

# And A Sale

written by Holly

April 5, 2006

By Holly Lisle

Time to drag out the endless saga of the Onyx Proposal, but this time for happy news. Claire just bought **Shadow Music**, one of the books I worked up in the series of about a dozen that I did for the Onyx Proposal. **Shadow Music** sold to a different Penguin line (Eclipse), with a release date in early 2008, and I'll be doing it under my own name. If it goes well, we'll follow up with others. It isn't the SM Proposal, exactly, though, so the full SM Proposal, minus **Shadow Music**, will go back in the pile to be reworked and at some later date reused for something else. I don't throw away worlds.

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# Bad Moon Rising

written by Holly

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**Bad Moon Rising** is the working title of the book that came out of the Onyx Proposal. It is just a working title, with almost zero chance of being the title the book will have when it reaches publication.

But I have to call it something, and I'm really, really tired of the words "Onyx proposal." So. I want to start fresh with a new topic for this book. This will be the first post linked to

the **Bad Moon Rising** topic, and the last linked to **Onyx Proposal**, so that weblog completists can follow the book trail back to this one's conception.

Currently, the release date for **BMR** is July, 2006, as the Onyx lead title for that month. Whether it remains that depends on a number of factors; the one I can control is meeting my deadline. I've proposed the end of January as my first-draft turn-in date. I'll have to hear back from Claire on whether or not that will be acceptable.

Beyond that, when I have the final title for this book, I'll switch the topic name over. Meanwhile, I'm gearing up to start on a new adventure. I'll record the footsteps here.

You'll note over in the "Finished This Year" column to the right that the Onyx Proposal has taken its place, with a 150,000 word count. That's my low-ball estimate of the number of words I've written to turn the initial "no" back in October into "yes." Know how I say persistence is the most essential virtue for surviving as a writer? That little image is Example A in my proof of the validity of that assertion. The finished novel, of which not one word has yet been written, will wrap at 100,000 words. Total word count for the project, then, will be at minimum 250,000 words.

If you want to do this for a living, grit your teeth and hang in. If you haven't broken in, odds are you simply haven't been told "no" often enough yet.

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# **We Have an Offer!**

written by Holly

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We (my agent Robin Rue and I) have received an offer on the Onyx Proposal. Better, we have accepted the offer. Barring acts of God, I've finally sold the thing, and though acts of God can occur right up until you sign the contract, I'm going to leap on faith here and dare to believe that this is going to happen. (To understand why this is such a huge, huge deal for me [if you haven't been around my site since last October] the full history of the Onyx Proposal starts here. Start at the bottom post on the page and read from bottom to top and from page ten to page one to get the first three-quarters of the story, and then, if you want ending chapters, continue reading OP entries here, from bottom to top, and using the "next entries" link at the bottom of each page to scroll forward. It's a bit of a saga.)

In other news, my daughter is without power and I can't get through, but the area has – from all accounts – weathered the storm well. I'm hoping to hear from her as soon as phone lines clear or she gets electric back.

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## **A Daily Grab-Bag**

written by Holly

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The first part of this morning I've spent putting together answers to questions Claire had about the Onyx Proposal. She's excited about the proposal, and we're working out a few final kinks. So I'm still hopeful about this one. Oh. And she loved the alligator – always a good sign, since that was one of the things I loved most. I think we may be on the same track with this one.

Yesterday's **Hawkspar** work went well, and the next thing I'll be doing is working on that again.

But mostly I'm worried about my daughter and her family, who are in the middle of taking a direct hit from Francis right now. According to the track, we'll get it later. But I can't get through to her on the phone, and she and Frank live in one of the low-lying areas, as do Frank's folks. Prayers and candles and good thoughts, as per your inclination, would be greatly appreciated right now.

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## Onyx Synopsis Out the Door

written by Holly

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By Holly Lisle

While I'm damned wary about hoping too much, considering the way these things have gone the past eleven times ... well, I'm an optimist. And I really like this project. It brings in Brig from MIDNIGHT RAIN as the hero, and an EMT-Paramedic named Dia as the heroine, and a gift-leaving stalker, and alligators in a canal in dicy, grim circumstances. And what might or might

not be a ghost. And it features EMTs and rescue in Ft. Lauderdale – real adrenaline-junkie stuff. (As an ex-ER RN, I am an adrenaline-junkie – I know my own).

God, I hope I get to write this book.

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## **Proposal Version 2 Done**

written by Holly

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By Holly Lisle

Finished up the proposal draft around four o'clock, have the revisions planned out for tomorrow (they're small), and will get the thing out to Claire fairly early in the day. I'm hopeful.

And I got to write with Jean for a few hours, which was great.

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## **Stage Two – Check**

written by Holly

April 5, 2006

By Holly Lisle

My editor, Claire, has okayed the proposal. Next, I'll put

together a ten-page synopsis, which she will send on to the publisher. Getting the publisher's approval will be step three.

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## **Slowly ... Slowly ...**

written by Holly  
April 5, 2006  
By Holly Lisle

Spent yesterday thinking through a list of questions I received from Claire, and working through them, and then typing up the reply – the only part of the process that was at all quick or easy. I like what I'm getting; I'm hoping that she and Kara will, too.

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## **Good News on the Latest Proposal**

written by Holly  
April 5, 2006  
By Holly Lisle

Claire liked the three-page outline, and all of her questions

were easily answerable, and didn't require changing the story concept.

So. Maybe this time.

Fingers crossed.

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## Off the Phone with Robin

written by Holly

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By Holly Lisle

Saturday agent calls aren't usual – we'd agreed that we could bounce things back and forth over this weekend, though, to get a better feel for this proposal and where I can go with it.

I'm excited, and she was too – she got what I was doing right off; it *hasn't* been endlessly redone, or even *done*, that either of us are aware of; the supernatural element is tasty; the villain is unexpected. She wants a three-page synopsis by Monday. I think we're good to go.

I'm putting together the notes I took from our talk and getting them into usable order. Tomorrow I'll write the synopsis. Monday morning I'll send it out.

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