The KINGOOO Chronicles Episode One

> Beresheet (The Beginning)

by Steven G. Kennard

- 2 Copyright © 2023 by Steven G. Kennard. All rights reserved.
- 3 The Kingdom Chronicles
- 4 Beresheet (The Beginning)
- 6 By Steven G. Kennard
- 7 Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved solely by the author. The author guarantees all contents
are original and does not infringe upon the legal rights of any other person
or work. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the
permission of the author. The views expressed in this book are not
necessarily those of the publisher.

UNEDITED

- .

| 1  |          |
|----|----------|
| 2  |          |
| 3  |          |
| 4  |          |
| 5  |          |
| 6  |          |
| 7  |          |
| 8  |          |
| 9  |          |
| 10 |          |
| 11 |          |
| 12 | UNEDITED |
| 13 |          |
| 14 |          |
| 15 |          |
| 16 |          |
| 17 |          |
| 18 |          |
| 19 |          |
| 20 |          |
| 21 |          |
| 22 |          |

# A Word from the Author

God has given to every man and woman a gift, a talent, an ability, that not only complements our lives, but when used for the right reasons bring honor and glory to God. I believe those God given abilities will be well used once we pass from this life into the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

6 The idea of a Kingdom seemed to always stick with me. I blame it on boy-hood 7 fantasies, or maybe divine inspiration, but whatever the reason the thought never got out of 8 my head. Somewhere out there, there is a kingdom of things more precious than gold. Within 9 this kingdom is a very special city that Jesus said He was going to prepare for us. The 10 scriptures tell us that this city is more than fifteen hundred miles square and just as tall. It has 11 twelve foundations and twelve gates, each one made from one solid pearl. The wonder of it all 12 is beyond anything any of us could imagine. I shall be a part of that one day.

At some point another thought came to me that this earth is a part of that Kingdom also. Right now, the wrong fellow has most of the world listening to him, but that will change. This earth is part of a bigger picture ... a Kingdom picture. That makes everything we do and the words we speak just a part of our everyday life, in our little part of the kingdom. We are Kingdom people.

Like I said, we all have been given gifts and talents. Some discover their gift early in life, some later, and some never do. I like to think I discovered my unique gift later in life because it was the right time in my life. God had to get my attention and He did. There was given to me time to look back over my life and the things which have happened and in a rare moment I realized where Jesus was in all that happened. He caused me to remember a promise I had forgotten about ... when He said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you."

So, after the many years of self-examination, which led to much repenting and getting to know the one I called Father all my life, I began to write. I wasn't always sure of the direction or what would be the finished product, but I pressed on. I didn't let the fact that I
failed English in school stop me, I pressed on. I didn't let the fact that I didn't know what I
was doing stop me, I pressed on. Story after story was coming out of me and I have to admit
even I was surprised at all that my Father had helped to do, but still, I pressed on.

5 The most amazing thing that encouraged me to keep going was when one day I heard 6 from my Father, while I was working on one of the books I suddenly heard a voice in my 7 mind very clearly a voice say to me, "You Honor Me." that thought stopped me right in my 8 tracks. The idea that something I was doing or putting down on paper honored God.

9 Wow, isn't that what we all should be doing, shouldn't we all be honoring God in
10 whatever way we can, in whatever gift or talent we have been blessed with. The reason you
11 are blessed is so you can honor God.

- Honor God in all you do and in all you say, for in it you will find the keys of theKingdom and your place in it.
- I hope you enjoy the stories of the Kingdom Chronicles. They are divided into four stories: Episode 1 Beresheet (meaning in the beginning), Episode 2 The Rise of King Galen, Episode 3 The Book from the Library and Episode 4 The Battle for the Kingdom. It is my desire that my stories will bring honor and glory to the one who created me ... these are for Him, from a son.

19 S.G. Kennard

20

21

22

### Inspiration

From the deepest parts of my heart, I need to say Thank You to my
Heavenly Father for the inspiration and foresight wherever and whenever I was
willing to listen.

5 Inspiration is a funny thing as it comes at the strangest times in life. 6 Inspiration came to me while I was in my car driving, in the movie theater, the 7 shower and even waking up in the wee hours of the morning with a thought. 8 Inspiration can come in the strangest of places, and for it I humbly say, "Thank 9 You."

10 Thank you to my family and friends who have put up with me, sacrificing 11 their time in an effort to put these stories out. Thank you to Stephanie Ferguson for 12 her help in graphic design. Thank you to Debra Rood, Emily Ortiz, Pat Marshall 13 and my wife Kathy for their editing contributions.

## Dedication

To my wife Kathy, to whom I need to thank so much for her patience throughout these years of all my studying and writing and for all her first-round editing of the books. Thank you for listening to all my many explanations and all the spur of the moment mini sermons.

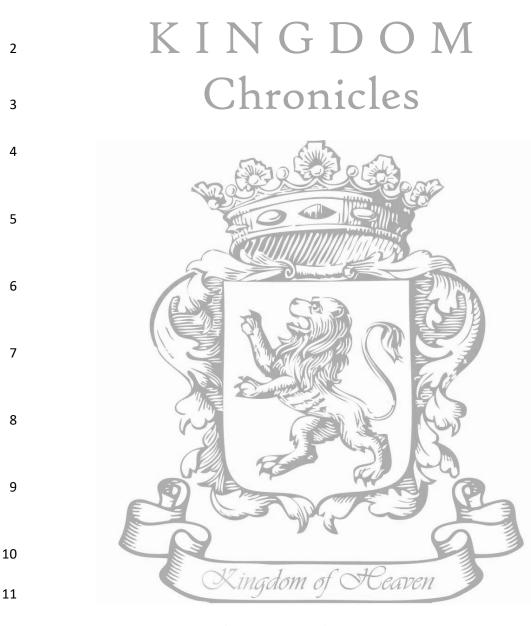
Most of all I want to thank her for believing in me through the forty-nine years that we have been married. Thank you for not only showing me how to love and how to be gracious, but for being the example of it to me each day. Your many acts of kindness and loving deeds are recorded in the books of heaven and yes, it will be worth it all ... someday.

To my three daughters, Leah, Kari and Stephanie, always know how muchyou are loved, and I hope you like the stories because all of you are in them.

To my wonderful grandchildren Aliyah, Aedan, Peyton and his little sister
 Kaylee, may you all enjoy the life God has given to you and may you always find
 happiness.

- 5
- 6

# UNEDITED



For the Glory of the Kingdom of Heaven

UNEDITED

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

2 PREFACE – Beresheet (The Beginning) .....1 3 Part 1 The Kingdom of Ildar 7 Galen's Gift 8 The Dragon Dream 9 Going to School 10 The Next Two Years 11 12 Chapter Two – The Book of Beginnings ......22 13 A Meeting with Father 14 The Book of Beginnings 15 The Twenty-Two Letters 16 Reading from the Book 17 The Calling Forth 18 19 20 The Reader 21 A View of the Kingdom 22 Will You Do Me a Favor? 23 As it is Written 24 25 26 27 A Meeting in the Garden The Battle Cry 28 In Defense of Ildar 29 An Unexpected Visitor 30



The Three Secrets of Ildar

- There is Another Evil
- Father Comes

# Part 2 It is in the heart that all wars are won

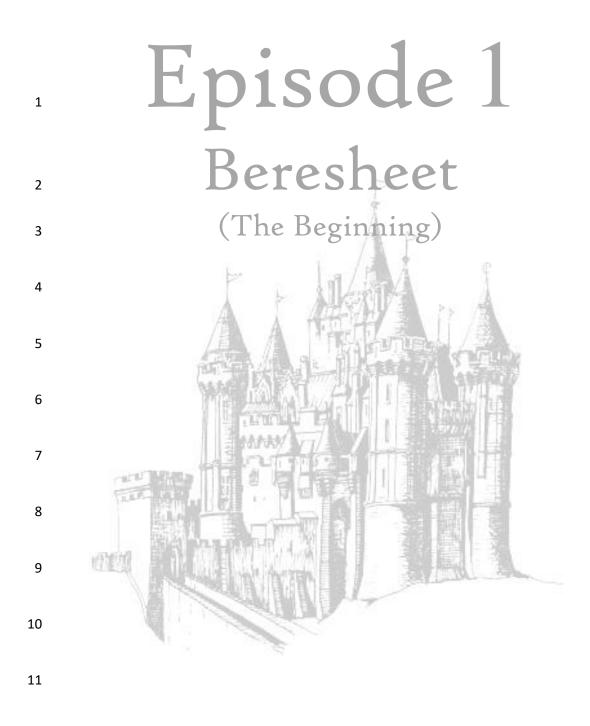
| 7  | Chapter Five – Home Again60                 |
|----|---|
| 8  | Home Again                                  |
| 9  | A Guardian is Born – An Act of Dedication   |
| 10 |   |
| 11 | Chapter Six – Battle for Ildar69            |
| 12 | Make Ready to Leave                         |
| 13 | Fathers Last Orders                         |
| 14 | On the Eve of War                           |
| 15 | One Last Chance                             |
| 16 | The Battle for Alexius                      |
| 17 | The Secret of Atoria                        |
| 18 |   |
| 19 | Chapter Seven – The Mountain City Kingdom   |
| 20 | The City of Yenom                           |
| 21 | Tira  |
| 22 | Where is My Halo                            |
| 23 |   |
| 24 | Chapter Eight – A King is Born in Adversity |
| 25 | Through the Tunnel                          |
| 26 | On the Run                                  |
| 27 | The Mindosian Trap                          |
| 28 | The Miracle on the Plains                   |
| 29 | Father Comes in the Nick of Time            |
| 30 | A King, Born in Adversity                   |
| 31 | The Journey Home                            |
| 32 | Home Coming                                 |
| 33 | The Grand Feast                             |

