

February 13, 2013



Many people I've talked with have said 2012 wasn't their best year. That said, we're all looking forward to a better, 'awesome' 2013.

For me, 2012 started with such promise. My debut novel was going into production. A lifelong dream was coming true. The editing of 'Janelle's Time' was to begin in January. It did ... then things went downhill, fast.

When I saw the edits, I was dismayed. My male lead had been dehumanized, and I barely recognized the book as my work.

This was my first edits. Do all new authors react to their first edits like this? Was I so 'enamored' of my book that I couldn't/wouldn't accept its faults? I didn't know what to think. In the end, I rejected most of the edits, then did a rewrite which, in effect, forced a second editing.

As you can imagine, the publisher wasn't happy ... *but, neither was I*. Ultimately, my book was sent to a different editor with vastly improved results. My male lead kept his humanity, and my book was still my book, only better.

The next step was the galley proof. Right away, I saw the widows/orphans. As a former commercial print shop owner and typesetter, I know widows/orphans are errors. I asked if they'd be fixed – and was assured they would be. With a sigh of relief, I started work on the galley.

Soon, cover samples arrived, and again, I was dismayed. I voiced my disappointment and was given forty-eight hours to produce an acceptable design - or one of the samples would be used. In addition, the galley was also due within the same forty-eight hours.

Timing is everything. In my personal life, the rug got pulled out from under me. My husband and I separated.

The next few days were miserable, but I beat the deadlines – I finished the proofing, and built several covers, submitting the best one. As the publisher's cover program was unable to use my Photoshop build, he had to build his version of my design, which I then had to accept.

The galley proof came back to me, and yet again, I was dismayed. The widows/orphans had not been fixed. When the publisher flip-flopped and refused to fix them, I requested he not publish the book. I wanted time to find a solution, but he ignored me, and published the book anyway.

I was heartbroken – and angry. I tried to do some marketing, but my heart just wasn't in it – it still isn't.

But, life goes on. After several months of struggling with this new website/blog, help arrived and there was progress, finally. Then, I spent two grueling weeks in early September building this site. Though the site wasn't finished, I announced a contest to bring it to life. This happened as my Twitter page hit a milestone – 15,000 Followers.

In mid-October, the contest ended and the prizes sent to the winners.

As soon as the contest was done, I shifted gears, hoping to finish 'Moria's Time,' book 2 of my TIME Series. I'd been working on it between everything else for months (after starting it as my 2011 NaNoWriMo project). Unfortunately, I didn't make my self-imposed deadline of November 1st.

On October 25th, I had to put Moria's Time aside to get ready for NaNo. November 1st, I started 'Adelle's Time.' It all fell into place – I submitted my 50,000+ word ms for verification on November 21st.

My plan was to resume work on 'Moria's Time,' but it wasn't to be. I was exhausted. So, I rested for a few days. My first day back in the human race, I ran some errands. When I returned, my husband was here, wanting to come home.

As time allowed, I continued working on *Moria's Time*. And, we must not forget Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

In mid-December, I went to a doctor with an ear infection. The next week I went for some scheduled dental work. I was still nursing the eight extractions when the other ear became infected. My next trip out was to an ENT specialist.

'*Moria's Time*' was my focus. I was so close to finishing ... In mid-January, it was done, except for the last chapter. Until the ending came to me, I went to work on the rewrites and editing.

Long story short, my editor now has the complete book – including the last chapter.

So, what are my hopes for 2013? The way I see it, 2013 is going to be better than 2012 – it has to be. It certainly can't be worse. I'm hoping it will be *awesome*.

I'd like to publish both '*Moria's Time*' and '*Adelle's Time*,' (with the last two books in the series in 2014), but right now, I'm working on a big **To Do List** of tasks, mostly writing-related, I've ignored for far too long. The **To Do List** is a welcome break from writing. However, I'll be ready to get back to work on '*Moria's Time*' when it comes back from the editor.

