

SheaCon 2022

Kitty Q & A 1: Magiford, Retha, and Others

Cindy: All right, everyone. Welcome to Kitty's first Q&A panel. I will be your host Cindy. You might have heard of me. Kitty's going to start us off with an announcement.

Kitty: Yes. I am really thrilled to announce to all of you champions that we have been working on audiobooks. I know I've said that in the past, but Leila's books that is *Court of Midnight and Deception* should be available in an audiobook format. I'm hoping by the end of September at the latest, and then we actually have the *Snow Queen Saga*, we're working on that as audiobook format, and that should also be available by the end of September. Like the entire trilogy.

Leila's books will be available individually. Then for *The Snow Queen* it's the complete saga, so you'll get all three books for in the one box set. We're very excited. We have some really great narrators. We chose different narrators for both series, and they are different from *Court of Midnight*, not *Court of Midnight*. They are different from *Hall of Blood and Mercy* as well. They have done a really fantastic job, we can't wait to share it with you guys.

Cindy: Oh, that sounds like so much fun, Kitty. Thank you so much for putting in so much time and effort to make that happen.

Kitty: Yes. I had some help from some amazing champions too who helped go through errors with me and stuff, and we will continue to be doing audiobooks in the future. It is not a fast process though, so they're a little slow to roll out, but we will make sure that we keep you guys updated.

Cindy: Thank you. We appreciate it. All right. Just to go over a little bit of what this Q&A is. These are all questions that champions submitted beforehand. We put out big polls that you could put any kind of questions out there in the months leading up to SheaCon. We did have to narrow it down a little bit. We're not going to be able to get to all the questions. Some of the questions we actually already had the answers to, and so if you want to check out the answered Kitty questions channel which is just above that during panel chat that most of you are probably currently in.

You can look at all the answers that Kitty has already given, including quite a bit of information about what your next *Magiford Supernatural City* series is going to be about. I'm going to read a short summary of what Kitty has told us so far. It's going to come at the end of this year, beginning of next year, much like the other *Magiford* series. It's going

to feature the black cat that we've been seeing show up sporadically in the other *Magiford* series so far.

She's told us that Chloe is 100% human, Chloe being the name of the black cat, but we've only seen her as a cat. We know that her books are going to be loosely based on the Hades and Persephone mythos, and that her Hades has been mentioned in Leila's books, but not seen. Kitty is torturing us with that information, but yes. We're also going to learn a little bit more about the Paragon's quest.

Kitty: Correct, you'll see a lot of the Paragon in Chloe's series.

Cindy: We always love that. We have two theories that we'd like for you to either confirm or deny. Is that perfect secretary that we saw in Pip's Trilogy, the black cat?

Kitty: She is not, but I am very impressed with you guys for catching on to the secretary. I have eventually plans to create a free novella as I did for the timeless fairy tales with *Princess and the Pea*. I want to basically do the same thing for Magiford that would have a lead in to the Magiford world. That secretary is going to be the protagonist of the novella when I eventually do it. I originally had plans to do it next year, but that's probably not going to happen just because of the delays that I had to go through, so that will be coming. She is going to be a character in the future. Her book like I said, will be free.

Cindy: All right. Okay. Then our other theory is, is the cat lady Chloe a human who is under a spell?

Kitty: She is not. Part of her entire story I guess you could say, is that she doesn't really belong anywhere, because she's human, but she can shift into a cat. That's a major part of her emotional arc I guess you could say, but no she's 100% human.

Cindy: Okay. Will we be seeing the Drakes in cat girl series or even Jade's series which is next year series?

Kitty: Yes. Jade's series, Jade is the vampire slayer that you meet in I think it's one of Leila's books very briefly, because she's brought on to work in the new task force. You do actually see her in Pip's last book as well. She is the vampire slayer who helps at the very end of that. Jade series will come out, let's see this is 2022. Jade series will come out in 2023, and we will see a lot of the Drakes in Jade series. We do not see them in Chloe's series, because one of the things I did with magic art in order to make it a little easier on myself is I made sure, because I'm going to have a very brief timeline split, so I wanted to make sure I wasn't going to do anything that would make it difficult to track, because I learned my lesson from timeless fairytale world guys.

I figured it out. Jade series takes place the same time as Pip series. That's why both the Drakes and The House Medeis, the wizards basically are heavily involved in that series,

and so as a result in Chloe's series they're not there, because they're still basically dealing with the aftermath of Jade series. In Chloe's series you mostly see the Paragon, and you will see some of the night court.

Cindy: Yay, so exciting. All right. Next question, people are really interested to see what kinds of main characters you're going to come up with next, people are asking about like a dragon shifter or an oracle or?