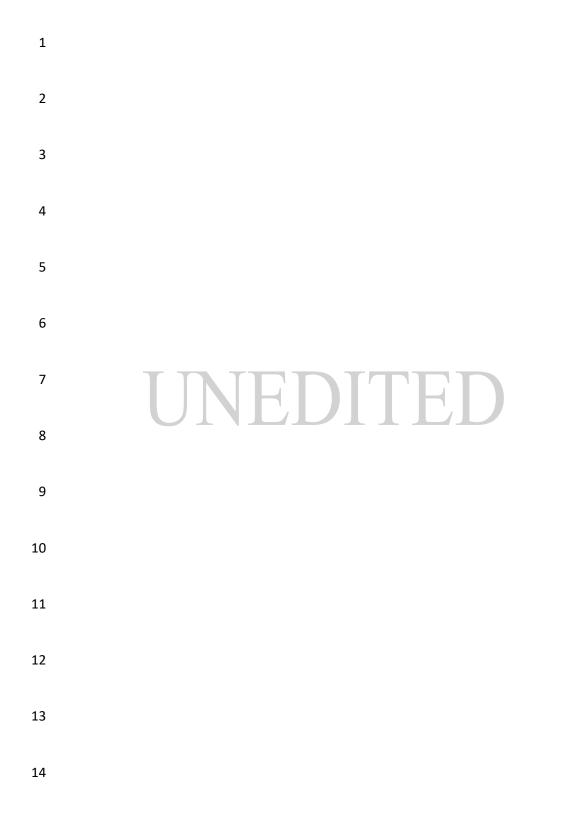
Part 3 Love Requires Sacrifice

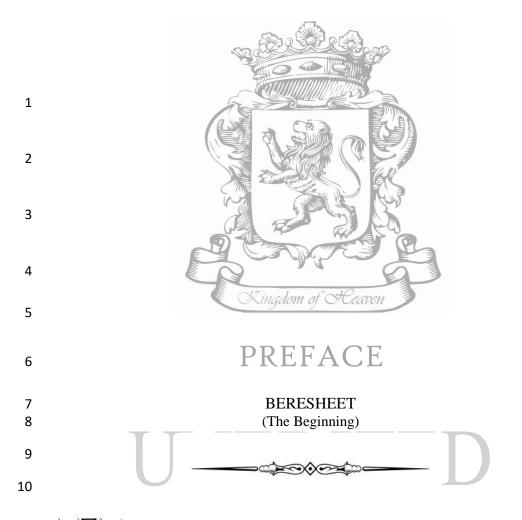
| 4        | Chapter Nine – The Quest   |
|----------|--|
| 5        | Searching for Tira   |
| 6        | Tira is Missing  |
| 7        | A Woman Named Diamond  |
| 8        | A Visit from Zurel   |
| 9        | Time to Leave, Tira needs Saving   |
| 10       | Joining Forces with Nordoff  |
| 11       | An Unwanted Visitor  |
| 12       | Valley of the Two Moons  |
| 13       | The Cave of Raven  |
| 14       | Is Tira Alive?   |
| 15       |  |
| 16       | Chapter Ten – The Land of Ellendale142   |
| 17       | The Road Less Traveled   |
| 18       | A Watering Hole  |
| 19       | Where the Road and the Heart Meet  |
| 20       | The Key  |
| 21       | Welcome to Ellendale   |
| 22       | Emmy   |
| 23       |  |
| 24       | Chapter Eleven – Rescue Tira   |
| 25       | The Rescuing of Tira   |
| 26       | The Researing of Tha   |
| 27       | Chapter Twelve – Going Home  |
|          | Back to Ildar  |
| 28       | A Miracle for Tira   |
| 29       | A what is the action of the ac |
| 30<br>21 |  |
| 31       | Tira's Proposal  |
| 32       | Dinner, Dance and a Ring<br>The Book of the Kings  |
| 33<br>24 | The Book of the Kings  |
| 34       |  |

| 1      |  |
|--------|--|
| 2      |  |
| 3      | Chapter Thirteen – A Royal Wedding194                      |
| 4      | The Wedding  |
| 5<br>6 | The First Dance  |
| 7      |  |
| 8      | Epilogue   |
| 9      |  |
| 10     | Cast of Characters, Places and Things found in the Book205 |
| 11     |  |
| 12     |  |
| 13     |  |
| 14     |  |
| 15     |  |
| 16     |  |
| 17     |  |
| 18     |  |
| 19     |  |
| 20     |  |
| 21     |  |
| 22     |  |
| 23     |  |
| 24     |  |
| 25     |  |
| 26     |  |
| 27     |  |
| 28     |  |

| 2 |          |
|---|----------|
| 3 |          |
| 4 | UNEDITED |
| 5 |          |







n the beginning, the Creator of all things created man and man multiplied upon the face of the earth. Nations and kingdoms grew up upon the land and mighty men arose and legends were told of
their mighty deeds. Now the creator knew the hearts of man that they were evil continuously and so He sought out a people for Himself and through them He
would make known His plan for the ages to come.

#### THE KINGDOM CALLED ILDAR

In the early days of men there were some who sought out their own way and they became builders of kingdoms. Soon evil came and dwelt among men turning the best of intentions into selfish desires of want for more. Men's hearts became corrupt and soon evil men took for themselves positions of power and kingdoms rose up. Evil rejoiced as kingdoms rose up against each other and many
 died.

It was at this time that the Creator desired a kingdom among men whose people would serve Him. This place would be an offering of hope in the world. It would be in a new land where no man had ever been before. This land was set apart for a special time and for a special people. It would be unique among all the other kingdoms of the earth. This land and its kingdom would be forever known as the Kingdom of Ildar.

9 When the right time had arrived the Spirit of the Lord searched the entire 10 earth for a man whose heart had not been corrupted by greed and the things of this 11 world. Now there was a man whose name was Alexius from a family called 12 Wallace. He was a gentle man not so quick to engage another with the sword, but 13 rather he would seek out the good and pursue it.

Alexius had no great works of his own, or even noble deeds which would in the eyes of men make someone worthy of a high calling. But unlike most other men Alexius had a humble heart, never seeking to exalt himself over others in false pride. Alexius was from a distant land in the Northwest Territories of Caledonia, beyond the great rivers. These were people of noble character, but in the eyes of God the greatest of these was the one called Alexius for his humbleness of heart and his meekness of Spirit.

So, as it was that in the early hours of the morning while he and his wife
slept, the Spirit of God came to Alexius and called out his name, "Alexius ...
Alexius hear me." The voice of the Lord was commanding, and Alexius heard
every word spoken even while he slept.

Alexius sat up and looked around in the dark room while his wife slept next to him, never herself hearing a word. "Who is there, who calls me?"

27

Then the voice spoke again, "It is I, who is, and was, and will always be."

Alexius answered back, "I am your servant Lord, what need of me do you
 have."

"Rise up from your bed and gather your family and I will lead you to a
place already prepared for you and there I will make your name great, and your
lineage shall be for many generations and many shall come to this place that I will
lead you to, and they will find me."

So it was that Alexius believed the Spirit of God and readied his family
and traveled many days journey to this new land with his wife and only son
Derek.

Now the journey was long and there were many men seeking to kill
Alexius and take his wife and child for themselves. The Spirit that led them was
also that which protected them along the way.

When trouble came the Spirit of God made that which was seen by the evil men different than what was. Alexius and his family suddenly appeared as mighty men, fierce and terrible to look at. Those who would do them evil ran out of fear for their own lives and Alexius and his family moved on.

Finally, after what seemed like months of traveling Alexius came to a spot about a mile away from the mountain's edge. There he could not go on another step, and he came to a stop. As far as he could see there were mountains, then the flat land and the ocean. No sign of life and no food to be had, he fell to his knees in complete exhaustion and cried out to his God, not knowing what else to do.

For many hours Alexius sought the face of God and humbled himself with cries for mercy. His wife sought to comfort him, but he could not be comforted. His fear was for his life and his family that they would not die in this strange land. For some time, all Alexius heard was the sound of the waves crashing upon the sand. 1 Then there came a time of complete silence as if the sounds of the ocean had been turned off. Then came the voice of God, "Stand to your feet Alexius and 2 let your eyes see what I give given you and your generations." 3

4

6

So, Alexius stood up and looked around. There, up against the foothills of 5 the mountains now stood a castle of white rock standing like a bride on her wedding day, and at its base was the figure of a man. Alexius could have sworn 7 the castle was not there before he prayed, but now it was. So, Alexius and his family walked over to the man who stood outside the castle. He was shrouded in a 8 hooded cloak and a sword could be seen out under the hem of his cloak.

10

9

"Who are you," asked Alexius?

A voice from under the hood said, "I am Zurel, Chief Captain of the 11 League of Guardians. I come bearing a message from He who knows all things 12 13 and sees all things. He sees your faith and the courage it took to come to this 14 place. Because of your faithfulness He gives to you two great gifts that will help you in the task that lies ahead." 15

Then Zurel pulled out from under his robe a medallion and in the 16 17 medallion was a silver angel and on the angel was a brilliant blue jewel. "He who is, gives this medallion to you. It was forged from within the stones of fire on the 18 19 Mountain of Decisions in His Holy Kingdom. Wear the medallion around your neck, but away from view and only press the blue jewel that lies in the center in 20 your time of deepest need. Then my Guardians shall come. 21

22 With the gift comes a warning, know, that the forces of evil even now seek 23 to destroy you. Have no doubt they will come, but also know that you are never alone for we shall stand with you. You shall never face an enemy alone." 24

25 Then Zurel held out both hands as if he was holding something. Slowly an 26 object began to appear and in just a moment a large book was in his outstretched 27 arms. Alexius reached out and took the book and held it close to him as it was 28 now a Holy thing to him. To the surprise of Alexius, as soon as he held the book for the first time, the book began to emit a soft blue light and a blue mist came out
 and engulfed Alexius and his family.

"Do not be afraid Alexius for I am He who has called you forth from your
home to this place. I am the Spirit of the book which is alive. With this you shall
know of your beginnings as it is written. This day its words shall be fulfilled. A
Kingdom shall be born in a day, a leader of great faith shall lead the faithful, and
the truth shall dwell among men."

8 Now when the mist faded away Alexius and his family was standing on a
9 grand balcony high up on the castle overlooking the ocean. In the castle they
10 found provisions enough to meet their needs for God had heard their prayers.

In time people began to come to the castle telling Alexius that they were drawn to that place. Not knowing where they were headed, they set out by faith and came. These were mostly common people with only a dream in their hearts and a hope of a better place. In those days many miracles happened because of their faith. This place became known as,

# The Kingdom of Ildar

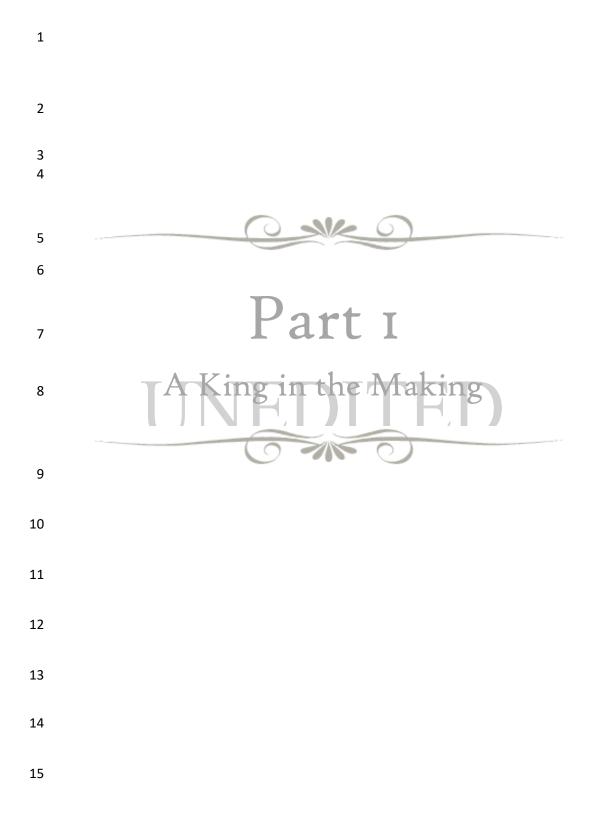


19

16

17

18



| 2  |          |
|----|----------|
| 3  |          |
| 4  |          |
| 5  |          |
| 6  |          |
| 7  |          |
| 8  | UNEDITED |
| 9  |          |
| 10 |          |
| 11 |          |
| 12 |          |
| 13 |          |
| 14 |          |
| 15 |          |



1

2

6

# THE KINGDOM OF ILDAR

here once was a time known as the Golden Age of Kingdoms, where knights and fair maidens, angels, demons and dragons could all be found. Stories abounded of noble deeds done by heroic men of valor, but there were also stories of greed and wickedness in high places.

