues. The faint scent of sweat, cologne, and a sharp undertone of adrenaline reminded her of all XXX's fights and the bouts she had worked in the past.
- The faint scent of sweat, male body spray, and a sharp undertone of adrenaline mixed with testosterone assailed Mariah as she entered the back door of Owl Creek Casino on Saturday afternoon.

Before/after comparisons

- “After you watch Taggart get beat to death, maybe you’ll be more interested in me.”
- (More of the threat of what’s to come later)
- Thankfully Angelo, the cop, and two inspectors in their red blazers removed him from the floor of the arena.

“No. You’ll be in trouble.” He snickered. “And pretty boy is getting his ass handed to him up there. Hope you’re ready to do some CPR.” He pointed as Linc unleashed another hammer of a fist into Vaughn.

Angelo slid between Mariah and Wyatt, pulling her away from the jerk and setting her behind the considerable bulk of his body. Police secured Wyatt and removed him from the arena.

Before/after comparisons*

Vaughn went from the highest of highs to the worst sinking feeling he'd ever had in his existence.

Higher than Everest one minute, bottom of the ocean the next. Vaughn should have known they weren't out of danger yet.

His power sparked into a virtual ice pick and lodged in his skull.