Kitty: Yes. You guys definitely really have my taste to figure it out. I definitely have a dragon shifter main male protagonist figured out, and I actually do have an oracle main female protagonist figured out. I don't 100% specifically for the dragon shifter, I don't 100% know what story I'm going to put him in. [crosstalk] Yes. As I've gotten further in my career I have gotten to the point where I will more mix and match things, because I want to focus on writing books that I think you guys will get the maximum enjoyment out of.

For me, I really just enjoy writing in general. There's not really much that will make me like or dislike writing as much as just me learning not to make myself miserable. Like having perhaps a too complicated timeline. Timeless fairytale world I'm looking at you. I want to do a main male character be a dragon shifter, but there's three different stories I could put him in. For now it's just a question of which one will I do, and I don't 100% know that. To be honest, I'll probably watch you guys and react to what I feel you will most enjoy.

Cindy: Thank you, Kitty, for being so detail-oriented, receptive, aware, there's a better word for that.

Kitty: Well, I will say I feel like you guys have made me into a better writer. I mean, authors will always want to be better writers, but since we have such a history now, and because I've learned a lot from people from classes like Brandon Sanderson's free class which I'll talk about that in the writing panel tomorrow, but watching you guys has definitely made me a better writer, and that I have a better idea of what you guys want to see. For me, like I said, I want to focus on things that you guys want to see.

There might be one or two things like one or two guilty pleasures. I know I did a YouTube video where I talked about how marriage of convenience is one of my favorite tropes, but that being said, I'm fairly good to this point where I think I can judge you guys will like a certain story, and then I can slip whatever my favorite tropes are that I want to put into that particular story. That's actually what happened with Leila, is I figured you guys would enjoy a story about a Fae queen in the modern world, but I really wanted to do a marriage of convenience, so I slipped that in there because I was like, "Well, I really want to do this though, so I'm going to do it." Thankfully you guys really ended up enjoying that whole plot line.

Cindy: You did it very well.

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Kitty: Thank you. It was so much fun. I really love doing marriage of convenience plot lines.

Cindy: Because it's convenient, right?

Kitty: Yes. It made the romance a little easier because it provided a natural tension. I'm all about that. If I can ever make anything easier on myself for the romance, I'm going to do it so.

Cindy: Wonderful. I have a couple of questions from Pip's series for you. People are curious about what-- we heard a lot about the alpha, what are the qualifications for a beta?

Kitty: The beta to me is almost like one of the more complex roles within the pack because they have to be able to take what the alpha intends for the pack and then kind of boil it down and be able to take it back to the packs. There's almost like an in-between person because the alpha can't be everywhere at once so they have to be super trustworthy. They have to be intelligent so they can basically catch on to stuff as we saw in the Northern Lakes Pack.

I guess their position is kind of right-hand man, but it also, in some ways sort of like the pack dad or mom in a way, because they have a very different position, where the alpha really has to focus on protection. The beta is more like, how is our family doing? We should do a checkup with everybody kind of thing.

Cindy: Another question that people really want to answered is does Pip's magic affect all shifters or just wolf shifters?

Kitty: It's going to be just wolf shifters. You guys will get to learn a little more about Pip's magic in the future because she and Greyson do show up again. It is just going to be wolves. I think honestly if I had her able to affect all shifters, that would be a little overpowered, and I try to skirt away from the power creep kind of thing so yes, for her it'll be perfect.

Cindy: You mean like the Emperess of the Fae?

Kitty: I know. Yes. The only thing that keeps Leila in check is that she needs her court. Otherwise, she would be such an overpowered character, but she needs her people. Yes, I'm not going to say anything more, but so yes, Pip's powers only work on werewolves. I will say, however, her pheromone magic is general. That works on most shifters, as long as I can remember that, but so like her ability to like draw the pack together is very specifically a were wolf thing. That doesn't mean that all of her defensive magic doesn't also work on other shifters. I'm watching the during panel chat. You guys are hilarious. Okay.

Cindy: Will Pip and Greyson ever get married?

Kitty: They will. They're not married in Chloe's books because the epilogue happens, I think, around the end. The epilogue of the Pip series, I believe if I'm remembering correctly happens around the end of the first book in Chloe's series, approximately like, I don't have an exact, it happens in the seventh day of May kind of thing in mind but they will get married. It'll be safe to say that they are 100% married by the last book in the Paragon's quest of his like arc kind of thing. They're not married in Jade's book. They won't be married in Jade's series. They're not married in Chloe's yet, because that's where they're engaged. A little further down the timeline, it will be.

Cindy: Sounds good. I think what people are most looking forward to is how are you going to play with genetics and what their kids are going to be like, because like, apparently people are just fascinated. You give us these very strange couples that are breaking the rules. How are the rules going to apply to their kids?