At first the Kingdom builders promised a better way of life, but the life they promised slowly disappeared as men began to abandon the faith of their fathers, and seek out their own way even with the edge of a sword. Taking for themselves what was not theirs to take. Kingdom rose against Kingdom for the sake of greed and want.

12 There was one Kingdom that by design stood out from among the rest. 13 The Kingdom of Ildar became a beacon of hope to the world, a place where the 14 oppressed, down trodden and suffering could find rest.

16

15

17

18

rince Galen of Ildar was a sixteen year old young man of normal stature, with shoulder length wavy hair. He excelled at all the sports of his day and by virtue of his status as the prince he also enjoyed the attention that the young ladies gave him. Galen loved to dream of doing wonderful heroic things, filled with grand adventures, and rescuing young maidens.

25

26

#### GALEN'S GIFT

1

That night, just before they sat down for dinner, King Derek and Queen 2 Katheryn sent word to their son Galen to come and join them. That night 3 everything went as normal with all the usual questions about how Galen was 4 5 doing in his studies and then some inquiries about his social life by his mother Katheryn. After the family had finished eating and the servants had been excused 6 7 for the night the family could finally relax and be themselves, away from the spotlight and all the rules and etiquette of being the King and Queen. Tonight, 8 9 there were a few things to share with Galen. Derek suggested they go into the 10 family sitting room where they could talk more comfortably.

11 Katheryn looked over at her son, "Galen there is something your father 12 and I have wanted to tell you for some time now, and we want to do that tonight."

"I hope you're not going to tell me that another relative passed away." saidGalen.

Derek turned towards Galen halfway, laughing at his comment, "No Son, no one died this month so we're all happy about that. However, there is something we haven't told you up until now for your own good, or so we thought. So have a seat and pay attention to what we're going to tell you."

"It happened while your mother was still pregnant with you. There was a very strange woman who called herself Diamond who sought an audience with your mother and me. She claimed to have a message for us. I thought it all was quite odd really, but when she first entered the great meeting hall, her gaze was fixed on your mother who was by this time very pregnant."

"She approached us and said she had a message for us regarding our unborn child. Then she asked if she might come closer to your mother and touch her stomach. I was completely surprised when your mother agreed. So, this woman bent over and put her hands on your mother's stomach for a moment and said, 'The child you carry is a boy. I see him sitting among the royals for he is a special one ... he is already needed ... a reader he is. I see a gift that comes from
his grandfather. This gift reaches out and in a field of blue it will engulf him. It
will be the help the boy needs."

4 "Then she just walked away and that's all we ever knew of her. At the 5 time we just thought she was some crazy woman, but with the way your life is 6 going and the person you are becoming I'm starting to think she was right. The 7 strange thing was that your grandfather James died shortly after that, but not 8 before he gave your mother something." Galen perked up listening more intently 9 now, because it was the first time he has heard of anything regarding his mother's 10 father, James."

As Derek was telling Galen these things, Galen couldn't help but notice his mother pulling something out of a bag and set it on her lap. It was all wrapped up and layered in colorful satin scarves, evidence of how much this object meant to her. After Derek finished telling Galen all he had to say, Katheryn began, picking up the conversation where Derek ended.

"Galen, there were many things my father did and spoke of in his life that 16 17 I never understood at the time." Katheryn started to slowly peel away the layers of scarves until she was holding a small wooden box with carvings of angels on it. 18 19 "Most of what I do know about my father had something to do with what is in this box. It was always a mystery to my mother and me. I only knew it meant a great 20 deal to my father." Galen's total attention was now fixed on his mother and what 21 was in the box she held. Then Katheryn opened the lid of the box and a soft blue 22 23 light suddenly shot out and filled the room. She pulled the object out and held it up for Galen to see revealing a beautiful medallion with a blue stone in the center 24 of an angel of silver and blue. 25

"Galen this is special, and I believe it is a Holy thing. How my father got it
I cannot say because I don't know. When my father learned I was pregnant he
came to me and gave me this box. He told me to 'Keep it with me' and to

remember 'when I was alone, or scared, to push the jewel and the angels would
come.' A few months later he passed away, but I kept thinking about that blue
jewel and what he said. The thought of pushing that jewel for some reason scared
me, but I was always curious to find out if it was true."

5 "It wasn't till after you were born and I was alone in my chambers and 6 you asleep in your cradle that I finally pushed the blue jewel, but nothing 7 happened, or so I thought. Then suddenly without any warning the room filled with the same bright blue light you see here. In that light there stood a very large 8 9 man, but instead of fear I felt an overwhelming sense of peace come over me. One 10 that I had never felt before and I just knew he was an angel. The light was so 11 bright that at first it was hard to see him, but as the light faded away I saw standing before me the very thing I knew in my heart was an angel a messenger of 12 13 God. He was dressed in a white robe of fine linen with a golden sash about him. He held a large sword with etching on it like the ones that are on your father's 14 sword. The crown and the jewel are symbols of the Kingdom. But this sword had 15 markings like letters along the edge of the blade. Your father believes the 16 17 markings could be the same as in the Book of Beginnings, but I don't know about those things. They started just under the handle and ..." 18

19 Then the Derek interrupted her, "How many times must I tell you it is20 called the hilt, not handle."

Katheryn just rolled her eyes and continued. "Anyway, before I was so rudely interrupted, there was a golden crown symbol under the HILT and under the crown there was a blue jewel like the one in the medallion. I didn't know what to do next.

So, I fell on my knees and apologized for pushing the jewel. He was very kind to me, and just leaned over and touched my head and calmed me. To this day I still remember every word he said, 'It showed great faith to push the jewel. Always remember you are not alone, for we the many walk with you. The 1 medallion is meant for your son for whom you shall make it a gift to him. He is2 the one for whom many wait. His time is coming.' Then the angel disappeared."

Katheryn reached out and put her hand on Galen's hand and told him, "I have a feeling inside that I should give this to you now. You are sixteen and you're Father and I believe it is the right time to do this. Remember Son, this is not a toy. You are a smart young man and special for a reason that we have not been shown. We believe you have a destiny, that you will make a difference in the grand scheme of things. This medallion will help you do what you need to do."

9 Then Katheryn stood up and put the medallion around Galen's neck and 10 gave him a big motherly hug. "Always remember I love you very much! We love 11 you very much. This is a special gift from your grandfather James who even 12 though he never lived to see you born, knew you were going to be something 13 special, and he loved you too."

To which Galen replied, "I love you too Mother, I love both of you andGrandfather James too."

Galen took the box that his mother kept the medallion in and went back to
his chambers. He spent the rest of the night looking at the medallion wondering
what he could do with it. He looked at how the light passed through the blue stone
and then he pushed it ... nothing happened. "That's disappointing," he thought.
So he set it down on a table next to his bed forgetting the story his mother had just
told him. Galen rolled over and went to sleep.

- 22
- 23

#### THE DRAGON DREAM

That night as Galen lay asleep on his bed, the words of his mother still racing through his mind, the images in his dreams had become too real for him as he called out in the night, "I will never read for you, I can't ... I won't do it." He tossed and turned in his bed then broke out in a cold sweat, his breathing became harder. In his dream Galen was doing battle with a red dragon whose entire continence was evil, he held a girl in one hand who was very afraid and crying out for help. Who this girl was, was not clear to Galen, but she clearly needed saving. With his other hand the dragon reached down and grabbed Galen and began to lift him up too, screaming at him. "You will read, or I will send this girl to the underworld, and she will be lost forever."

"Nooooo," cried Galen. With his sword still in his hand he raised it up and
stabbed the dragon in his hand causing the dragon to let out a loud roar of pain
dropping Galen on the ground. Then again, the dragon cried out and lifted the girl
up high in front of Galen. Then his hand turned into a flame of fire and for just a
second Galen heard her scream and she vanished from out of the dragon's hand.

12 The dragon looked right at Galen and with a wicked smile on his face he13 said, "She is mine forever." Then the dragon vanished.

Galen shot up straight in his bed wide awake, breathing hard, in a coldsweat with eyes wide open, saying "What do I do now?"

- 16
- 17 18

#### GOING TO SCHOOL

Now in the morning Galen remembered the words of his mother insisting that he wear the medallion telling him, "The medallion is something special, keep it close to you at all times even in your classes. Wear it under your shirt, it will protect you. I just have a feeling dear that you need to keep it with you at all times. Will you promise me you will do that? Don't let it out of your sight."

| 24 "Yes mother I will keep it with m |
|--------------------------------------|
|--------------------------------------|

So, Galen kept the medallion close to him as his mother had asked. What
he didn't realize was that by wearing the medallion he would have a very different
kind of day.

1 It didn't take long for his day to start to change. It was in the first class of 2 the day, his religion class, that as the head Bishop Marsay gave his lecture, that 3 Galen suddenly heard voices and conversations that he thought were coming from 4 outside. After looking around the class no one else seemed to be bothered by the 5 voices or looking around themselves. Then within a few minutes the voices 6 stopped.

7 The rest of his school day Galen began to see events happening that didn't 8 seem to belong to him. He saw short glimpses of battles involving an older 9 version of himself that he knew had not happened. Then he started hearing short 10 conversations from different places and times. Galen didn't know what to think of 11 all this, but he knew it had something to do with the medallion. He couldn't take it 12 off because he had promised his mother to leave it on. It was the middle of the 13 afternoon when the last class was about to start.

Galen's last class was taught by the Bishop Donay. Also there were two new girls in the class now. They were sisters Tira Elizabeth Seager and Corinne Juliet Seager, but it was Tira who caught Galen's eye. The girl's father was a merchant from the region of Perkola in the far Northern territories, home of the famous Vikings. Their father believed it to be unsafe for the girls to travel with him, so he paid for the girls to live at the castle and attend school there.

Now Galen never seemed to have a problem talking to the girls when he was around them. Since he was an only child he wasn't around many girls anyway, except for his mother of course. Now after he saw Tira everything changed and suddenly he became too nervous to talk to her even though he couldn't stop thinking about her.

25 "Good afternoon my worthy students" said the Bishop Donay. "I know 26 everyone is tired so you will be happy to know that I have a short lecture for you, 27 and then I will give you your instruction for the week. Is everyone ready to 28 begin?" About that time Galen suddenly saw a flash of a battlefield and men running into battle with their swords drawn and spears ready. Still others were on horseback charging into a battle. This time was different than the rest. This time the sounds of the battle were so loud as if he was there. Swords were raised into the air and the men were about to engage the enemy, then it was gone, it disappeared.

