

2019 Hero Poll Interview

By: K. M. Shea

Kitty: Welcome to the 2019 Hero Poll Interview! Today we're—

Merlin: Let's just get to the important thing here, which is me. I won for a second year in a row which means it *wasn't* a fluke! I am now the king of Shea literature, you may commence with the bowing.

Stil: You cheat. This contest is weighted.

Emerys: Funny, I don't recall you saying that when you won every year.

Stil: You weren't even around then!

Emerys: I'm an elf, I'm older than you can imagine.

Kitty: So for those who didn't know, yes, Merlin placed first again this year. Emerys came in second with a surprising dark horse of Solus Miles taking third. Do you have anything to say about that Miles?

Solus Miles:...

Kitty:...

Solus Miles: Can I leave yet?

Kitty: No. I bargained with Kit—you have to stay until this is over. So this year we aren't—

Benjimir: I find it amusing that I came in sixth.

Emerys: What? You thought you should have placed higher?

Benjimir: No not at all. It's only that I haven't even been a *hero* for a year, and I placed higher than Arion. I'm not saying I'm more interesting than he is, but...

Kitty: Arion still placed well—he was in eighth place. And why are you here anyway? I was only going to interview the top 5 heroes.

Benjimir: It's adorable you thought a lock would keep me out.

Kitty: Well, anyway, what I've been trying to say is that this year we aren't taking questions—

Stil: I want a recount.

Kitty: No.

Stil: Then we ought to grade this differently. Merlin and Solus have an unfair advantage. They're the only heroes in their series so more people unite under their banner. We fairy tale heroes have to carve out individual fans from the same mass.

Emerys: Yes, and I still managed to take second. It seems we could call me the new Timeless Fairy Tale Favorite.

Merlin: Because *that* doesn't make you sound like a sparkling faerie prince.

Kitty: Guys, it's a straight forward poll. There's no unfair advantage, there's no under handed tactics...

Asher and Aaron: We think that's disappointing.

Kitty: What are *you* two doing here? You guys were 10th!

Asher and Aaron: We got bored.

Kitty: Get *out*!

Asher and Aaron: Fiiiine—it's just a bunch of boring adults arguing about a high school popularity contest.

Stil: Who are you calling an adult??

Friedrich: Out of all the things you could be offended about, *that* is what irritates you?

Kitty: Oh. Hey, Friedrich.

Friedrich: Not surprised to see me?

Kitty: No, I figured you'd wander through here sooner or later.

Friedrich: I'm going to interpret that insult as a compliment.

Kitty: Mmhmm. Have you seen Arion or Severin? Severin took ninth.

Friedrich: Severin said he'd rather put on cat ears for Elle than be caught in here.

Kitty: And Arion?

Friedrich: Dunno. I'd keep an eye on Solus though. He strikes me as being Arion's buddy. They might be working together to spring Solus out of this joint.

Kitty: They're from different worlds. How can they be buddies?

Merlin: Stil and I are from different worlds and yet you never question Stil's dislike of me.

Kitty: Uggghh, so Solus, this is your first year in the top three. Any thoughts? Observations?

Solus Miles:I am glad I'm an A. M. Sohma character and *not* from K. M. Shea.

Kitty: I am literally the *SAME PERSON*! You are all related!

Farrin: We definitely are not.

Solus Miles: Agreed.

Kitty: Farrin—perfect timing. You came in fifth, right behind Rumpelstiltskin, and finished off the top five. Any words of wisdom to share?

Farrin: Where's Rakel?

Kitty: This again?

Farrin: Hold a "most popular K. M. Shea Couples' Poll," and if we place high I won't *have* to do this.

Friedrich: That is a wonderful idea!

Kitty: No—it's a bad idea, a very bad idea! Between the Hero Poll, the Heroine Poll, the secondary character poll—which we don't even do every year—and *possibly* a favorite pet/animal poll, we cannot have a couples' poll as well!

Merlin: I disagree.

Kitty: That was a statement, not a question.

Merlin: It doesn't matter. I've decided I want a couples' poll. Britt can take her place with me, as it should be.

Emerys: Isn't it rather you are taking your place with her? *She's* the King.

Merlin: Can it, mouse-boy.

Emerys: At least I'm a King.

Friedrich: If I grow up big and strong, I might be king one day as well!

Kitty: Huh?

Friedrich: That's a lie. I'm too sweet and mild tempered to be a good king. I'll only be a consort.

Kitty: I swear every year this gets weirder.

Stil: I think we should play my guessing game.

Merlin: Guessing game?

Kitty: NO! You should be answering questions and telling readers to support you in future polls, or thanking them for their loyalty!

Merlin: Ahh, yes. Public relations are a very important aspect of business.

Kitty: You only know that because the Lady of the Lake told you that.

Merlin: It doesn't mean it's not true—as her real-estate empire proves.

Kitty: Whatever. Solus, lots of readers want to know what you're like outside the game. What do you—Solus?

Friedrich: I told you to keep an eye on him.

Kitty: SOLUS! I'll stick Kit in a level 90 area in the next book if you don't answer this question!

Solus Miles: What?

Kitty: What are you like outside the game?

Solus: Do you *really* want me to answer that?

Kitty: Well, you can't say any spoilers, but could you at least reassure everyone you're not some creepy old guy, or that you aren't already married or something?

Solus: I am not a creepy old guy, or married. I don't have any kids. I live on my own, not in my parents' basement.

Kitty: Very good. Thank you. So that concludes this year's interview.

Emerys: Don't you have any questions for me or Merlin?

Merlin: Indeed—I was the winner this year!

Kitty: Yeah, but you talk about yourself plenty the way it is.

Merlin: *I beg your pardon?*

Emerys: I still feel cheated.

Friedrich: Really? I would have thought this year was a marked improvement given you didn't spend the bulk of your time as a baby animal.

Emerys: I'm *really* looking forward to meeting you in Angelique's series.

Kitty: Okay, that's it. Say good bye!

Stil: Remember, Stil for 2020! We can do it—I know it! With your help I can win again!

Merlin: Keep dreaming, craftmage. Your age is over.

Kitty: GOODBYE! AND THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VOTED!

Friedrich: If you keep clenching your teeth like that you're going to crack them.

Emerys: Plus it makes you look like a gorilla.

Kitty: I *will* kill you!

The End