Kitty: I do actually, like I used, like the old-fashioned old timing, like I think they're called like punt squares or something like that, but I just use it in a very much more broad general term. If you have a werewolf hunter and a werewolf from that, like, so from Pip and Greyson, you could, there's a tiny possibility you'd get a werewolf. Honestly, since it's Pip, there's a greater possible chance that their kids could be a werewolf. You could also get a werewolf hunter and there's a very tiny possibility that they could end up with a wizard or just a regular human as the child. That's because werewolf hunters are subsets of wizards as well. It's possible that the wizard blood could kick up and they'd get like a random kid who could be a wizard, not super likely, same with that.

It's not very likely to end up with a human child either. Let's see. I'm just going by the comments. Killian and Hazel, they could end up-- they can't have vampires. Vampires have to be turned so they could end up with a regular wizard or with a vampire slayer child or again with a regular human, which is highly unlikely. Most likely they'd end up with a wizard or a vampire slayer as their kids. I will say though, a word of caution guys. I have vague plans for their kids, but you're not going to actually see any of their children until I'm pretty much ready to leave Magiford. I learned my lesson with Elves of Lessa that the kids are so hard when you have all these series with all these people crossing over because, A, I don't have kids. I don't actually 100% know like how toddlers and younger children act.

B, then I have to keep track of their ages very closely. As part of that, I have to keep track of how they're developing, which is a lot harder than it sounds because I have to be like, okay, are they walking now? Can they like lift their heads up? If they're like eight years old, are they training for swords? With swords yet? What's going on? That's why you're not really going to see me. This goes actually for *Timeless Fairytale* world too. You're not going to see any kids until I'm basically ready to leave. Then I'll be like, okay, everybody has kids now and that is it. Then we'll move on kind of thing.

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You will eventually see children in those series, but it's going to be basically once I'm ready to like pick up and go. That could mean whether I am done with Magiford world or whether I decide to go to like a new city kind of thing. Then you could still possibly hear news of the other old characters and stuff. In order to make things mentally easier on me, you're not going to see kids very often.

Cindy: That makes a lot of sense, Kitty. We want you to take care of yourself definitely.

Kitty: Oh, thank you.

Cindy: All right. Still on the kids bench, will Leila and Rigel's kids have the ability to lie since they'll be like three-quarter Fae?

Kitty: I thought about this for a while and I personally think that they would have the ability to lie, whether anybody believes it or not. I don't think anybody would ever know because they're like, well, it's Leila's kids. They could be lying to our faces. Depending on what they're saying, like, if they're like, oh no, we can't lie. Nobody's going to believe them. No matter what, nobody's going to fully believe their kids just because of their parents. I personally think that yes, they would be able to lie.

Cindy: Too powerful. All right. People are wondering what game Queen Rime is playing on her phone during Leila's series.

Kitty: It is a very specific game. I think it's called *Nikki Love* or something like that. I should have done a quick Google search on it. It is a dress-up game where you play as this girl, Nikki, and you basically have fashion battles as you like make your way through the, like this pretend like world, because she's like from, I don't know if she's from modern Korea and then she gets pulled through to this other world, but they have like these amazing costumes and everything.

I chose that one because I very specifically was like, what is the most ridiculous game that like you would not expect a Fae queen to play? This is where I will say, I used to play *Nikki Love*. People are bringing it up in the chat. I used to play it and I had a lot of fun with it and that's why I was like it seems like Queen Rime is super competent. She really has it together. You would not expect her to be into this fashion battle game. That's why I decided to go with that specific one.

Cindy: I think there were some theories about that so whoever had those theories, very good. We're going to move into the love life questions. Will Indigo ever find love through her nerd bakery?

Kitty: It's safe to say that like most of the characters would, I don't know if we're ever going to necessarily see it per se. You probably would be more likely to see it in a short story or spinoff or something like that. I think I can safely share this. It's not too much of

a spoiler. The apartment building that everybody latched onto that is mentioned, I think at the end of Hazel's series. The bakery that Indigo's mom starts is actually going to be on the main floor of that apartment building, which you'll get to see the apartment building briefly, because it's still in construction in Chloe's series but it does conclude, I'm eventually hoping to have a series put there and then you'll see the bakery there.

I would think that would probably be the biggest chance you would see of Indigo ending up with someone. I don't really have plans for it at this point, but that apartment complex trilogy is also pretty far off.

Cindy: That sounds really exciting. All right. Does poor lawyer Dion ever get a chance with Skye?

Kitty: Yes, I do think that those two would eventually end up together. He's going to have his own little personal reckoning basically in order to be worthy of her, but yes, he is smart enough that he would recognize that and eventually would change his ways.

