

COFFEE ON SUNDAYS



The Monthly Newsletter for Heather Hiestand, Eilis Flynn, and Anh Leod

MAY 2007

It's spring, and with that we have warm weather, more than occasional sun, and—of course—baseball. This month we have for you an excerpt from *Festival of Stars*, Eilis's novel about a pair of star-crossed lovers, and more about Heather's short story, "Looking Forward, Looking Back." *Festival* is an

out-and-out romance novel (using paranormal elements), so you are forewarned, while Heather's short story is science fiction-based (and Lavender Isis' Book of the Month!). Loosely based on the Japanese legend of Tanabata, *Festival of Stars* is the story about a pair of lovers—or they would be, if they could only get past their

families, their ever-changing circumstances, and even their own doubts. The anthropology wonk in Eilis wants to point out that it's also the story of straddling two cultures, struggling to pay homage to both—and what happens sometimes when that doesn't happen. The romance author in her just

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE ➡



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Availability: Electronic only at this time, in various formats. Purchase your copy at www.CerridwenPress.com. It will be available on the cover page from May 10 to May 16, thereafter by searching in the "View by" section for the title or for Eilis's name.



Availability: Electronic only at this time. Purchase your copy at www.lavenderisis.com. Go to the website on or after May 19 and search for the title or for Heather's name. Looking Forward, Looking Back is the Lavender Isis Book of the Month!

ON SALE

Heather Hiestand

- *Cards Never Lie*
- "Looking Forward, Looking Back" on May 19

Eilis Flynn

- *Festival of Stars*
- *The Sleeper Awakes*

UPCOMING RELEASES

- May 19: "Looking Forward, Looking Back" by Heather Hiestand (Lavender Isis)
- June 13: "Lucky Number Seven" by Anh Leod (Ellora's Cave)
- July 12: *One Juror Down* by Heather Hiestand (Cerridwen Press)
- August 15: "Aphrodite's Necklace" by Anh Leod (Ellora's Cave)
- September 27: *Gunshot Grange* by Heather Hiestand (Cerridwen Press)
- November (tentative): "30-Day Guarantee" by Eilis Flynn (myromancestory.com)
- Late 2007: *Two on the Hunt* by Heather Hiestand (Cerridwen Press)
- Late 2007: "Bijou's Bonds" by Anh Leod (Ellora's Cave)
- 2008: *Introducing Sonika* by Eilis Flynn (Cerridwen Press)

Festival and Looking, CONTINUED

wants to say it's an emotional romance. In Heather's story "Looking Forward, Looking Back," not that far in the future, asthma is a fatal illness. Thankfully, space travel is now commonplace, and the asthmatic children of a now-badly polluted Earth are boarded on mining ships with sterile air. Do they have a future? Twenty-year-old Eve Hawthorne is about to find out...

Here's an unedited excerpt from "Looking Forward, Looking Back":

In those polluted days, many of the children could no longer breathe. But for the rise in space travel, they would have been unable to function in society out of sheer disability. The ships were marvelously controlled and their air was sterile. Parents sent their children to the sky in large numbers. ... ☕

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Featuring Eilis Flynn's novel *Festival of Stars* and Heather Hiestand's short story "Looking Forward, Looking Back."

For more information, see www.coffeeonsundays.info
www.heatherhiestand.com
www.eilisflynn.com

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Excerpt from *Festival of Stars*
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Cover "Looking Forward, Looking Back"
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Excerpt from
"Looking Forward, Looking Back"
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From the back cover of Festival of Stars:

They are meant for each other, but they only have one chance a year to find each other. Have you heard of the ancient Japanese legend of Tanabata? Gaze up at the evening sky, and if you're lucky, you'll see the Weaver Princess and the Cowherd meeting after spending a year apart. They are reunited once more on the wings of their helpers, the star ravens. Hope for good weather, because if rain or fog prevents them from finding each other, the star lovers must wait another year.

The lovers look for each other in every generation. This time, Kristin Olafsson and Dare Borodin must struggle against the protestations of their families, their loved ones and even themselves to reach each other.

Sometimes when the stars shift in the sky, the lovers are a little farther apart, and they struggle to reach each other. And reach each other they must, for unless they do, eventually, the stars will move away from each other, never to meet again.

And so each year, they must try. ☕

A Chapter 1 Excerpt from *Festival of Stars*

Boom!

A clap of thunder rattled the windows of the building, blinding him for a second. The overhead lights in the hallway flickered before the incandescent bulbs shattered, spraying shards of glass and spewing sparks into the dimness.

The rain was still coming down but at least the lightning had eased off. Not only that, there were three—what were they, crows? No, ravens—huddled in the tree outside the door. He could hear an occasional *caw*, and once in a while, one of them would flap its wings to ward off the rain.

Dare rubbed his wrist. He could come back later, just keep it iced for now. Had the drivers been this bad in Pascisci when he was a kid? Had he been one of them as a teenager and he had somehow improved after, say, nearly being crushed by a maniacal driver in Helsinki or Paris?

Dare found himself walking down the hall. He walked away from the screaming kids and the

babbling, injured people in the dimmed waiting room, away from the smell of sickness, of death somewhere nearby. Better the cold silence of his father's house than the despair here.

Freedom was so close ... another step, a push on the door, and he would feel the rain on his face and hear the cry of the ravens only feet away. Just ...

"Mr. Borbin?"

He froze, his shoulder against the door, the breeze that rushed in already numbing the ache in his wrist. *No!*

Sighing, he turned around. "Borodin. With a 'd'," he said.

It was a woman, an attractive one at that, standing a few feet from him. She had to be a doctor, judging by the white lab coat and the stethoscope around her neck.

He frowned. There was something about her, something familiar. Something he knew...

She looked him in the eye and opened her mouth to speak. Just then, a lightbulb exploded above them. ☕

Got a question? Drop us a line at eilisflynn@aol.com or halalala@comcast.net. Maybe we'll have an answer! What we don't know we'll gladly make up. Next month we will be celebrating the releases of "Lucky Number Seven," Anh Leod's erotica launching stories about the Brotherhood of the Canine, and Heather Hiestand's short story, "Looking Forward, Looking Back."