7 "WHAT WAS THAT?" Galen said out loud and with a startled look on8 his face.

9 Bishop Donay was quick to turn in Galen's direction, "What is the
10 meaning of this outrageous interruption in my class, do I need to speak to your
11 father the King about this?"

"No Bishop, no I just thought I saw something ... I don't know what itwas. I'm sorry it won't happen again."

"You say you saw something? Would you like to tell the class of this something so everyone will know of your day dream? I pray that it is not Satan playing tricks on you son." After taking a moment to calm himself the Bishop continued.

"Today I will speak to you again on the subjects of proper grammar, 18 19 etiquette and the social graces for which your parents have paid a great deal of money for. This class is only offered one time a year mainly because my travels 20 and lecture schedule keeps me busy and is demanding of my time for which I 21 22 receive little in due compensation. If the truth be known my experience alone 23 should yield a far better payment of wages, so consider yourselves fortunate to have me as your instructor. Now everyone wake up and sit tall and pay attention 24 25 for you will have an assignment after this."

So as Bishop Donay began his lecture almost the entire class took a mental vacation. Perhaps their thoughts were off to faraway places, or focused on the boy or girl that they would like to catch the attention of. The important thing was to remember to look up and smile often so the Bishop wouldn't call you out for not paying attention. Galen's mind went straight to the new girl Tira and how he would get her attention. Like so often before he suddenly found himself fighting off evil in an attempt to rescue Tira from evil men. Galen smiled because he had this day dream many times already. He wondered if it meant something? Maybe he would be a great soldier or a great hero, a champion of the people and rescuer of fair and distressed maidens.

8 Suddenly all his day dreaming was interrupted and again there was a flash 9 before his eyes and he saw a great city. He was standing on a balcony that looked 10 out over the city and suddenly he heard the voice of a woman from behind. He 11 turned to see who she was when abruptly he heard the voice of the Bishop in his 12 face yelling at him, "Hello Mr. Galen Wallace, are you with us today? Would you 13 like to rejoin the class? Where is your head Mr. Galen?"

Galen jerked slightly as signs of life came rushing back into him. The class had a quiet laugh at his expense, everyone that is except Tira. "I'm sorry Bishop, I'm not sure what happened, but it won't happen again." Bishop Donay finished his lecture, but with a few last comments.

18 "Now class, the things I have told to you, if taken to heart and put to good 19 use will help you in life. Always remember that you are part of something bigger 20 than yourselves. If you understand this then you will do well in life. Now that 21 takes us to your class assignment. I want you to pair up, boy and girl, and write 22 for me what you would do if you were the King.

There were a few giggles in the class and a hand went up from one of the girls. "Bishop Donay, are you asking that I ... a girl should think of myself as the King and write of such things?"

26 The class all let out a muffled laugh.

27 "No, no," said the Bishop "The girls may write as if they were the Queen28 and the boys as if you were the King. Now is everyone clear on that?"

Galen looked over and noticed that Tira was already looking his way, she smiled at him, and so he smiled back and turned back around in his chair, nervously wondering what he would say to her when the time came. Then again without any warning suddenly he began to hear the sounds of swords clashing and men yelling. It seemed that every time he got around this girl these strange things happened.

Bishop Donay announced the class to be over with a suggestion that
everyone should begin working on their new project. "It has been a strange day,"
Galen thought to himself as he was leaving the class, but it wasn't over yet.
Suddenly he felt someone touching his shoulder, "Galen, wait a minute." It was
Tira wanting to talk with him.

As Galen turned around to look at her something very strange happened. His medallion began to glow slightly at the touch of Tira's hand on his shoulder. While it still glowed, Galen again had another vision. This time he understood the vision to be a few years into Tira's future.

16 In this vision she was dressed as bride. A most beautiful bride with jewels 17 that adorned her and a long flowing train as she seemed to be walking down the 18 aisle of the church right here in the castle. Then she reached out and took hold of 19 the hand of a man. Galen could not see who this man was for all he could see was his arm and hand. Somehow because of Tira's touch Galen could also feel the 20 21 deep love she had for this person. Now his attention was drawn to the hand Tira 22 was holding. On the man's hand there was a scar and the reason for the scar had 23 something to do with her. Then as quickly as the vision came, it was gone and the blue light faded away from the medallion. 24

Galen, not knowing how to speak to her and being too nervous to tell Tira of what he had just seen, thought it would be better to say nothing for now.

27 Then Tira, who thought Galen to be in some kind of trance, spoke up,28 "Galen are you okay? Are you even listening to me?"

"Oh yes," said Galen, "I'm listening to you. I just had a thought for a 1 moment. I'm over it now." The vision would remain a mystery for now, 2 something he would have to think about later, but the glow of the medallion 3 caught everyone's attention including The Bishop's. 4 5 "Galen, what was that under your shirt?" asked Tira. "It's nothing ... just something my mother gave me a few nights ago. 6 7 Maybe sometime I will show it to you." 8 "Sure," said Tira with a big smile on her face as she looked Galen in the 9 eyes. 10 After Tira left, the Bishop Donay stopped Galen from leaving to have a 11 talk with him. "Mr. Galen, I couldn't help notice what glowed under your shirt, 12 would it be possible for you to let me see this wonderful piece of jewelry?" 13 "Well Bishop, my mother has told me not to ever take this off, or even let someone else look at it. I would be abusing her trust to do as you ask of me." 14 "I see young prince, I would not want you to do that, I was just curious, 15 and can I at least see it as you offered to show Tira?" 16 17 "Well you got a point there. Okay, I can at least show you." So Galen pulled the medallion out from under his clothes and allowed the Bishop Donay to 18 19 see and even touch the medallion. "What a wonderful piece this is," said the Bishop. As the Bishop was 20 touching the medallion the blue jewel began to turn red and Galen suddenly saw a 21 vision of enemy's soldiers attacking Ildar as the source of their security had been 22 stolen. Suddenly Galen had understanding. He knew that the Bishop had 23 something to do with this attack. He needed to tell his father this soon. 24 25 Then Galen left and headed back to his room to think about all that had happened that day. That night Galen lay upon his bed, hands behind his head, 26 27 pondering the events of that day and the vision of Tira he had seen. As tired as he was, he dosed off for what he thought was a moment, but the entire night went by. 28

In his dream Galen began to dream of a beautiful creature of heavenly glory. Galen understood that this creature's wisdom was above all the rest and in all the heavens as there was none his equal. He gazed at this heavenly creature thinking it to be an angel. Then the beautiful creature turned into a hideous red dragon. As he looked again he noticed the dragon held in his claws a girl who called out to him, "Galen ... save me."

7 Now there was a second girl that Galen felt was related to the first girl that the Dragon held. This second girl was calling out to him from another place in a 8 9 distant land, yet Galen could hear her calling him. He turned his head to see who 10 this was and for a moment she was there standing in her safe place, but Galen thought "I do not know where she is and I cannot get to her. Right now I have to 11 fight this dragon." Then the second girl reached out and embraced a soldier that 12 was in his army and she left with him. Now there was still the first girl in the 13 dragons grasp and again she cried out "Galen ... save me." 14

Then Galen as he was dreaming began to toss back and forth, breaking out in a cold sweet and now unable to move, almost frozen in place as the Red Dragon drew closer to him to look him in the eye. As Galen saw into the eyes of the Dragon he saw the flames of Hell itself. Then the Dragon reared his head upward and in an evil voice he said, "I CHOOSE ME." His hand became like fire and the girl let out a short scream and then she was gone.

Galen woke up, but the fear of what he had just seen gripped him hard. This Dragon was in his dreams too much, he wondered if it meant something. For a moment Galen contemplated taking the medallion off so he could get some rest. All the visions he had to many for only a day, but that decision would have to wait too. He laid the medallion on a table next to his bed and went back to sleep.

- 26
- 27
- 28

1

#### THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Like all the other young people in the kingdom, Galen was required to
attend school. Galen thought it was special if for no other reason than he got to
see Tira every day.

5 The school was run by the bishops and the religious men of their day, but 6 they also saw the need for times of social growth. Many of the balls and banquets 7 were arranged so the young people could learn their social graces, which at the 8 time was as important as books, or stories of dragons and fairies and the 9 beginning of all things,

Because of his position Galen was also tutored in the art of the sword and of archery. If he was one day going to lead then he needed to know how to handle the weapons and know of the tactics of the battle.

Time went by and one year turned into two. Galen had turned into a handsome Prince who was talked about by all the young girls in the school and some outside the school also. Tira who now was sixteen was still the one Galen had eyes for. Through all the balls and banquets it was Tira that danced with Galen and sat at his table. The two came to know each other very closely and the rumors had already started to circulate around the kingdom of the beautiful young maiden who had stolen the heart of the Prince.

20

21

- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26

# UNEDITED



### Chapter Two

### The Book of Beginnings



#### A MEETING WITH FATHER

ow it was the custom of the King to meet with his son once a week so the young man could ask questions of the Kingdom or whatever else was on his mind. Derek always told his son Galen that these times were moments for teaching and that if he was to someday be the future ruler then he would need to start learning now.

As with every week before it, Derek would send six guards to escort his
son to his private study chambers, and as usual Galen was always never ready, so
the guards had to wait on the young man.

10 It was just a short walk to the other side of the castle to where the King 11 was waiting, but even for Galen there was always a degree of protocol that must 12 be followed just because his father was the King. As the head guard went in to 13 notify Derek that his son had arrived, it gave Galen a few moments to reflect on a 14 few things of his own.

"I think today I will tell Father that I am ready to help and to take on
responsibility. After all I am the same age he was when Grandfather Alexius
passed away. I know I can do this and I believe even Father knows it too."

About this time the large double doors opened and the guard told Galen that his father was ready to see him. With that Galen boldly walked in and went straight to his father and bowed and kissed the ring on his father's hand. The two of them embraced for just a second and then sat down.

22

"My son I believe we have much to talk about."

23 Derek told the servants to bring them some food and drink and afterwards24 see to it that they were not disturbed for he wanted to be alone with his son.

25 "So my son, what should we discuss? What matters of life and of the
26 Kingdom can we resolve today? You know I always look forward to our time
27 together."

"Father, today my question is of the Kingdom. I believe I am old enough
 to help and indeed I do want to start carrying my share of the burden as you once
 did."

About that time suddenly the medallion gave off its glow and Galen saw
another vision. In amazement another evil character stood in front of many men
and they bowed down before him chanting his name "Anu ... Anu ... Anu." Then
it was gone.

8 This time his father saw what happened, and though he didn't see the 9 vision. He knew Galen saw something. "Galen what did you just see? Tell me."

- Galen looked to be in a trance, but did snap out of it at his father's voice.
  "Father, it has been happening ever since you and mother gave me this medallion
  two years ago. Maybe I should give it back?"
- 13 "No, it is not ours to have, you were meant to have it. The medallion is14 talking to you son. Now what did you see?"
- "I saw the figure of something evil standing like a man and many menbowed down to this evil and chanted his name over and over."