Cindy: Oh, good. We're rooting for him and their come up.

Kitty: Yes, I will say a little side comment. I don't remember if anybody noticed this, but at one point Pip says she thinks that the hunter family whose names, I can't remember off the top of my head right now, but the ones that she basically is friends with and they send the lawyer to dig her out of trouble with the Curia Cloisters. She thinks for a moment like, oh, I have wonder if she trained with a Fae lawyer, because they're so good at the wordsmithing, that particular person actually did, is friends with Lord Dion. He's out there doing the Lord's work, helping everybody pay like a wordsmith, like a Fae.

Cindy: Very good. All right. Can the nightmares transport somebody across the ocean to a different country? What are the limits?

Kitty: They cannot go across an ocean mostly because that would be so incredibly overpower and it would make army invasions super easy. They can go across the country, but they need to basically stop at various hubs. They can't go from Magiford to LA. They would have to be making pit stops basically along the way. I don't know if you want to say get out and take a little bit, but yes, it's not an instantaneous thing. There are certain limits. They'd get there faster than any airplane but it would take them a little bit.

Cindy: Good to know, all right. Shades or glooms?

Kitty: I honestly would have to go with neither and say nightmares. I am definitely more of a horse girl. I just love the nightmares so much. I also do love the trash griffin. If I had to choose one, that was an accurate representation of Kitty, 100% trash griffin. Yes. That one would definitely be me.

Cindy: All right. Good to know. Shifting over a little bit to the Drakes and Hazel and House Medeis, do Momoko and Felix ever become blood donors, who do they--

Kitty: Momoko will, she because she does end up with Josh. You've seen that in the background of some of the books. She definitely would be a donor for him. Felix would most honestly, a lot of the wizards from house Medeis would be open to being donors just because they trust the Drakes. That is something that you will continue to see later in the series is that they continue to be more tied together in that way. I don't necessarily know who Felix would specifically donate to. He'd probably have fun if it was Celestina just because she's so awesome, but yes, they do become donors.

Cindy: Good to know. Thank you. How does the Drake family get all their money? We constantly see them spending it, but where do they earn it?

Kitty: Part of it is that, most of it is because they're so long-lived and part of it is specifically because it's Killian. Basically, once you're as old as Killian is, it's a lot easier to see the patterns in history and to figure out what you should invest in what you should not invest in. Once you have the funds to start investing in, it's just a lot easier to keep your money up and going and that's why a lot of even this is in the real world, you'll see a lot of the old families that have lots of money. They keep it despite spending it like it's water or something. It's just because they have investments that continue paying off. The vampires are like that. Typically, also vampires when they could change, when they could turn people more easily, they were still super picky about who they would allow in.

This isn't necessarily true of Killian. I'm going to go on the record of saying that, but so they would be much more likely to be sure, we'll turn you into a vampire. If it was somebody who had a lot of funds or who was going to be helpful in some ways. They didn't want just any random person, they wanted somebody who's going to bring something to their vampire family. They're snobby in that way. Killian also very specifically has a lot more than you would consider normal because he adopted so many vampires who like their families either died out or sorry, I just saw something in the chat, but so their families either died out or for some reason-- Rupert was an excellent example in that his family basically tried to coup d'etat and they failed and he was the only one who was labeled.

In adopting Rupert, Killian also, would've automatically gotten all the funds from Rupert's family that the European Curia Cloisters didn't take as part of their price basically for winning the little mini coup d'etat that they attempted. Killian gets funds also just because he's one of the very few vampires who's willing to adopt. Most vampires aren't because they're super paranoid and it's basically like, well, if I didn't turn you, I have no way of trusting you versus Killian is pretty confident that he can win people over whether it's through sheer charisma or just through sheer force of him basically being around like Rupert. He won Rupert over just with how he made them exist, essentially.

Cindy: He did that with Hazel too for--

Kitty: Yes. That's very true. Yes.

Cindy: Why does the Paragon who's from the Fae who love tea, why does he drink coffee?

Kitty: The Paragon knows more than anybody else how easy it is for tea to be enchanted. It's showing that he's a little paranoid, so that's why he always gets stuff that's made by humans is because he knows they can never enchant it kind of thing. He also just does like the taste of coffee a lot. He's fine with tea, but yes, he's a little, he knows what can be done with tea. He is like, I'm going to avoid this, I do it, but I'm going to avoid it

Cindy: Makes sense. Somebody noticed that in *Magic Unleashed*, April and June showed up a lot and they're wondering if that's foreshadowing.

