

# And now, THE RUBY KEY (and funny cats) (and a software evaluation)

By Holly Lisle

Today and the rest of this week (and perhaps some of next week), I'm going to bury myself in backgrounding the MOON AND SUN series, starting with *The Ruby Key* and working my way through to a planned ending. I want to finish off the language work, map, culture-build, and create a timeline of past through future. I'll be doing a lot of work on moonroads, and what inhabits them, and how folks get on them, and more importantly, how they get back off.

I got Letrin's Hunt yesterday while eating lunch. I was—seriously—staring at my food, and the mashed potatoes had in interesting look about them.

Letrin has these hunting dogs. I discovered that the dogs are enormous, gray or fog-white with white eyes, blind but endowed with supernatural senses of hearing and smell. Lord Letrin (still debating his title; I think I can do better with something in Osji) is one of the primary villains in the series, a nearly-immortal nightling who murdered his wife and all children save one to cast a spell that, when he kills the last kid, will give him true immortality.

The story's young heroes have been forced to promise to find and bring him his last child in exchange for the freeing of their parents from the moonroads. Letrin doesn't intend to play fair, and the Hunt is part of how he's keeping track of their movements.

Completely off-topic, Paul Auldrige sent me another YouTube link. This one is simply funny: World's Dumbest Cats. I like

cats, I have cats, but ... yowza. These, my friends, are cats with Issues. Subscriptions, even.

ADDED NOTE: I'm currently evaluating WriteItNow Novel-Writing Software. Currently I can say that it has some features I love, some I like, and some that frustrate the bejeezus out of me; my question is whether the likes and loves will overcome the frustration. (It does some seriously cool things for world-building, character development, tracking—in these areas, it beats Word into the pavement. It does NOT offer a convenient word count. I need a convenient word count. It does not let you see your manuscript in double-spaced format (I need this), or permit you to change the color of your type (though it does permit background color changes. It does autoformat your manuscript. Nicely. And save in RTF, making it useful to any other decent word processing program.

I'll let you know how it goes.

Contents © Holly Lisle. <https://hollylisle.com> All Rights Reserved

---

# **Backgrounding wonderfulness, and back to work**

By Holly Lisle

My bud sent me a book on bookbinding some time ago, and I picked up one on handmade books. Things have to float around in my subconscious for a while before I figure out what to do with them, and these books were like that.

I don't know if it was the fever, or just a connection of strange dreams and good timing, but I had this amazing idea

while I was sickest—to take the moonroading background I've been working up in my head (for *The Ruby Key* and the MOON & SUN series) and do it as a painted journal written by the cat for the girl who's the hero of the series. *Ang the Cat's Secret Guide to Moonroading*. I don't know if it's anything Scholastic will be interested in, but if it isn't, I can always do it as an e-book and a full-color art book on Lulu.

Today I'm doing the copyedit for *Night Echoes*, and it's been one of those days. I'm not completely better yet (though Thera-flu, Cold-Eze, and other things have helped a lot), but deadlines know no mercy. The cat is purring on my shoulder as I write this, though, and I remind myself that I could as easily be at work in a hospital where everyone else is sick, too, and nobody can take sick time because then there'd be no nurses at all, and I am deeply grateful to be doing copyedits on the couch, wrapped in a blanket and sipping hot tea.

Should have this done today, should be doing copyedits on the *Create a Character Clinic* tomorrow. And then getting ready to give the kid some fun on Halloween.

Hope you're doing well, and thank you for the good wishes. I appreciate them.

Contents © Holly Lisle. <https://hollylisle.com> All Rights Reserved