17 "What was the name they were chanting Son?"

18 "The name was Anu," said Galen.

The King stood up and began to pace the floor stroking his beard. "I believe it is time, I suppose." Then he looked back at Galen, "We shall see if you are truly as ready as you think you are. I want you to sit right here for a few minutes while I see to something. Don't leave, stay here." Then the King left the room.

- Galen didn't know what to think of this change in his plans to talk with his father in detail, but that vision seemed to upset his father.
- 26 It was about ten minutes later that the King returned.
- 27 "Father, are you upset with me over these visions I have been having? It28 really isn't me; it is this medallion. How do I make it stop?"

#### THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

"Galen, the visions you're having are real and it is the medallion showing
it to you. You and the medallion are one. In time of great need or despair then you
should push the blue jewel button in its center."

4

5

After Derek had finished talking, he called for the servants and commanded the guards of the Holy Book to bring him the Book of Beginnings.

"While we wait my son let me say a few words about the Book of 6 Beginnings. In the beginning the book was given to your grandfather Alexius and 7 he in turn handed it down to me and so I will do with you. The book has many 8 9 things in it such as; how the great Creator created everything there is. Yes, there 10 are many stories of which I have been reading to you, so you will already know them and learn from them. Galen, if all you ever learn from these stories is to 11 12 have faith in something bigger than yourself, then it has all been worth it. It is a wise man who has this understanding and knows that life is not all about himself. 13 Make your life matter by making a difference in someone else's life. Always 14 leave something better than what you found it." 15

16 "Before I forget there is one thing, I wanted to tell you about the book and17 for now I want you to keep this to yourself. The book is alive."

- Galen was surprised to hear this, "How can a book be alive father?"
- 19

18

20

#### THE TWENTY-TWO LETTERS

"What I'm about to tell you has to remain with you alone. No one else must ever know. I am going to tell you the things legends are made of and of a truth so profound that it is never spoken of in the open, only whispered behind closed doors. This was told to me by my father, and I am going to tell you now so that you may pass it on to your children and their children after them.

A long time ago before all that you see on the earth existed, the Creator wore a crown of great beauty. On this holy crown He created twenty-two letters. Each letter was engraved around his crown with a pen of flaming fire. As each
letter was inscribed on the crown it began to glow with a magnificent blue light as
life came to it. Each letter was uniquely crafted for a holy purpose and a holy
duty. These holy letters when spoken formed the words that the Creator would
speak that would give life to the heavens and the Eternal Kingdom.

6 When the time came that the Creator would begin to create, each letter of 7 the alphabet came and presented his petition to the Creator to be the one that He 8 would use to create such wonderful things. To each letter the Creator responded 9 of His future plans for it, and the plan was wonderful and glorious, so he should 10 be patient until then.

After all the petitions had been heard and denied, it was the letter Bet that spoke up. Bet pleaded his case as each of the letters before him had done saying, 'Oh great God! May it be your will to create your world with me. For all that dwells here give their praise to you continuously through me. As it is said, blessed be the Lord forever. Amen and Amen.'

So the Creator pondered his request and then decided to grant the petition of Bet. The Creator of all things stood to His feet. He looked out over a vast sea of utter darkness and for the first time spoke the holy words beginning with Bet. In the language of the eternal God, He began to speak beginning with the letter Bet. The Eternal Kingdom of Heaven then was, and all manners of life suddenly appeared, where none had been before. Out of the darkness came the light and it all started with Bet.

As the Creator continued to speak the words of life and of creation and of new beginnings, each letter began to burn its image onto the pages of the book. This was the same book that was given by Zurel in the days of your grandfather. We call that book the Book of Beginnings. As it is on the crown of the great King in heaven, so it is that each letter that makes up our alphabet were also used to form our world and now lives through this book. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of
 the Book and reaches out to those who will seek him and bring honor to Him."

3 "Father, who is able to read from the book? It is holy and has letters we4 don't know; it is an old ancient language."

The King drew close to his son to answer his question, "It is impossible,
yet it is easy. It is impossible to read its words, but easy to understand, its author
is unknown, but we talk with Him every day."

8 Galen looked puzzled at his father's words, "You are speaking in riddles9 Father."

"Yes I am son, because the answers you seek are for those who go looking
for them. It is what is inside of a man that determines if he can read from the
book, and not only read, but read with understanding."

13

#### READING FROM THE BOOK

Finally the servant arrived back with an escort of the Royal Guards who 14 were charged with protecting the sacred book. Several of the guards came in 15 16 holding a box draped in royal coverings of purple and golden trim, decorated with the image of angels and the royal crest of the Kingdom. The box itself had been 17 18 seen by only a few all these years. It was said to be covered with gold and silver decorations and images of creatures of the heavens that no one had ever seen. As 19 20 to the book itself, all that was known of it was rumored, for no one but the King of Ildar had ever seen it. 21

Derek dismissed the servants and the guards and waited until we were alone before he pulled back the purple and gold draping that covered the box. He folded it and placed it to the side and then reached back to the top of the box. As he lifted the lid off a beautiful blue glow came out and lit up his face with its light. Galen backed up a few steps not knowing what mystery this book had that it could create its own light. What was in this book? The anticipation of it mixed with a degree of fear of the unknown caused
 Galen to turn his head and back away from the book. "Maybe this is not a good
 idea," he told his father.

With a smile on his face like one meeting an old friend, King Derek lifted
the book out of the box and its light shot out and filled the room with a soft blue
light. "Bow your head son, and kneel, for where we stand is now holy ground."

"What have I gotten myself into Galen thought? He wasn't too sure he
wanted to know, because by now he was more scared than anything else. For now
he would stay there kneeling with his head bowed looking at the floor. He
watched his father's shadow on the floor as it moved around as he placed the
book onto a table nearby.

Out of the corner of his eye Galen watched as his father took a few steps 12 13 backward and then kneeled. Then Derek lifted up his hands to heaven and gave praise and worshipped the Spirit of God that dwelt in the words of the great book. 14 15 "I thank you oh Lord, creator of all things and ruler of the affairs of all men. Great Father, whose Spirit dwells in the words of this book, know that my son seeks to 16 17 serve you as I do and my father before me did. Now I pray for wisdom to share with my son the knowledge of the holy and sacred things entrusted to me. Open 18 19 his eyes as you have done for me, that he may know you. I ask this in accordance to your will and for the people he will one day rule over." The light began to 20 move once again until it came over Galen. It lingered over him for a few moments 21 and then faded away back into the book and it was gone. 22

23

"You can look up now son, its ok," said Derek

24 "That book really is alive father, it is alive. I saw the light and I know its25 words are alive. How can this be?"

"Calm down now, calm down. Now you know that the words contained in
the book have the power to create, the power to lift up, and to tear down. The
words are powerful son, they are the words, that the Creator of all things spoke.

They are in the book and are more powerful than a double edged sword. This is
 why it is holy because the words of the book are alive with the Spirit of the
 Creator."

4 "How can I ever be as you? You are so wise always knowing what to do5 and what to say? I am not worthy of this great honor father."

6 "Now, now, just be calm. I was scared at first also, but in time as you 7 grow in wisdom and in spirit you will be given the knowledge you need. Now let 8 us get back to your question. You asked me for the truth in the matters of this 9 Kingdom, so I will tell you as I know it to be. It is my story also and it was a long 10 time ago."

Derek reached down and opened the book and Galen gasped expecting for
the light or something he did not know to shoot out of its pages, but it didn't.
Derek turned to Galen and asked "You still wish to learn the secrets of the book?"

"Yes father, I want it more now than anything."

15 "Just be careful son, I will see if you are truly ready as you say. You will 16 be tested as all men are, but stay true to what you have been taught and never 17 stray from it. Do you swear?"

18

14

"I do father, I swear."

19 King Derek began to speak the language of the book, and as the language was not known to Galen he wasn't sure if his father was reading from the book or 20 talking in his own words. A very strange thing was happening that Galen could 21 not help but notice. The words and symbols of the ancient book lit up on their 22 23 own, one after another as if the book was following along with Derek's words. When he paused the light would fade, then start back again when he spoke. There 24 was a connection somehow between the King, and the words of this book. He 25 now had Galen's full attention as his father spoke aloud the words only he and his 26 27 father before him had ever heard.

As his Father read from the book Galen heard these words, "Now in the 1 2 beginning it pleased the Creator to create for his purpose the Sons of God. They were holy beings with divine knowledge of purpose and understanding of the 3 4 Kingdom to which they now served. The Creator commanded with the authority of His majesty and from among the ranks of his eternal sons there arose several 5 6 who became the leaders of the many. Those He called Archangels who became 7 overseers of the eternal plan and were counted as great in the Kingdom. Again He 8 commanded and from the ranks of His sons stood a group he called Guardians whose task it became to guard the Kingdom and the truth as it was written before 9 10 the foundations of the worlds were formed."

11 Then Derek noticed his son trying to get his attention. "You have a 12 question already?"

"But Father, what would Guardians have to guard if all of them wereangels and archangels and where does wickedness come from?"

"I'm getting to that Galen, so try to be patient." Then Derek continued toread.

17

#### THE CALLING FORTH

"Now from the group called archangels, there was Michael, Gabriel,
Raphael, Uriel, Lucifer and Abaddon. Each one created for a special purpose and
given much authority in heaven and over the other Sons of God."

Then as Galen's father was speaking a servant came into the room with urgent news for him. "Sorry to interrupt my Lord, a matter of great urgency has risen and you are needed immediately."

Derek looked at the servant and then at Galen, and mouthed the words "I'm sorry Son."

26 Then he turned back at the servant and said "I am coming."

The book was still opened and in panic Galen shouted out "What about
 the book Father?"

<sup>3</sup> "Guard the book son, for in my absence you are its keeper and protector." <sup>4</sup> Then he was gone. Galen sat alone looking around the room and then back over at <sup>5</sup> the book. He found himself suddenly alone with his fear. All the stories he had <sup>6</sup> heard of this book started to replay in his head and he heard every word of <sup>7</sup> warning that was ever whispered in his ears, "Will my eyes really burn out of my <sup>8</sup> head?" How silly, he thought as he said over and over, "I am not afraid, I am not <sup>9</sup> afraid."

10 Then Galen's curiosity got the best of him. "Dare I take a peek at the 11 words of the book? After all father told me I was its keeper and protector for this 12 time while he is gone." Again Galen began to repeat, "I am not afraid, I am not 13 afraid." With that he leaned over and dared to look more. It was beautiful, more 14 beautiful than any book he had ever seen. He could not help himself, but to stare 15 at the symbols that he did not understand and then he thought to himself, "I wish I 16 knew what these meant."

The more he stared at the symbols, the more they began to look familiar as they seemed to move slightly on the page. Then somehow, he couldn't explain it, but in his head he started to know what they said and before long he began to read as Father had. The words began to glow blue as he now had the understanding that his Father had spoken of. "This proves that I will be king someday" he thought. Galen understood the strange words and symbols.