Kitty: A little bit. I was partially trying to show how since House Medeis is expanding and since they're getting new people, they're specifically getting new people who are much more, I hesitate to say competent, but more how Hazel wants to run the family. They are much more like, yes, no, we do want to learn to be better. We do want to learn to be able to fight that way we can protect people. They were showing the shift in their specific house and also how it differs from other wizard houses in general. They probably will show up. I don't really have plans for them to ever be main characters, but this is an example of what I was talking about with earlier, where I will sometimes leave loops open because I'm watching to see what you guys are most interested in. Jade's series got changed a little bit as a result of you guys being so interested in the Drakes in general. I do shift things according to that.

Cindy: I'm going to read this one, do all human and werewolf or human and vampire pairings result in hunters and slayers?

Kitty: No, as I went through earlier for werewolves, there's a tiny chance they could be were wolves or wizards. For vampires, there's no chance they could be vampire. They could just be vampire slayer, possibly a wizard or possibly a regular human. It's all like mathematically speaking, there's a very low chance of them being human or werewolf and the greatest chance is that they would be a vampire slayer or a werewolf hunter thing, but there are other possibilities.

Cindy: Which one of the Magiford series has been your favorite to write and why?

Kitty: I don't really-- they all are so fun in so many different ways, but I think I'll always have a specific fondness for *Hall of Blood and Mercy* just because it was the one that made the rest possible. I see *Beauty and the Beast* from *Timeless Fairytales* in the same light because it was the first, it made the way for everything that came after it. I have a

fondness for that because it's like, oh, I get to do all this cool stuff because of you. In general though I really mostly just enjoy whatever one I'm writing at the moment.

Cindy: That's a good way to feel. I like that. What inspires your heroines values?

Kitty: A lot of times I'll be trying to think of the various emotional arcs that I want, and if there's anything-- I hesitate to say that I want to address but a little bit. Typically it's that I'm trying to choose something that I don't want to say is in conflict with the main male protagonist but a little bit. For Hazel, I knew I very specifically wanted her to be big on mercy because that would provide a very interesting foil for Killian kind of thing.

Typically when I'm choosing that I'm going based on their characters and the tension I want to create in the story but also I guess, yes, something that I'd like to underline in the stories themselves because I really love books like *Chronicles of Narnia* and *Tolkein*. I really like how they also present things like chivalry and honor within those stories and I want to do something similar. I'm not as good of a writer but that's why I try to see it as the I don't know if you want to call it the watered-down version, maybe we're the kindergarten version of it. We'll go with that.

Cindy: Give yourself more credit, please. You don't have to have the elvish language completely flushed out to have a good moral to your story and have a good writing style.

Kitty: You guys are too sweet but I--

Cindy: Give yourself more credit

Kitty: I really just want to entertain versus I feel like *Lord of the Rings* is like a work of art kind of thing. I'm happy if I can just be entertaining. I don't want to spend years and years and years and years writing four, three books. That's not my vibe.

Cindy: Makes sense.

Kitty: I'm very happy to be more casual and just entertaining.

Cindy: I think we also prefer the more books.

Kitty: Yes.

Cindy: You're making good life choices.

Kitty: Oh, thank you.

Cindy: People are curious of how the wizard houses are made and what makes it magic?

Kitty: The wizard houses have-- I'm not 100% sure I'm going to use the right jargon because it's been a little while since I looked at Hazel series because now that I'm on Chloe's series, I am still focusing a little more in the night court. The magical houses basically have like a magical core and that is what makes them borderline sentient. They really are sentient in a way. That's what gives them the magic then to be able to shift things and change the house and stuff like that.

The art of creating the magic cores are pretty much lost. The elves used to have a hand in doing it but it was more than just the elves. It required a whole process and basically like with the war against the elves things just kind of like-- that was one of the arts that was lost. There were several kinds of magic that were just forever lost and that was one of them. They can retain all of the houses that they have but they can't make any new ones.

Cindy: Makes sense.

Kitty: Except like Hazel talked about how if the family that is the basis of the house. If they die out or if something happens then they will try to basically change the house to accept a new family kind of thing but that's a whole different process and it requires basically like the magic core accepting them kind of thing. That's why you can't make a brand new house.

You can't make a new magical house, but you can basically take one that has been either abandoned or just the wizard family is no longer there kind of thing and you can attempt to rehabilitate it to a new family. It does not always work and it rarely goes well.

Cindy: Interesting. Very fascinating. All right. Do all the Fae healing spells not work on a wizard?

Kitty: This is going to be, this is something fun that I get to talk about in Chloe's series is actually like so Fae potions all work on wizards and that is done purposely by design. It is addressed and if it feels overpowering and unfair that Fae regular magic won't work on a wizard but that the healing stuff does basically all the good stuff does and that's for very specific reason. It's unbalanced but it's unbalanced on purpose.

Cindy: Interesting. Okay, so we are just going to have to wait till Chloe's series to learn a little bit more, aren't we?

