

Everything done, off, in time

By Holly Lisle

The proposal, the maps ... wanna see the maps?

Warning. They're huuuuuuuuuge. Have a fast connection or a lot of time.

Map of the World of Korre – 302 KB

Map of the Island of Hyre – 165 KB

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And apropos of nothing

By Holly Lisle

Another poem I dug off my hard drive, this one really short. Wrote it for a character that I have not yet used, back on June 6, 1999. It will eventually go into the book that I'm working around the character that sprang from this poem, but here's the poem, well in advance.

EPITAPH OF A LOVE

*Any life so bursting at the seams
Must be replete with joy,
He said,
So he moved in.*

And now he does not like the clutter.

Oh ... and Seven Accursed

By Holly Lisle

I wrote a variant of this poem a while back, just because. I was digging through old material for plot ideas, found it, and came up with a humdinger. I had to rewrite the poem as both it and the story evolved, but, here it is.

Seven Accursed

*We are now fallen, we who dreamed –
We seven who once strode through Hell,
We who breached the citadels
Of mighty gods and called them ours.
We are now fallen, we who dreamed.*

*None will speak our names again;
The holy places shun our souls
We chose the path of dark and lost
And Dark has come to claim its due.
None will speak our names again.*

*Dare not the summits of the gods –
These places do not welcome men,
Devour them and throw them down
And leave bleached bones as testament.
Dare not the summits of the gods.*

*Now I raise my shattered sword
To summon gods I scorned before –*

*Summon Grief and Vanity;
Call on Hubris, and Remorse.
Now I raise my shattered sword.*

*We are now fallen, we who dreamed –
We seven who once strode through Hell,
We who breached the citadels
Of mighty gods and called them ours.
We are now fallen, we who dreamed.*

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Only the map remains ...

By Holly Lisle

Final revisions on the prosal for the first book, plus synopses for the second and third books now finished. All I have to do now is the map. And I draw fast.

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One synopsis down

By Holly Lisle

Now I'm going to have to take a nap.

So nothing is ever simple

By Holly Lisle

Russ didn't ask for much in the way of changes to the proposal – those he did ask for I should be able to knock out this afternoon. It's the other stuff that's going to be a challenge.

I need to do a detail map of Hyre. Already had a continent map, but that is about three inches by two, and consists of the outline of the continent, and the word HYRE written in big letters in the middle. I need to put terrain, roads and cities in. Cool, fun, I love this sort of thing. But ...

I also need to include one-page single-spaced synopses of the second and third books I hope to sell. Each needs to be a stand-alone, each needs to offer a story as big as **Talyn**, and ... well ... I haven't even given thought to the next two books yet. And ...

(and this one's the stinker)

... I need to have it done by Saturday.

I have a class tonight, a conference Saturday, and my income tax stuff isn't done yet.

And the funny thing is, I'm excited. I'm twitching writing this because I can't wait to jump in and get started, give myself a hard push, see what happens. This is, as weird as it sounds, the part of the job that can be the most fun.

Challenge, the adrenaline rush, am I going to make it?

Onward. Time to have some fun.

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This last proposal passed muster

By Holly Lisle

The letter from Russ reads,

Holly,

*This version of **Talyn** is the final version. I see a few tiny things I'd like tucked in, but there will be no further changes to the overall structure and plot. This time you've hit a home run. It's really amazing how huge an improvement this over all past versions. What an amazing, productive process this has been! How far you've come since the first version!*

I'll send a few comments shortly, but they really are going to be minor questions of consistency and information and will not in any way go to the substance of the story.

Russ

And there was **much** rejoicing.

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Well, okay

By Holly Lisle

The proposal went out today, first thing this morning. The next few days will be spent getting everything together to take to the accountant – tax time. Oh, joy. So I won't have anything to post on writing unless something amazing happens (like angels appear and do my taxes for me.)

After that, I'm going to work on an on-spec novel for a while. I'll pick up as-I-write commentary and post some novel bits when I start that.

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Do you remember the Hampsters

By Holly Lisle

Once upon a time, the dumbest site on the Internet, but one of the most weirdly addictive, was Hampsterdance.com (yeah, it was misspelled).

Out of some weird perverse urge, I looked it up today. It's gone, replaced by Hampsterdance2.com. None of the charm, a million times more merchandising.

But in my disappointment at not being able to find the original intact, I did discover this little gem. **Hamster Blast.**

The weird quirky charm of the original Hampsterdance, plus vengeance for that damned song getting stuck in your head. If you aren't opposed to a bit of animated gore, I highly recommend this site.

Though probably not while you're at work... It's a bit too fun for that.

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734 words already today

By Holly Lisle

I'm supercompressing things now – the proposal is already sixty-seven pages long and I need to wrap it up. I'm having to fight to stay focused on the main theme, too – the story tends to branch of in a lot of directions and I'm having to go back, cut things I've written, and bring the thing back into line.

The last time I went through this much work for any thing was with development for the **Secret Texts** trilogy, which was equally as big a pain in the ass. That turned out well, however. I'll have to trust the process, and that this will, too.

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