As Galen began to read his ears heard his mouth speak in a language he had not learned and was not taught, but in his mind his spirit understood. And as Galen read he realized he did not want to stop and the words came faster as he now understood the sacred words. A joy he could not explain filled him from inside as he felt the Spirit of the book speaking through him. He had become a voice for the Spirit of the Book to express itself, and as he read his understanding
 was becoming complete. With each word he spoke he grew in understanding.

"Lucifer, a created being from among the Sons of God, to him was given great beauty. Full of brightness and with great wisdom he stood out above those who came after him. It was appointed unto him to become one of the leaders of the many and because of his majesty of stature he commanded awe and respect within the heavenly realm. He was great in the Kingdom and was counted among the Anointed Cherubs that worship at the feet of the Creator night and day. He was perfect in all his ways until sin and rebellion was found in him ...

10 Then as Galen was deeply focused on reading the words of the book, he11 heard the sound of a loud shout, "COME HERE TO ME."

Suddenly the room around him started breaking away and the sound of a great wind began to swirl around him. For a moment the heavens and the stars in them began to appear. He looked back at the book and the words and symbols were no longer blue, but had turned to fire red. So he closed the book as fast as he could, hoping to stop what was happening.

With the book closed all should have been good and have gone back to
normal, but it didn't. Smoke began to come out of the book, "FATHER IS
GOING TO KILL ME," yelled Galen. "I was supposed to keep the book safe and
now it's burning. What have I done?" He felt himself being pulled towards the
book.

Then he remembered the last words his father said to him before he left, "Guard the book son, for now you are its keeper and protector." He grabbed hold of the sacred book and held it close to his chest and thought "I will protect it with my life if I have to." Smoke from out of the book now filled everything in the room, or what was left of it, but he could tell his surroundings had begun to change.

# UNEDITED



### The Kingdom of Lucifer



#### THE READER

he next thing Galen knew he was standing in a great hall before a throne that he did not recognize. It took a few moments before he could see clearly and make out images of his surroundings. Galen was still holding onto the book tightly, and was not letting it go, or out of his sight. In this place, wherever this place may be, he now had understanding beyond what he had been taught.

7 Now in this great hall was a beautiful creature that sat on a throne. He was none other than Lucifer. Galen was standing in front of one of the most beautiful 8 9 creatures ever created by God. In him Galen sensed great wisdom that 10 transcended the ages since his creation. His face was aglow with brightness, so great that the immediate area surrounding him glowed. His tunic was white as was 11 12 common for the heavenly host, but Lucifer's was trimmed in scarlet with a sash over his shoulder it too was trimmed in scarlet. He wore a robe that was inlaid 13 with the most precious stones; the Sardis, the Diamonds, the Sapphires and many 14 others. 15

As Galen gazed upon this beautiful creature he suddenly heard behind him the shouts and cheers of tens-of-thousands. He turned around quickly and before him he saw a vast multitude of the heavenly host, all with swords lifted in the air. Then again in one voice they shouted, "Lucifer is our King." After hearing this Galen thought to himself, "Is this the Archangel Lucifer I had just read about? But why am I here and where is here?

Lucifer leaned over on his throne and said to Galen "I heard someone who
was not a King reading about me from the book." Then he looked Galen directly
in the eye, "Was that you?"

For a moment Galen was startled by his question because of his great beauty, Galen was able to keep his calm as a lump came up in his throat. He tried to get out the answer, "I... I..."

Lucifer got closer in his face and asked again "I assume it was you, 1 correct? You are holding the book now aren't you?" 2 "Yes" he said, finally. "I didn't mean to, but my father ..." 3 "Quiet! I have heard enough." With that the heavenly host all cheered and 4 shouted. "There is no reason to fear me boy. I called you here to free your mind 5 and to show you another way. What is your name son?" 6 "I am Prince Galen and my father is King Derek the Great and son of King 7 Alexius my grandfather." With that a hush fell over the host gathered there. 8 Lucifer was thinking for a minute and then said, "That name is familiar to 9 10 me, you called him King? I see, so he is the one who became the keeper of the 11 book and you are his grandson? Were you not told that only the King can read from that book?" 12 "Yes ... but Father got called away and told me I was to protect the book. 13 It was my responsibility until he returned." 14 "He gave you authority over the book did he?" 15 "Yes, but I was just curious as to what it said, so I chanced a glance and I 16 17 saw the symbols and they came alive to me and I read them and I understood their meaning." 18 "You say you understood the sacred words of the book?" 19 "For only a moment, I only read a small amount. I heard a voice call me, 20 then I was here." 21 "I see. So you are a READER?" Then Lucifer stood up and announced to 22 the host gathered there "We are truly blessed for here with us is a Reader. He is 23 the one I heard reading about me from the holy book." Galen heard a gasp from 24 25 the host of heaven gathered there and then silence again. 26 Lucifer stepped down from his throne to where Galen was standing. He 27 was very large even among the other angels as he stood half again as tall as they and three times Galen's own size. "Come Prince Galen and walk with me and I
 will show you many things of which have been hidden from you."

3

#### A VIEW OF THE KINGDOM

So Galen followed this very beautiful angelic-being out of the great hall in which they were standing and as they walked out the back of the building the other angelic host parted their way to make a path for them. All eyes were focused on Galen and especially on the book. It was the most amazing sight as they walked through millions of angels, some with wings on full display and some with their wings tightly against their bodies.

10 As they reached the outside Galen's eyes beheld another most wonderful 11 and glorious sight. As far as his eyes could see there was lush and fruitful 12 gardens. He saw many different birds that filled the sky and trees and animals that 13 he had never seen back home, but were there.

"Behold my kingdom," said Lucifer "And there is so much more. It has
been given to me to rule over this part of the realm. What you see here is but a
small fraction of what I rule over. I plan to be expanding my Kingdom soon."

Galen looked around in awe of such things. Wonders he had never laid eyes on in his life, or even heard about. "What is this place and exactly where am I," asked Galen. "I have never seen a place such as this and Father never spoke of this place."

21 "This is "Eden, well it is a semblance of it anyway. Behold young prince 22 all that I have ruler-ship over." Then as if Galen was put into a trance, he had a 23 vision before him where he saw images flash before his eyes. Galen saw that he 24 was not on the earth, but in some other realm within the Kingdom of Heaven. In 25 this realm there were animals and birds the like of which Galen had never seen 26 before at least not in Ildar. In this vision he saw other worlds flash before his eyes 1 and countless angels that sang praises and worshiped the Creator. Galen thought it

- 2 was a flash to the past when all things were created.
  - "Do you rule over all of the heavens?" Galen asked.
- 4 "No young prince, only what I have shown you in your vision, but soon I5 think that may change."

6 "You will never rule my home. You will never rule over Ildar. My7 grandfather told me it was protected."

8 Lucifer bent over and looked straight at Galen, "Did you say Ildar? Your9 grandfather would be Alexius and he told you this?"

10

3

"Yes, my grandfather, and its King Alexius to you."

11 Then Galen heard Lucifer laugh and say, "This will be so, so easy." Then 12 Lucifer looked towards the heavens above and stretched his hands upward and 13 cried out "Soon I will be like Him and my kingdom will expand beyond this place 14 and above these clouds."

15 Then the multitude of the host all raised their swords in the air and cheered16 for Lucifer, and once again shouted "Lucifer is our King."

17

#### WILL YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

18 Then Lucifer looked down at Galen and said "Young Prince there is 19 something that you can do that would help me out so much, since you do have the 20 book with you. You seem to like looking at what you should not see, so would 21 you be so kind as to indulge me and chance another look at your book for me? 22 Can you do me this small favor just this once?"

Lucifer was very persuasive while Galen was in his evil presence and seeing how beautiful a creature he was. "What could be wrong with reading a small piece of the book?" Galen thought, so he agreed to help him.

26 "I will try to do as you ask."

"Ah ... very good young prince, you are too kind. Follow me if you
 would."

They came to another part of this temple and to a large room with a table where Galen could lay the sacred book down and read from it. When he laid the book down on the table, he then backed up three steps and fell down onto his knees for he remembered what his Father had said, that "We were on holy ground." He noticed that Lucifer did not kneel.

8 Then he spoke to Galen, "Do you know where you are and why I called9 you here?"

"I saw in the vision that I was not in Ildar, but some other place. I do not know except you said it is called Eden. Soon though my father will return to the place where he left me and will discover that I am missing. He will call the guards and many will begin looking for me and they will find me. Father seems to always find me."

"Wrong!" said Lucifer, "You are not of your time any longer. I called you here into the past, into a time long before your birth. I have been patiently waiting for a Reader to come who I could call. Your grandfather Alexius was the first who was given ruler-ship over Ildar of which I should have been. Your grandfather took from me and now I want it back. I am the rightful ruler. Then it was your father, he could read also, but he had help like Alexius did and I was driven out of the land unable to return.

Your father and his father before him were keepers of the Sacred Book which holds great secrets. The Guardians watch over your father so I cannot touch him, but you are different. I heard your voice, a voice I did not know and you were reading about me, and ..., well here you are now. You see boy, the book is mine and has always been mine."

Galen thought about that for a moment and said back to him "So if it is yours then why don't you just open it and read the words yourself?" "Foolish boy, only a "Reader" can read the sacred words. You are a reader
and this is why I called you here, to read the words." Galen began to notice a
change in Lucifer's tone.

-

Galen said back to him, "If my grandfather and his father before him
would not read for you then why should I? Besides I am not permitted to look on
these pages. It is only for the King to read."

"Nonsense boy, you had no problem reading them when your father left
the room. Besides you are heir to the Kingdom and will be King someday. You
can look, you can UNDERSTAND, you are a READER. Read these words to me
and DO IT NOW. TELL ME WHAT THEY SAY!"

Now Lucifer was very insistent and Galen felt that he dare not hesitate any longer. So he stood up and stared at the symbols and at words that he did not understand. Then a moment later they began to slowly move and glow their soft blue color as he began to understand their meaning.

15

"WELL BOY... what do they say"

"Give me a chance to understand the words," said Galen. Then the soft blue light turned to a red glow on the page and Galen's eyes saw and in his mind he began to understand and their meaning was given to him, "Your heart is lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness."

These words Galen spoke out loud and read to Lucifer. "NO," He shouted and again he became outraged. He turned away from Galen and faced the angelic host who surrounded them.

Then he raised his hands in the air and called out to the others, "My brothers I tell you that now is the time to stand up and take what is ours. The time of opportunity is upon us now. The Reader has spoken the words of our victory and we shall arise and go to the Kingdom of Ildar. We shall take what we want and shall rule over it. Where I rule, you shall rule with me. This is my promise to you. Go now and prepare and tell the others like yourselves who have been
 waiting so long. Now is the time. Tell them that the Son of the Morning calls
 them to come. We shall be victorious for we are many."