Kitty: Yes. That, it's really dealt with mostly in the second and third book.

Cindy: Okay. Something to look forward to. All right. This was an interesting question I thought. What happens if a vampire doesn't eat? Are they like semi drunk? Are they just really weak?

Kitty: They would grow progressively weaker and it would start to mentally affect them, not so they act drunk more so they're just starved and they would become progressively more impulsive, and brash, and just basically deteriorate mentally. It would take a very long time though for that to happen kind of thing. In order for them to get really bad it would take years. It's not something that happens just in a matter of months.

Cindy: All right. Well, that's all the Magiford questions I have. We're going to shift over to *The Age of Retha*. I'm going to start off with some slightly technical questions like people are asking about if we'll ever see a map of Retha.

Kitty: I would really love to do that. The one problem is that specifically with Retha I am really bad at being like oh I want to go to a new spot. I'm just going to invent it and that's why there is no map because I'd feel a little bad if I was constantly updating it with new locations. If you guys are really that interested maybe I would make one for the website. I wouldn't ever put it in the book though just because like I said I'd be updating it with random new locations.

I really like creating new settings but what I was getting at when I mentioned *Tolkein* is that I don't actually love looking at an entire world and being like I am going to sculpt this whole thing like add in one go, and I know every single blade of grass. No, that's not me. I'm more likely to be like okay I know I want my characters to go to X number of locations. I want them all to be very different. What different settings can I create? That's why there is no specific map because I'm very bad at that.

Poor Zook has been dealing with that as he's been creating the Retha and dragons campaigns is that I'm like I don't know what's there. Good luck. So if you guys really want a map I can create one but just be aware that it won't be forever. That way it'll basically change whenever I decide to take them to a new location.

Cindy: Fun. It's like you're leaving the world open that you can play with it and still make it more stuff, it's not set in stone.

Kitty: Yes. I have considered making a Magiford map too but the problem with that is they've got some really awesome map making programs for fantasy maps but nobody has anything for modern day maps. That also kind of has the same problem where I will create new settings and locations and then I would have to update the map. I'd feel really bad about putting that in a book and then guess what, that's out of date.

Cindy: Sometimes you have map, especially in series you have maps for that book and then the next book gets updated but that's a different conversation.

Kitty: Yes, that's true. Just I see in the panel chat Zook pointed out that there is an official map in the Retha and Dragon's book and that is true. He and I went over it and we looked

at it and it's a very good representation of what I'm picturing at this moment and that I don't have anything else that I just came up with at the spur of the moment basically.

Cindy: Well, are you going to include a name or person identification guide with your *Age of Retha* book?

Kitty: Yes. That is something you guys asked for and along with some vocabulary terms. We definitely are looking into doing that. Retha, the next book as I've said is going to be released next year because of the health problems that I had this year. Unfortunately, I was really secretly hoping to get it mostly done this year but I have not been able. I have I think the first 20 pages done which is not very much for a Retha book because those are super long, but so we're probably going to see it like fall of next year.

I'm hoping to get it out by then. As part of that, I am hoping to include a name guide just because I need all the names anyways so it won't really be that much work to create a name guide or a very general vocab guide too to put in the book as well.

Cindy: Good. Thank you. I appreciate that. Who is your favorite background, background character? The askee gives the example of Nyxiane.

Kitty: I don't know if they're considered background, background enough, but I really like Fame and Fortune just because they're so funny. I like how they're very predictable but yet, it really lets them plague people as a result. I just really ended up liking them. They're a pain to haul around because they have all this knowledge, and I'm like, "Okay, I have to be inventing stuff for them to know," but Fame and Fortune I definitely have a big soft spot for just because they're so funny.

Cindy: Are they your favorite, favorite character to write, or is that somebody else?

Kitty: Are we talking specifically in Retha or in all books?

Cindy: Yes.

Kitty: I think they probably would be my favorites to write in Retha. I really enjoy Kit and Solus, obviously, but Fame and Fortune are just so much fun.

Cindy: Good. We enjoy reading them, so that's bonus points. This is more about your personal gaming style. From most to least favorite, how would you rank different types of MMO activity? I can give you examples if you want.

Kitty: Sure, I think I know what you mean, but I'll take an example.

Cindy: Dungeon runs, person versus person matches, mob grinds, quest.

Kitty: Person versus person matches are probably at the dead last for me. They're always chaotic and crazy, and I prefer a little more structure. I do really like doing dungeon runs. They can be super fun, especially if you have the right group that you're going with. They definitely rank up at the top for me. Level grinding can be really like, "Ugh," but some of my favorite times though, that I do remember are actually level grinding because since it's so tedious and you just do the same thing over and over again, that means that once you get into the-- I don't know if you want to say, pattern, then you can more easily be talking to people while you're doing it.

