

Deadline
By
Jake Bible

He watched the clock.

Ten 'til midnight.

He wasn't going to make the deadline. He knew it.

He had to have the manuscript emailed before midnight or else.

His publisher didn't say what the "or else" meant, but he didn't want to find out.

Five 'til midnight.

He was sweating. Just a few more words and the draft would be finished.

Three 'til midnight.

"Shut up! SHUT UP! I KNOW, I KNOW!" He didn't know why he was screaming at the clock. It couldn't hear him.

Midnight.

He didn't make it.

What now? "Or else" what? What was gonna hap---