The angelic host that was gathered raised their swords again and let out a cheer for the victory that awaited them. They scattered throughout the kingdom to prepare themselves for what sounded like war to Galen. As Lucifer turned, Galen noticed his continence had changed. He was not as bright as when Galen had first saw him.

9 Lucifer turned back to look at Galen, and Galen said to him, "You are
10 planning to attack Ildar which is my home? You lied to me so I would read to
11 you. Those were not the words which I spoke from the book. You lied to them
12 too."

"They only need to know what I want them to know. Now tell me more
Reader. You don't want to make me mad, now do you? Read, or you will never
see your precious Ildar again"

16

#### AS IT IS WRITTEN

17 By now Galen was plenty scared thinking of what he might do to him if he 18 didn't read what Lucifer wanted. All Galen could do was to repeat what he had already read and so far it was not good news for Lucifer. Galen didn't believe all 19 his talk about Ildar because Galen's father was a smart King. Lucifer had a 20 surprise waiting for him if he did what he said. So Galen looked back again at the 21 22 book and waited until the letters and symbols began to move and light-up, but again they glowed red not blue. "Something was wrong," Galen thought. Then his 23 24 understanding came and he could read the sacred words, "You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you." 25 26 Galen gasped at what it said, but continued on, "For you have said in your heart, I 1 will exalt my throne. I will sit upon the mountains of Ildar in the sides of the2 north. I will ascend and I will sit on its throne."

Galen could not believe the words he had just read. They were exactly what Lucifer had just spoken to the angels who had been gathered here and assembled before us. "What are the words Reader? What do they say of me?"

Galen knew exactly what he wanted from him. He wanted words to
confirm his victory over Ildar. He wanted the book to confirm his evil plans.
Galen didn't dare tell him what he had just read concerning him. For the first time
in his life Galen lied which seemed easy to do here. "You will be victorious and
fight a good fight and shall rule." Galen felt good inside knowing he didn't tell
him what was really going to happen to him.

"Yes," he shouted out. "Yes, it is my time. Finally it is my time to rule. My enemies will be slaves to me. I will be like the Most High and Ildar shall bow down and worship me." He turned again to look at him, but this time his eyes were fire red and in an evil voice he said, "I CHOOSE ME." As soon as Galen heard this he remembered the dream that he had before. The dream was a warning. The dream was about this moment.

Lucifer turned away and stormed off; Galen could only assume Lucifer went to make himself ready for battle and left him there with the book. Galen turned the page of the book and looked over several pages until he came to a page where the symbols and letters began to light-up red again calling his attention to them. He focused on these symbols and letters until he began to understand what they said.

24 "You have set your heart as the heart of God." Then another page and
25 another line lit up, "How you are fallen, O Lucifer, son of the morning. How you
26 are cut down to the ground."

The realization of what Galen had just read stunned him deep inside. Heunderstood just what Lucifer had done. He lied to millions and millions of angels

that were gathered here and they took his lies to millions more to gather an army that would fail. Lucifer willfully did this so he would be like the "Most High God." Galen wished his Father was there, he always knew what to do. Galen was having some reservations about that comment he made to his father, about how ready he was to rule. It was easier said than done.

# UNEDITED



### Chapter Four War Comes to Ildar



#### A MEETING IN THE GARDEN

alen was not left alone for very long with the book. Lucifer sent one of his angels to get him and the book. He also was a beautiful winged angel, but adorned with the breastplate of war and a sword at his side.

"Reader, take hold of the great Book and bring it with you." So Galen picked up the Book and held it close to his chest and wrapped both arms around it so it would not be dropped. The angel reached out and picked him up with ease and with his wings outstretched leaped into the air.

He took Galen to a place in the center of a Garden. They stood on a number of large rocks atop a waterfall that made for a perfect platform and a vantage point over the rest of the garden.

From this place on the rocks Galen could see far into the distance and in every direction. What he saw was a beautiful planet full of lush vegetation, shade trees and numerous waterfalls off into the distance. There were fruit trees that abounded with every type of fruit. The entire planet, as far as he could see, was a fruitful place. Galen could see large birds in the air many times larger than a man. These are the creatures that were spoken of from stories the old men would tell back home. He saw mammals both small and large that he thought he recognized. This was a place at peace, unlike anything man had ever known or what Galen was accustomed to back home.

Galen then turned to the angel guarding him and mentioned how beautiful this was and asked if the entire planet was this way. He was very nice to Galen even though he was joining Lucifer in his rebellion and he was willing to talk.

"Of course it is, this is Eden. It has been as you see it now since it was created in the beginning."

"Are there other planets like this?" Galen asked.

"No, only this planet. It is the Garden of God called Eden. there is no other in the Kingdom like this."

#### THE BATTLE CRY

Just then the angel looked up and so did Galen. He saw a bright shining star coming to where they were. The closer it got Galen realized it was Lucifer and with him were hundreds of thousands of angelic beings, "Sons of God." These were the ones who were under Lucifer's authority and now they were here. The brightness of Lucifer's light, and his majesty of stature, was such that he commanded awe and respect from all the other angels. There was no question as to who was in charge.

Now they were coming from every direction and landing all around the waterfall area where Galen and his escort angel were standing. They kept coming more and more, from all over the Kingdom. Each one was dressed for battle, and carrying his sword. It did not take but a moment before all around in every direction, all Galen could see were angels adorned in shiny breast plates and the sun's reflection off of the swords they carried.

Then Lucifer ascended to an area of rocks that were above the rest so he could be seen by the host of them gathered there. By now their numbers were like sand and could not be counted. They were so great in number that they blocked the view of the Garden and of all things as they crowded in close to the waterfalls that Galen stood upon. The sky above was equally filled with their numbers with all of them crowding in to see and hear the words of their leader Lucifer.

Lucifer pulled out his sword which was mightier than the rest and thrust it upward. All the host of heaven joined him in cheers and a rumbling noise that I'm sure could be heard around the planet. Then Lucifer lowered his sword and began to speak. Calm and quiet came over them all as they anticipated the words of their leader.

"I Lucifer Prince of the Power of the Air and of this world, and anointed Cherub before the throne of God Himself, greet you in my own name." Then all the angels cheered and held their swords in the air shouting for Lucifer. "Welcome my brothers to the dawning of a new leadership in the Kingdom." Then the cheers were shouted again and swords lifted skyward again to show solidarity with their leader.

"I have found for us a Prince of Ildar and I have brought him here. He is a Reader of the sacred words of the Book of Beginnings and he has read to me the words of the book and assures me we will be successful in all I have commanded for us to do."

Then more cheers went up and Galen felt the eyes of all the host looking at him and the Book that he held. Galen wanted to shout out, "He is lying to you." But they would not hear him over the noise, and then he was afraid of what Lucifer could do to him, for who was he in this place, just a man of flesh and blood.

Again Lucifer addressed the assembly, "I shall ascend above the heights of the clouds, I shall sit on the throne of Ildar and then of Heaven and rule as it is my right and you my brothers will be the leaders of many. You will be called mighty and together we shall possess the Kingdom. It shall be ours and we shall rule over it." With that came more cheers and the ground began to vibrate from thousands of thousands of swords banging on it in agreement with the words of Lucifer. "Are you my brothers ready to claim what is yours? Are you ready to take it by force if you have to?"

The angels roared, shouting, "The Kingdom of Ildar and all of Heaven is ours and we will take what is ours to claim."

"My brothers are you ready to follow me?" asked Lucifer

"We are ready to follow you" came many cries from the ranks of the angels.

"Then we are off ... follow me"

And with that Lucifer leaped into the sky as did all his brothers. The number of them could not be counted. Like lightning bolts they were gone and all heading straight to the mountain top Kingdom of Galen's home Ildar. Lastly the one single angel who had been assigned to keep track of Galen reached down and wrapped his large arm around the young man and the book and moments later they too were gone like a lightning bolt through the heavens.

#### IN DEFENSE OF ILDAR

As Galen's angel escort and he arrived within view of the outer boundaries of the Kingdom of Ildar, Lucifer's angelic army was nowhere to be found. Galen understood they were on their way. They had reached the Kingdom ahead of them so the young prince could be a witness of the battle that was coming and could read from the book that would ensure Lucifer's victory.

Galen looked out at the Kingdom he knew as home, but noticed that home was not the same as what he had grown up in. The angel escort turned to Galen and said, "This is Ildar two generations before you were born. Your grandfather sits as the Elder of the Kingdom." Then the angel took Galen to the highest place in the castle which was the large balcony overlooking the ocean to the west the Ildar. Galen would be able to see everything which was about to happen. As Galen looked around at the castle he saw where it was different and where his father had expanded and added onto it. This was the castle that God had given to his grandfather Alexius. Now young Galen saw the castle as it had appeared in the beginning. Truly it was a glow in beauty and magnificence dressed in white like a bride on her wedding day, just as the stories had told. Now Galen was standing to the side of the balcony where no one else could see him for the moment. Then suddenly he saw his grandfather Alexius, King of the Kingdom of Ildar and from his vantage point he could see concern on his face. Grandfather knew something was not right in the Kingdom, he knew he would need help.

Then Galen watched his grandfather, who was not aware of him, standing on the balcony. King Alexius raised his sword toward heaven. His sword had a crown on it and a blue jewel of which he pressed at the same time. He lifted the sword up and the jewel began to glow with that familiar blue glow.

In the matter of only seconds there stood before the King an angel dressed for battle. He began talking to the King and of all that was spoken of Galen only heard his grandfather call him "My old friend."

Then he heard the angel say "They are on their way."

While Galen was watching there appeared three great and mighty Archangels of God floating in the air out away from the castle. With their swords still in their scabbards they gazed out into the heavens above as sentinels for the Kingdom. They waited for the coming assault of the enemy.

Galen already had understanding of who these three were. There was Michael, whose name means He who is like God, Gabriel whose name means God is my strength, and Ariel whose name means Lion of God. These three were dressed for battle, but it was Michael who also had with him the trumpet of God called the Shofar, so he could sound the alarm for Ildar.

It was given to Galen the understanding that when one of God's Kingdoms came under attack, all Heaven came to their aid and so it was for Ildar. The three waited in silence staring out beyond the outer reaches of the Kingdom, watching for an enemy they knew was coming.

It did not take long before Galen saw the leading edges of Lucifer's angelic army streaking through the heavens. They looked like tens of thousands upon thousands of streaking comets leaving long trails of light behind them in the night sky. Galen shouted out to the angels "Sound the alarm! Sound the alarm, they are here. I can see them."

The angel escort then turned to Galen and with evil on his face yelled at the Prince, "You keep quiet and say nothing, or I will make those the last words you ever speak."

Michael had already raised the shofar to his mouth and with a mighty blast of the ram's horn sounded the alarm on the Mountains of Ildar.

At the sounding of the Shofar there suddenly came another angel like a lightning bolt across the heavens. His name was Zurel and he came and stood on the balcony with Galen's grandfather. Michael turned to him and said "Zurel, I have called to you for the hour has come for which you were created. It is time to call the others."

