

COFFEE ON SUNDAYS



The Monthly Newsletter for Heather Hiestand, Eilis Flynn, and Anh Leod
OCTOBER 2007

October Q&A

Since neither Heather nor Anh (or even Eilis) has a book or story release this month (shocking but true), we decided to conduct a question and answer session. We asked our readership whether they had any questions for us, and the response we got was interesting, let me tell you!

So we sorted through the questions and separated them into those we could answer,

those we had no clue about, and those we could find answers for but it would take some work. Then we dumped everything together and reshuffled the pile after we realized we were getting far too organized and analytical about this. Blame Heather for that one. Eilis doesn't claim to ever have been that organized, and certainly not analytical. Then Heather and Anh both took off, muttering they had better

things to do than try to deal with Eilis's idea of organization. So the Q&A is up to me! With that in mind, let's start the Q's so I can give you the A's:

Q: How do you get your ideas?

A: I'd like to give you the usual flip answer about going for the amber light special at S-Mart ("Shop smart! Shop S-Mart!"), but I'm trying to be

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ON SALE

Heather Hiestand

- "Victoriana" in *Holiday in the Heart* (Highland Press)
- *Cards Never Lie* (Cerridwen Press)
- "Looking Forward, Looking Back" (Lavender Isis Press)
- *One Juror Down* (Cerridwen)

Eilis Flynn

- *The Sleeper Awakes* (Cerridwen)
- *Festival of Stars* (Cerridwen)
- "30-Day Guarantee" (myromancestory.com)

Anh Leod (from Ellora's Cave)

- "Lucky Number Seven"
- "Aphrodite's Necklace"
- "Bijou's Bonds"

UPCOMING RELEASES

- December 6: *Gunshot Grange* by Heather Hiestand (Cerridwen)
- March 13, 2008: *Two on the Hunt* by Heather Hiestand (Cerridwen)
- Early 2008: *Introducing Sonika* by Eilis Flynn (Cerridwen)
- Early 2008: *Recreating John Doe* by Anh Leod (Ellora's Cave)
- Mid-2008: *In Flight* by Heather Hiestand (Cerridwen)

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Featuring questions and answers for Eilis Flynn, Heather Hiestand, and Anh Leod

For more information, see

www.coffeeonsundays.info

www.heatherhiestand.com

www.eilisflynn.com

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October Q&A, CONTINUED

relatively serious here. No, seriously, I go to Target or Costco.

No no no! I'm trying to be serious. Uh...how *do* I get my ideas? My favorite author, Barbara Mertz, always claimed she hunted them down and wrestled them to the ground, but I'm not sure whether that's appropriate for ideas. Personally, it works better for me if I sneak around the back and hit them over their little heads. (Chloroforming proved to be messy and hard to explain to the authorities why you had so much of the stuff, but no one ever seems to ask why you have a mallet.)

Q: How did you get interested in writing?

A: A splendid question! The official answer is I got interested in writing when I won a fifth-grade essay contest on the topic of "freedom under the law," using the example of when my cat did something bad, it was scolded, but otherwise led a comfortable life. (Yes, really. I understand the tenets of the legal system as interpreted in this essay will be used by some lame political party or other in the near future!) The unofficial answer is I found out that's where all the cute guys hung out. Note The Hub. (This is when I find out if he reads this...)

Q: How did you go from writing comic books to writing romance fiction? Seems like a leap there.

A: Another wonderful

question. I gave up comics when I was 13, figuring I was too old for them now, so I put them away. A year or so later, I was bored stiff by TV, so I found those comics again...and that was it for me. I dug in enthusiastically, eventually wrote a few when an editor at DC asked if I wanted to pitch something.

But it's a boys' club, then and now. There were few girls in comics fandom then, and the female characters were still few and far between (and many not very interesting). It didn't help there was still a mean thread of misogyny among some comics fans and pros. I wanted something that spoke to girls and women alike. I discovered romance fiction much later.

My next book for Cerridwen, *Introducing Sonika*, is the product of my comics background and my romantic fiction writing. That book is the one that I felt happiest and most comfortable writing, because it merged the two things I enjoyed writing and reading most of all. It's been a long haul getting it to this point, but I hope you like it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Q: How much do you make?

A: Very little, believe me. It's true what they say: You don't write for the money!

Q: So what kind of plans do you have for the next year, you and Heather (and that weirdo Anh)?

Let's see...we both have books coming out in early 2008, exact dates later; we have books coming out later in 2008, exact dates later; we've been tinkering with something together that's coming along, details later; and we're trying to figure out how we can grow our readership, and that's definitely details later.

Some of our books will be out in print (yes, paper and everything) in 2008, so we're really looking forward to that. That's been our goal all this time, and you bet we'll let you know when and how you can buy 'em in the bookstores.

Q: I have a great idea for a book! I'll tell it to you and you can write it and we can split the proceeds!

A. Go away!



APPEARANCES

Eilis Flynn:

- Greater Seattle RWA, Richmond Beach Library, Seattle, WA, October 6, 2007
- Emerald City Writers' Conference, Bellevue, WA, October 26–28, 2007
- EPICon, Portland, OR, March 6–9, 2008
- A Writer's Weekend, Seattle, WA, June 27–29, 2008
- Romance Writers of America National Conference, San Francisco, CA, July 30–August 2, 2008

Heather Hiestand:

- "Salvaging Your Rejected Category Romance," AskAnAuthorPro Yahoo! loop, March 17–28, 2008

