

Like a phoenix from the ashes, Havok will celebrate six months of life's enduring spirit. Each month there's a different take on the season's theme, starting with Rebirth itself. This is a reference sheet only; check the Season Themes page on GoHavok.com to verify which months are open for submissions and which are closed.

Rebirth

From butterflies to phoenixes, there's nothing mundane about being reborn. Become a master of disguise to outwit a sly sleuth. Download your consciousness into a world-crushing automaton. Wake up as a baby and babble your way to work. Stop a doomsday cult from releasing a "new world" virus. Or learn to use your new superpowers on your eighteenth birthday.

Recycle

We're not talking plastic bottles, here. Think outside that cardboard box. Who keeps stealing your newspaper and replacing it with paper mache swans—and why? When will the oxygen and water run out on Earth's last intergalactic generation ship? What possible uses can you find for leftover fingernail clippings? Why is Jack the Ripper collecting all those organs? And how, exactly, do the fae turn a baby's laughter into magic?

Relocate

Whether you're running away or running toward, bring us the horizon! Write a mystery novel in the comfort of your new haunted house. Explore the hidden depths in a state-of-the-art submarine, even if you can't swim. Take your pet goldfish on vacation to the Mojave Desert. Leave your desk job to track down a Columbian drug lord. Or stumble through a mirror into a world populated by people who look exactly like you.

Reform

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men should do nothing." Investigate a corrupt police precinct. Demand freedom from the mad scientist who created you. Educate a shark on the benefits of veganism. Use your history as a mob boss to take down the whole organization. Or learn to resist your hunger for blood as you battle the creatures of the night.

Recover

When tragedy strikes, you can either lie down, or you can rise to the occasion. Wake up with a headache and piece together your fractured memory. Reclaim humanity's last outpost from the alien threat. Find out where you left your head because you forgot to glue it on. Chase down the stolen Hope Diamond. Or find your glass slipper before the clock strikes midnight!

Redo

Who wouldn't love a second chance? Redeeming your previous failure in the courtroom with new evidence from a crime? Saving your beloved with your Victorian-era time machine? Finally revealing King Arthur's secret love for show tunes? Giving it another go with your secret agent ex-wife? Reliving that fated day until you figure out how to save humanity from the time warlocks? At Havok, there's always time for a redo!

Using the Season Themes to inspire you, send us a story that fits any of the following Daily Flash genres:

MYSTERY MONDAY: From cozy to crime scene, start your week off with a bit of mystery. Creep through downtown foggy London Town, spy on secret agents at a midnight meeting, catch up with an old friend who may or may not be a cat burglar, or just figure out who stole your homework before the last bell rings. No matter the mystery, there's no case Havok can't solve from the comfort of your own bed.

Sub-genres: Amateur sleuth (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), cozy/whodunit (Agatha Christie), crime (*The Departed*), legal/medical (*A Few Good Men*), noir (*Blade Runner*), police procedural (*Silence of the Lambs*), professional sleuth (Sherlock Holmes), supernatural (*The Woman in Black*)

TECHNO TUESDAY: As your week hits its stride, don't be afraid to ask, "What if..." What if NASA really is covering for the aliens? What if your new cell phone comes with a free brain implant? What if a radioactive spider gives you super powers? What if time travel vacations are a thing of the past? With Havok, even the mysteries of the universe aren't too great to explore over your morning cup of coffee.

Sub-genres: Hard sci-fi (*The Martian*), soft sci-fi (*Spider-Man*), military (*Starship Troopers*), space opera (*Dune*), steampunk (*The Time Machine*), cyber/bio/nanopunk (*The Matrix*), voyages extraordinaire (Jules Verne), gothic (*Frankenstein's Monster*), dystopian (*The Hunger Games*)

WACKY WEDNESDAY: Halfway done, and who couldn't use a little humor over their lunch break? Well, embrace the lighter side of Havok as you laugh your stress away, 1,000 words at a time. Whether you're running alongside a hilariously unfortunate private eye, hitching a ride across the galaxy, helping a kid defend his home from Christmas burglars, enjoying a "sick day" with a high school adventurer, or going on an epic quest to find a holy grail, you can rest assured that your adventure will be anything but serious.

Sub-genres: Forget 'em! What would Wacky Wednesday be with a bunch of rules? If it's funny, light-hearted, and downright entertaining, you're hitting the mark.

THRILLER THURSDAY: As your week races to a close, get caught up in some heart-pumping excitement. Run down a terrorist before time runs out. Infiltrate a secret society before they collect the last relic. Untangle a sociopath's plot before he pins the whole thing on you. Take down a crime boss before he takes you down. And do it all before your kids wake up from their afternoon nap.

Sub-genres: Action (*James Bond*), adventure (*Indiana Jones*), conspiracy (*The Da Vinci Code*), crime (*Die Hard*), medical (*Outbreak*), man vs. nature (*Jaws*, *Twister*), psychological (*The Shining*)

FANTASY FRIDAY: TGI fantasy! Now, sit back and drift into another world filled with high elves, amateur wizards, magic wardrobes, suave vampires, and gun-slinging monster hunters. With Havok, there's no limit to how far the story will take you as you kick your feet up and usher in another fantastic weekend.

Sub-genres: Fairy tales (*Cinderella*), horror (*Dracula*), high fantasy (*The Lord of the Rings*), low fantasy (*Harry Potter*), magical realism (*Midnight in Paris*), medieval (*A Game of Thrones*), portal (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), urban/paranormal (*The Dresden Files*)

At first glance, our combination of season themes and daily genres might seem confusing. But like a new video game controller, it won't take long for you to get the hang of it. Below are some examples of how Season One's "Rebirth" theme can be combined with some of the daily genres. In case you're wondering, these story ideas are absolutely up for grabs. If an example sparks your imagination, run with it!

MYSTERY MONDAY + REBIRTH: Being reborn isn't only about butterflies and phoenixes. There's also pre-meditated metamorphosis, mysteries of mutation, puzzles that unlock true transformation.

Examples: A thief becomes a master of disguise to outwit a sly sleuth. A private investigator finds out more than she bargained for and wakes up with a hunger for blood and an aversion to sunlight. A retired cop finds a new calling hunting down the monsters that stalk the night; he's become one of them but cannot let go of who he was before. A murder investigation comes to the impossible conclusion that the victim isn't dead--she was transformed!

WACKY WEDNESDAY + REBIRTH: Being reborn, just like being born the first time, can involve some wacky events, humorous moments, and laugh-out-loud irony. Any genre will do. Mash 'em up, peel 'em, put 'em in a stew. No, not in that order, duh! Peel first. JUST MAKE US LAUGH.

Examples: A power-hungry and vain fairy eats the wrong mushroom and wakes up with more power than he bargained for--and more heads! A baby elephant tells her best friend she wants to grow up to be a giraffe; hilarity ensues on the African plains. When his own AI program tries to turn a nerdy coder into a man of fashion and sophistication for his first blind date, it's just one comedy of errors after another.

THRILLER THURSDAY + REBIRTH: Being reborn is about becoming something new, but it's not always a pretty process. It can happen under extreme duress, and sometimes the cost is high. We want to see how characters are reborn in the midst of intense action, intrigue, and adventure!

Examples: The daughter of an FBI agent must become someone else to infiltrate the terrorist group that has captured her father. An immortal at the heart of a conspiracy that goes back to Augustus Caesar's day must once again recreate himself to avoid detection. A kind-hearted factory worker taps into the berserker inside him when drafted by the military to defend his homeland.