

When a house is not a home (and a READERS-ONLY request)... 1266 words, and 9439 total

By Holly Lisle

I thought I knew what was going to happen today... and what happened did fit exactly inside my objectives for the scene, while at the same time turning everything I'd planned inside out and upside down on me and surprising me completely.

And the cool twist of the day operated on the following writing principle:

Always assume your characters are smarter than you, that they're not telling you the truth about the situations that they're in, and that when you think you have a thing figured out and are getting ready to reveal it, the character who was supposed to be shocked is the one who is going to say, "You thought THAT was the surprise? Oh, please... This is what's really going on."

I love that moment – it's pure Muse, it shows me how parts of my mind have been working outside of my assumption of what I think I'm doing, so that when it all comes together, I'm shocked. And delighted. And the pieces all still fit – just not the way I expected them to.

It happens to me a lot – and today, it was especially fun.

A NOTE FOR URBAN FANTASY READERS ONLY

If you're interested in the way these stories are coming together, and you want to be in on the five-book/five-month launch when I finish them and take them live, you can sign up

for my launch list here.

Holly's "Not-Yet-Revealing-the-Pseudonym" Pre-Launch List

Once I have all five books done in first draft, I'll do the revision.

Of all five books.

At once.

This is what's technically known in fiction writing circles as a "a big pain in the ass" (seriously... that is a bona fide technical term) – but it's also the best way to make sure all five books connect deeply to each other, and the best way to get rid of weird "I changed my mind halfway through the series" continuity errors.

While I'm doing that, readers will start getting "urban fantasy girl" emails, where I'll be asking you some questions, and we'll be talking about urban fantasy in general, and mine in particular.

Once I have the revision done and have the books in Matt's hands (he's been my content editor for twenty-six years, and he's a great one), the folks on the pre-launch list will start being invited to discussions about cover art, series titles, characters you love and why... fun stuff that will at the same time help me figure out where in the Urban Fantasy landscape these books will fit (and that will let you figure out whether they're the kind of urban fantasy you like).

I'll be asking some questions, answering some questions, maybe giving a few teasers, DEFINITELY giving away two free short stories for all launch participants... and once you're comfortable that these either are or aren't your kind of urban fantasy, I'll invite the folks who are pretty sure this is your kind of thing to pick up the actual novel. Five books. Five months. Absolute best prices on all of them during the

launch.

Once again, **for urban fantasy fans only**, here's the sign-up form.

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