I had lots of fun conversations with my fellow guild mates and stuff like that, doing that kind of thing. I'm really not very good at crafting just because I'm like, "This is so much work. I don't have any patience for this." That would probably rank down more towards the bottom, but I would obsessively collect horses and mounts and stuff like that. That was always one of my favorite activities to do.

Cindy: What about quests?

Kitty: I like doing quests just because I do like leveling up. I like trying to, what's called, max-min my character, which is where you basically try to maximize their stats. Kits, her characters are all very, I guess, you could say maximized, which means that they have very big strengths and then very big weaknesses. That is my style of playing as well, so I do like leveling.

Cindy: All right, so that's all the Retha questions. One of the champions says that they really love the MBRC, the Magical Beings Rehabilitation Center series, but it doesn't seem to pop up a lot when you're talking about your books, and they're wondering why.

Kitty: I think it's because it's a less popular series, and that's where I understand I wrote the first MBRC book when I was-- I don't remember if I was in high school or when I was in college, but it was years ago when I was a young girl. I will say the MBRC series is in the rare position where the second book is infinitely better than the first book because the second book actually has a plot, and the first one is a little more slice of life.

I think it can be hard for readers to get into the slice of life thing, especially because it's urban fantasy, and urban fantasy is typically much more intense. It definitely has a hardcore plot that you're following. Part of it is just that it's a little bit of an unusual book, and I don't want to make people feel bad if they don't really like the first book, so I don't push it super hardcore because I don't want to be pushy.

Cindy: You should still feel proud of it, especially that you wrote it in late high school, college and it came out so wonderful. I don't know. My favorite anime is a slice of life.

Kitty: I do actually like the slice of life too, but it is a full on book though to be slice of life in all honestly just because of certain things. I was like, "Oh, I want to do something like this. Then I want to do something like this."

Cindy: We enjoy it. All right. Are there any books, movies, or video games that inspired *Princess Ahira*?

Kitty: I feel like there's a very specific timeline when I was in, approximately, middle school, where there was a bunch of really good fairytale-esque books that were out. I'm talking about *Ella Enchanted*. I think it's called *The Enchanted Forest Chronicles*. They were all books that were very story books sort of feel, and they all took slight twists on what we would consider fairytale/storybook tropes.

For instance, *Enchanted Forest Chronicles* is about a girl who goes to live with dragons, and she enjoys it. Obviously, you can see how that would heavily influence Ahira but then also in *Ella Enchanted*, you get all these fairy tales, where it's not quite what you would expect. The characters aren't exactly what you would expect, and magic is used in different ways. There were a number of books that came out in that time period that all had that same similar feel, and I really, really loved those books. They definitely heavily influenced *Princess Ahira*.

Cindy: So fun. Can we get to the *Life Reader* questions? They're wondering if book two is going to be still from Raven's point of view or from somebody else's.

Kitty: It will be from Raven's point of view. Yes, although you will get segments where it will also be from the twins' point of view.

Cindy: Oh, is that because one of the twins is going to be a love interest?

Kitty: Yes.

Cindy: Oh.

Kitty: I feel like it's pretty obvious in the book. Well, maybe not obvious, but it's definitely like Asher is the one that's more into her.

Cindy: Well, you've heard it now, champions. Asher and Raven, you can now put your ship names in the chat. You are aware that *Life Reader* is currently in Amazon jail?

Kitty: Yes, and I will say understandably so, honestly. That's another book that I wrote when I was in high school. That was my senior project. I did edit it a couple of times, but it hasn't ever had a professional edit. Unfortunately, it's going to be stuck in Amazon jail for probably a number of years if I'm being honest, guys. I feel very strongly that I want to finish Retha and Angelique's series.

Those are two things that have been on my mind for a while. They're definitely my priorities. I'm writing the Magiford books because they're fun, and they pay for all of my health care issues. I do really enjoy them, and I also need the mental break because *Retha* and *Timeless Fairy Tale*, Angelique's series, are hard to write just because of the sheer scale at which I'm writing. Those are the two that I really want to focus on tying up.

Once I'm finished with them, my plan is to then actually edit *Life Reader* and then do the sequel right away. *Life Reader* will get a little bit of larger edit as part of this. By that, I mean, I'm just going to age up the characters, so everybody will be in college. The library position that they have, page, is typically one that's held by high school students or college students, but the position that Raven goes into, not so much.

As somebody who used to work in a library, it always bothered me in the back of my mind. I'm like, "There's no way they'd have a high school student fill this position. I don't care how magical their society is. It's just not a thing." That's where I do want to also age them up a bit. That requires more heavy editing than just asking an editor to take a look at it. It's a few years off before it will be available again. Sorry, guys.

