

Q and A from the Starfire Angels Series Facebook page (facebook.com/StarfireAngels)
(questions submitted by readers and answered 9 Jan – 1 Feb 2012)

Q: How would you describe your love for Raea/ Ellis?

Raea: **beaming smile** Like the whole universe is spinning out of control and I'm out of breath from the thrill...or like that song goes--cow in the road, swerve to the left/fate skips a beat and scares you to death/and you laugh until you cry...Yeah, that kind of says it all. I could SO lose myself in every moment with Elis.

Elis: Something like that. **smiles at Raea** I feel as if the whole universe has opened itself to me when I'm with her, like everything is right everywhere yet nothing could be more perfect and pure.

Q: Josh, do you think being human around aliens gives you an edge?

Josh: **shrugs** I don't know. What kind of edge? I can't, like, tell anyone or anything. I mean, it's great that Raea can fly and and Elis is the Dark Angel, but...I don't know. It's cool, but no fun since I can't use it to my advantage. Does that make sense?

Q: Elis, what would you do if Pallin ever tried to hurt Raea like he did when he kidnapped her?

Elis: Why would he hurt her again? He was killed. Raea took care of him. If anyone tried to hurt Raea, I'd make sure justice was served. Keepers don't kill--we value life--but I would defend Raea to the death if necessary.

Q: Raea/Elis: what are your plans now that you've graduated high school?

Raea: College. Definitely college. I mean, since Earth is home, I want to continue and fit in, make a life here like I always planned. I have full academic scholarships to a couple in state schools, so I might as well take advantage of one of those.

Elis: I'll stay with Raea. This isn't like home, where all our needs are provided for, as long as we serve our world, which can be pretty grueling; but it would be similar working at a job and being

paid. I might as well do what's required. I've made a few academic contacts who offered to get me into expensive schools, but I'll go where Raea goes.

Q: Raea/Elis how different do you think your lives would be without ever being with each other?

look at each other

Raea: I'd probably be dead.

Elis: Then I'd be even more miserable than I was before becoming a couple.

Raea: Why worry about what could have been? I'm enjoying what I have now.

Q: Raea: Do you ever think your cousins or your uncle suspect something is going on, with all the time you spend with Elis and all the time you've disappeared?

Raea: Probably not. Debbie covers for me to keep the secret. Mike hates all the attention on me and Dave is totally jealous. And when he teases me about sleeping with Elis now...well...it pisses him off, but since I told him it was good, he quit teasing >:) Now he doesn't say anything, and I don't care what he thinks.

Q: Raea: How would you react if Pallin came back and tried to hurt you and take you away again?

Raea: He can't. He's dead. I don't want to think about him any more.

Q: debbie how did you keep the secret from everyone for so long?

Debbie: I was Padina's only girl friend on Earth. She was the sweetest person I had ever known, but from what she shared with me, I knew things would be rough for Raea. I swore to carry out her wishes come hell or high water. It wasn't hard. I just didn't say anything. As far as Raea was concerned, the crystal was a special pendant her mother adored, which wasn't far from the truth. I told her that she should never remove it, because it kept her mother close to her heart. She never questioned it. I just kept praying that nothing ever happened to interrupt the normal life Raea had.

As for everyone else, they would never have believed me if I had told them the truth.

Q: Elis what went through your mind when you first saw Raea ????

Elis: It's like I told Raea recently*, "In that moment, a glimmer of hope rose within me. My troubles had led me to this. My heart longed to say something."

*referencing Origins of Dark Angel.

Q: Elis, what type of music do they listen to on Inar'Ahben if any?

Elis: Music is a personal choice. We have picked up styles from so many worlds, that it's hard to classify in human terms. It's not a big production like on Earth. Many Inari learn some form of music to entertain others, wherever they may be, including quite a few Keepers. We each have our interests, but I suppose you could say most of the music falls into a softer sound, with something like soft rock being as beat-driven as it gets. Most of us prefer something akin to classical or new age, and I found harp, string, and piano music without singing to be the most satisfying. Our ears are actually more acute than humans' and the heavy guitar and high-pitched wails of even soft rock tend to cause some irritation. Besides that, with all that goes on in one's head, too much stimulation gets overwhelming.

During my time on Earth, I found a few rock and country singers/bands I like, but I can't listen to more than a couple songs of such music without needing a break. Anything more than that is too much for me.

Q: Raea/Elis: Approximately how big are your wings?

Raea: Elis, can you open them all the way here? *eyeballs the approximate width*
Looks like maybe twelve feet or so. It takes lots of muscles on the back to use them, so it isn't as pretty as angel statues show it.

Starfire Angels Series:

Starfire Angels
Broken Wings
Crystal Tomb
Origins of Dark Angel
When Angels Cry

Coming Summer 2012:

Forever Dark

More on this series and other works by Melanie Nilles can be found at the following links:

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