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On Writing "Three Inches from Death"

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A misty mountain landscape with evergreen trees in the foreground and a valley shrouded in fog. The scene is atmospheric and somewhat somber, with a grey, overcast sky and dense, low-hanging clouds that obscure the middle ground. The foreground is filled with dark green, coniferous trees, their silhouettes sharp against the lighter, hazy background. The overall mood is quiet and reflective, fitting the title of the work.

On Writing *Three Inches from Death*

by Hannah Smith

The Story

- Told from three perspectives
 - Sydney James, Tarrin Hanson, and Jonas Aberforth
- Dystopian future with its own rules
 - Assignments from the Council

Before Ouachita

- Started my draft at 14 years old
- Problematic plot devices
- Left my draft until I returned to it 6 years later at Ouachita

A lush green forest scene with a stream in the foreground. Tall, thin trees line the banks, and their reflections are visible in the water. The lighting is soft and dappled, suggesting a sunny day with a light canopy. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

My Directed Study

- “Wilderness Survival in Literature vs. Reality”
- The Importance of Accuracy in Fiction

Writing My Thesis

Fall 2022

- Goal: Half of the novel/18 chapters completed
- Weekly meetings with Professor Pittman
- Eli Cranor's advice
- A very Winkian writing style

Writing My Thesis

Spring 2023

- Meetings with Professor Smith and Shane Seaton
- New writing challenges
- All but 5 chapters completed by the summer
- A lesson in burnout

Writing My Thesis

Fall 2023

- First draft completed on September 8, 2023 at 37,435 words!
- Editing begins
- The desire to rewrite vs. my full schedule
- Final 40,349 word draft with Author's Note sent to my readers on November 17th and turned in on December 11, 2023

In Conclusion

- Many thanks to Professor Jennifer Pittman, Shane Seaton, and Professor Sarah Smith, as well as my friends and family!
- A difficult but rewarding experience

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest, likely a spruce or fir forest, with many small, light-colored cones visible on the branches. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle in the center, which contains the text. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green, from dark forest green to a lighter, almost white-green where the text is located.

A Reading

Chapter 3: Jonas

A scenic mountain landscape. The foreground is dominated by a dense forest of vibrant green evergreen trees. In the middle ground, a valley opens up, showing a small town or village nestled among rolling hills. The background features more distant, hazy mountain ranges under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Questions?