

Completed revision of The Owner's Tale today – Next big step to getting back to Moon & Sun

By Holly Lisle

This is the first revision I've ever done that didn't even require the fixing of a typo on the first twenty-four pages, and had only the addition of a hyphen on page twenty-five.

This is the lightest revision of a first draft I have ever done.

And it's making me a little crazy that I don't know why.

I love the way this story came out. Made myself cry twice reading the print-out at things I wrote when I was so deep into the story I don't remember writing them, and that took me by surprise.

This is the ending that I wanted for the entire **Longview** series, and from my perspective, I got it in the first draft, with some very minor revisions, not a single added scene, not a single added page.

This is writing in a whole different place for me, and I don't know if it's because I've been writing to find this ending for

so long – for years – or because I've made some sort of breakthrough in my writing...

... Or because I've lost my objectivity toward my work. That last one will get tested after I get my type-in finished and put this story in front of Matt.

But type-in will be fast. Will probably be done in a couple hours tomorrow, and that's just with me being extra finicky and paranoid because I've NEVER had a first draft that looked this clean when I was done with it.

I am my own toughest critic. I am deeply suspicious first-draft pages that pass through my brutal revision process without coming out the other end battle-scarred by massive changes.

Still – it DID come through, and as far as I can tell, I was being as brutal as usual.

So what comes next?

Short-term, when I get Matt's edit back:

- I'll do my editor's revision.
- I'll request bug-hunters and will do the typesetting from the bugs they find.
- Will put the story on sale in single episode version.
- And will then go through and put together the six-story

bundle, because *The Owner's Tale* ends the **Longview** series.

I figure that along with writing lessons for **How to Write a Novel**, writing the parts of my Demo Novel (*Dead Man's Party*), and doing the *Alone in a Room with Invisible People* podcast, that will keep me pretty busy through Christmas.

Once I have the complete **Longview** series available, however, my next step is to reread the first two novels in the **Moon & Sun** series and get the series voice back in my head, and find the various toys I left on the floor in the first two books. Pick those up, figure out how I want to use them in the final book in the series.

By New Year's day, 2019, I want to be in a position to start writing *The Emerald Sun*. I'll be plotting that out concurrently with writing the first draft of *Dead Man's Party*.

And then might find myself writing two novels simultaneously for a couple months. Not optimal, but not the first time I've done this, either.

I would like to finish *The Emerald Sun* and the **Moon & Sun** series next year – writing, revision, editing, and publication. And get all three books back into print with new covers. Folks have waited way too long to find out how that story ends. As have I.

It's time to get back to the kids, the cat, and the mystery of the Moonroads, and what went wrong, and how to make it right.

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