

A Day in the Life of Lisa Gardner

7:00 AM Hand is wet. Why is hand wet? Oh, dog is licking hand, dog is awake and wants to go outside. Okay. Will get up, take dogs out, and get straight to work. New novel in progress, and I must get at least 2,000 words written today – without fail!

7:15 AM But I'm going to need coffee first.

7:20 AM And food. Oooh, I want an omelette!

8:00 AM Now in office, with big mug of coffee, full belly, one cat on my lap, one cat on the stool and two dogs on the floor. iPod in place. Time to check email.

8:15 AM Done deleting all junk emails. Phew!

8:20 AM Email from editor asking on progress for novel . . . Will answer that one later – better to get to work on novel first.

8:30 AM But first, on to emails from readers. Lots of them today. They have taken the time to write, so of course I must take the time to reply. Then I will work on novel.

- 9:00 AM** Wow, my last book has cracked the top 5000 of Amazon.com.
- 9:15 AM** To celebrate being a top 5000 author, I should go on vacation. Must visit Expedia.com and check out travel specials.
- 9:45 AM** Hot damn, I'm going to a spa!
- 10:00 AM** Oh no, have a writers conference that weekend. Guess I'm going to New Jersey instead. Hmmm, I should start writing now.
- 10:15 AM** But first I need a glass of water.
- 10:20 AM** And an English muffin. With peanut butter.
- 10:45 AM** Should check email again. Been away a whole thirty minutes. Must wait for cat to get comfortable on lap and for dogs to get situated around feet. All right.
- 11:15 AM** Emails cleared again; one good email from a geologist helping me with latest book. Cool beans! Definitely time to start writing. Hmmm, need one game of FreeCell to get warmed up.
- 1:05 PM** But first I need lunch. Tuna salad. With cheese.
- 2:00 PM** Eeek, have to leave for gym in 1 hour. No email, no FreeCell. Must get straight to work!

- 2:10 PM** Is hands-on one word, two words, or hyphenated? I need a dictionary. Better yet, a thesaurus to find a less confusing word. Hmm . . .
- 2:55 PM** Have written three pages, all trash. Book hates me, characters hate me. How have I ever made a living doing this? I'm never going to finish this book . . .
- 3:10 PM** Ahhh, am late for meeting personal trainer at gym!!!
- 3:20 PM** Yes, Officer, I promise not to speed again . . .
- 4:00 PM** At gym. Sweating. Panting. So hating little treadmill that goes round and round. Need a distraction. Wait a minute . . . I KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH BOOK!
- 4:45 PM** No, Officer, I couldn't possibly be so stupid as to speed twice in one day . . .
- 5:00 PM** Should check email. Should eat dinner. Frankly, should shower. At computer, armed with pets, writing, writing, writing.
- 9:00 PM** Brain melted. Dogs hyper. But I think book is coming together. It works. Hang on, do I need to change that one character, or plotline . . .
-