Cindy: We appreciate you taking such effort and pride in your craft and letting your own writing get under your skin. We are looking forward to the glow-up in a couple of years.

Kitty: That's a good way of putting it. Yes, it's a glow-up. The story itself won't have changed, but yes, the rough edges will be smoothed off.

Cindy: This one's going to be a tough one, Kitty.

Kitty: Oh boy.

Cindy: What's your favorite ice cream?

Kitty: Ooh, that is a tough one. I think probably vanilla, but that's because I love adding stuff. I really like-- I'm in Wisconsin, which we have the much beloved fast food, I can't think of the word right now, chain. There we go, fast food chain of Culvers. In Culvers, you can add a bunch of stuff to your custard, and that is probably my favorite where I just like having plain vanilla, and then depending on how I feel, I could add, let's see, I could add hot fudge and pecans or I could add mint and Oreos, so it's a mint Oreo ice cream. Plain vanilla but that is with the caveat of if I can add a bunch of different stuff.

Cindy: Very fun. All right. This is going to be the wrap-up question. Have you thought about getting any of your books translated?

Kitty: We, and when I say we, I'm not being the royal we, it's me and the team. We have discussed this possibility. Right now we've decided we really want to focus on audiobooks. The problem, it's a good problem, but I have a backlist of I think it's 48 books

or something like that, I can't even remember all of them. When we decide, "Okay, we're going to do audiobooks." That's a lot of books that we have to look at. As part of getting them turned into audiobooks, we're going over last-minute airs just to make sure it's as clean of a copy as we can get because once they're recorded they're never getting re-recorded. It's so much work, guys. [chuckles]

I don't want to do it again, and it's expensive, so I can't do it again. Once we get everything into audiobook then we'll probably start looking into translations, but that's still a couple of years down the line just because there's only so many books we can get turned into audiobooks per year. We're hopeful that eventually, we'll be able to get to translations but, for now, we're just trying to play catch up with audiobooks.

Cindy: The processes you're going through for the audiobooks is helping you be more prepared for when you do want to get translated, right?

Kitty: Yes, that's true. There's some legal stuff, too, that goes into the translations. They aren't quite as easy to jump into like the audiobooks so we have to get everything squared away with that as well.

Cindy: Wow. That sounds like a lot of fun.

Kitty: [laughs] Yes. That is what the guy will say. Nobody prepared me for the amount of paperwork and just boring office stuff that I have to do as an author, but I'm grateful for it still.

Cindy: We appreciate all the behind-the-scenes things you do.

Kitty: I'm very appreciative that you guys are so loyal that you stick with me.

Cindy: All right. Do you have any-

Kitty: Yes, let's see.

Cindy: -last comments about Retha or Magiford or anything?

Kitty: I'm trying to think. Well, I know I did the audiobook announcement at the beginning of the talk. We will, later this fall, be taking a look at getting Pip's books changed into audiobooks. You can expect to see those probably in spring next year. It's a general thing. Oh, this would be a good time to announce that we have actually welcomed a new team member. Her name is Deborah. She's not really going to interact with you guys at all because her position is office manager, but, basically, what that means is she's the Kitty wrangler. She is doing the bulk of the work with the audiobooks. At least all the stuff that can be outsourced, I guess, you could say.

She is also helping Meg with errors and she's trying to get systems into place because I'm very bad about systems. She'll be like, "Oh, well, how do you launch a book?" It's like, "I launch it and do stuff. I don't have a list." Which is terrible. That's a terrible business practice. Do not follow my example. We're very excited to bring Deb in and, hopefully, that will speed things up like audiobooks. [laughs] Instead of doing one series per year, which meant we would never catch up, we will be able to start doing all that stuff. For series news, as I mentioned, unfortunately, the next Retha book will probably be coming out in fall because I haven't had a chance to work on it like I wanted to. I think that is about everything.

Cindy: All right. Well, definitely take care of your health first. We will get more books out of you that way.

Kitty: [laughs] Yes, that's true.

Cindy: Thank you for answering all our questions. There'll be a part two to this that will happen tomorrow at some point. Check the schedule. I'm sorry, I should have had that prepared. If you want to know what is happening next, Drawing with a Twist is going to be happening in about five minutes on the hour and then an-- One hour from now, basically. There'll be a panel with Kate Stradling and Emily Deady. They're going to answer some questions there. We look forward to you for both activities.

Kitty: The panel is going to be so much fun. I'm very much looking forward to that.

Cindy: All right, thanks, champions.

Kitty: Thanks for attending, everybody. I'll see you in Drawing with a Twist shortly.

[00:55:34] [END OF AUDIO]