With that Zurel reached down and touched the blue jewel in his sword that was still in its scabbard. Galen saw his grandfather touch his own medallion and together the blue glow of both medallions engulfed the balcony and then out it went and only seconds later it covered all of castle and then it faded away.

By this time Galen was getting excited because he could see the armies of Lucifer getting closer as all this activity was happening on the balcony. Galen saw Zurel draw his sword from its scabbard as did the three archangels standing out in the front. All four of the angels acting in one accord raised their swords towards the heavens as Zurel declared in a booming loud voice heard throughout the heavens, "I Zurel, Chief Captain of the League of Guardians call my brethren to battle. Now is the time to come to me my Guardians." Then the skies darkened and the sound of thunder could be heard rolling across the heavens. Out of the dark clouds lightning bolts shot out and hit Zurel's sword and the swords of the three other archangels. A great light grew and engulfed the area so that nothing could be seen for the brightness of the light.

When the light faded and Galen could see again. What he saw standing with the archangels and Zurel were tens of thousands of Guardians, so many it was not possible to count them. All of them had the same medallion around their neck and the same blue light that glowed out of it. They all came ready for a fight ... ready for war. Zurel left the balcony to join his Guardian brothers in the battle. The army of Lucifer was almost upon them. All the multitudes of angels that were now gathered lifted their swords to heaven and shouted a battle cry "For the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven."

Just then the two opposing sides clashed with swords swinging and the clanging of their shields together. The two forces quickly became mixed and all Galen could see was that of a mighty battle going on. After what seemed like a log time it had become impossible for Galen to know how long the battle had been going and it didn't seem like neither side was making any progress. As there were no casualties, Galen realized this is not a battle of flesh and blood, but of super natural beings. "How does one side win over the other?" he thought.

The angel who had brought him there turned towards him and said "My Lord is calling." As Galen was still clinging to the book he was in charge of, the angle grabbed Galen and forced him to the center of the balcony close to where his grandfather was standing. King Alexius looked at Galen and ask him, "Son who are you, for I do not know you yet? Why do you have the Holy Book with you?"

"I am Galen your grandson. I am so sorry, I didn't mean for all this to happen. It's my fault. I just looked at the words in the book and read a few, then I was pulled back into this place. Please forgive me grandfather." King Alexius didn't appear to be to shaken up over all that was happening. He exhibited a calm spirit, as if he already knew the outcome. "So you are Galen? I like that name. Now don't let all this upset you son. It will be over soon I promise, thanks to you."

"What do you mean, 'Thanks to me?' all this is my fault. I read from the book when I wasn't supposed to."

His grandfather smiled, "There is a reason for all things son."

Then a voice Galen recognized as Lucifer's came from behind him and his grandfather, "Now that I have the others busy fighting my army. I can focus on you."

Galen yelled back at Lucifer, "And what makes you think I'm going to help you? You are a liar and always will be."

"Because if you don't I will kill your grandfather right here in front of you." Then Lucifer reached in the direction of King Alexius and grabbed him by the throat, Galen's grandfather began to gag and gasp for air. "I would suggest you begin reading what I want to hear now. Open the book and read the words."

By now Galen was more scared than he had ever been. How could he do this and betray his father and all he stands for? How could I betray God who he professed to love with all his life? Galen was completely lost as to what to do. He could not read from the book and let Lucifer rule the entire Kingdom, but how could he just watch his grandfather be killed?

#### AN UNEXPECTED VISTOR

Galen's hands were trembling when he set the book down on the ground and kneeled down before it as he remembered his father's words "You are on Holy Ground now."

Then he heard a voice in his head speaking to him. It was a family voice, one he had heard before. "Speak the words Prince Galen and release my power and authority." Galen remembered the words of his Father. The words were very much alive with the power of the Creator. The One who is and has always been, is alive in the words of the book. Lucifer had forgotten this. So Galen opened the book and searched for the words that he could read. Then finally he became focused on the same pages he had read before. The words and symbols started to move slowly.

"WHAT DO THEY SAY," shouted Lucifer?

Then the words began to glow and Galen understood their meaning and read in a loud voice "How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, Son of the Morning! How you are cut down to the ground."

"NO! Don't read those words, read about my victory," said Lucifer

But as Galen began to search again for words to read, the entire page began to glow and the pages in the book began turning on their own as the book moved away from Galen on its own and floated in the air by itself. The book itself began to glow blue and the light grew and expanded out of the book and came to settle onto the balcony everyone was standing on. King Alexius fell to the ground and able to breathe again, free from the grip of Lucifer.

Suddenly Galen and his grandfather felt the presence of Holiness. They both moved back away from the book giving plenty of room to Lucifer and the Book of Beginnings. The light began to change inside it and Galen could see the form of a man step out of the book and onto the balcony. The blue light and the mist fallowed him for he was truly the light of the book. All the fighting stopped and everyone's attention was now on this being of light and He was looking straight at Lucifer.

"Your sins have come up before me like an odor of unclean things. Therefore I will cast you out of my presence. You have corrupted your wisdom because of your vanity and a profane thing you have become and I will destroy you."

Then as the Spirit of the book was speaking they were joined again by the angel, Zurel, Chief Captain of the League of Guardians, "Yes my Lord I am here as you have called me."

In an evil rage Lucifer screamed out "No, you cannot do this to me, I AM LUCIFER."

Again the Spirit of the book spoke to Lucifer, "I will bring forth a fire from the midst of you. It shall devour you, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold you."

Lucifer's form and his countenance began to change. The light that had been in him since his creation, and gave him his beauty and his brightness was now removed. He cried out even more as his countenance began to darken until he had become darkness. Lucifer let out a loud scream with his fist in the air, defiant to the end. He twisted and contorted and noises could be heard coming from within him until the next thing Galen saw was a hideous creature bent over before them.

Galen heard a similar noise coming from behind him. He turned quickly to see what it was and the angel who Lucifer had put in charge over him, now that fallen angel had met the same fate as Lucifer. The Spirit of the book spoke again to Lucifer, "No more shall you be called Lucifer for the light I gave you in the beginning has been taken from you. You shall be called Satan the devil, and Prince of the Darkness which you have become."

Satan let out more screams and turned his face away from the book and covered his face with his robe which was now ash black and had the stench of fire and brimstone.

Zurel, Chief Captain of the League of Guardians took a few steps towards Satan, that devil, and he reached out and laid hold of him. He lifted Satan high above his head and threw him off the balcony and he fell through the ground and disappeared into the underworld. Well at the sight of this Galen turned around towards the now dark contorted ball of evil that had been his evil escort guardian and took one step back and kicked that evil thing off the balcony and watched it fall as far as he could see. His grandfather the King looked at him, "That was a mighty good kick Galen, good hang time."

Then from all over the Kingdom, all the angelic warriors who had fought for Satan now suffered his fate as well. Like their leader, they too lost their light and their forms changed and they screamed out as they twisted and contorted themselves. As they bent over in pain they all became darkness and their robes turned the color of ash. They smelled of fire and brimstone also. All their former glory now departed, and they became the demons of the underworld. They too were picked up by the Guardians they fought against and were cast out of the Kingdom of Ildar and into the underworld of Hell.

There were no cheers or shouts of victory because this was a sad moment, when the Sons of God fought between themselves and many of their numbers were cast out forever. With this the Kingdom was at rest, but Ildar had not seen the last of the evil.

#### THE THREE SECRETS OF ILDAR

The attack on Ildar made it clear that the Holy Book needed a secret and secure place where no one could find it. The answer came in a simple stone found only in the caves of a village called Atoria. These caves were watched over by a man named William who pledged his faithful support to the King and to Ildar. From this one secret place, the God of Heaven gave a great gift to the people of Ildar to help protect them and His Holy Book. With the blue medallion that had already been given to King Alexius and now the stones from the caves of Atoria together became known as the Three Secrets of Ildar. The first secret of Ildar was in the Blue Jewel Medallion, forged from the Stones of Fire on the mountain of God. The first medallion, the angel gave to Ildars first King, King Alexius. Heaven knew that Satan would always come against Ildar because of its role as a refuge for those who believe in a higher power than themselves. These people who believe became known as the People of the Way. The blue medallion let whoever had it call for help in their time of greatest need, a constant reminder that we are never alone.

The second gift was a Red Stone medallion forged from the Alter of God, where the blood of innocence was mingled with the stones. With the Red Stone Medallion, you could travel freely through the whirlwind tunnel to any place you needed to go, unseen and unhurt. There was a special Red Stone Medallion given only to the King. Though it was a medallion, it was stored in a small wooden box for safe keeping for it was only used in times of crises by the King himself or one to whom he appoints. With this one special medallion he could travel anywhere he needed for the benefit the Kingdom.

Now the third secret of Ildar was in the secret caves of Atoria. The exact location of the caves was unknown except for only one person. The secret was a special stone that makes things seem invisible. These stones were called the Zephaniah Stones meaning "Hidden (concealed) by God."

The King sent soldiers to Atoria to bring back one hundred of the stones to Ildar. Upon their return the King ordered the stones be placed inside the outer walls of the castle. This was so the castle could not be seen from the outside. Only those who knew it was there could find it and the secret entrance way into the main gate.

The castle was ready and unseen from those who would do it harm. As the population of the castle grew more, Zephaniah Stones were added and soon villages were established beyond the castle walls. These too used the Zephaniah Stones for cover. In time there were twelve villages outside the castle and stones were added for each village.

#### THERE IS ANOTHER EVIL

Multitudes upon multitudes of angels lost their heavenly status and turned into the hordes of hell, eternally condemned to the underworld. They had become the demons and evil spirits that were under the control of Satan. Their only goal was to cause pain and suffering. Lying and deceitfulness was so much a part of them that it was who they were.

There was another mighty one who also listened to the Lies of Satan and fell from the stars to the underworld as well. Satan called him to become a chief captain among the hordes of hell. He was to see to the corruption of all faith on the earth. This one mighty demon among demons was called Anu, leader of those called the Anunnaki.

Deep inside of the fire pits of the underworld the evil lord Anu summoned a particular demon named Aram who showed great promise as a leader of darkness. "Yes my lord Anu, how may I serve you?"

Then Anu said to Aram "Go to the land of Ildar to a village called Atoria. You will find in the caves a glass where by the secrets of Ildar can be discovered. Go and get me this glass. If anyone gets in your way, deal with them as you will. Then we will form an army to come against Ildar and defeat them."

"As you have commanded, my Lord."

#### FATHER COMES

Now that Lucifer, that Devil had been taken care of, the blue light went back into the book and it lay on the ground waiting for Galen to pick it up. Zurel, the Captain of the League of Guardian's, as well as all the rest of the Guardian's left. All that was on the balcony was grandfather and Galen. Grandfather bent over and picked up the Book of Beginnings and handed back to Galen saying, "You are its protector now son. By the time you get home, my time will have passed like chaff blowing in the wind. The old is gone and my mantel is passed on to you through your Father."

Then in a burst of light, the angel Michael stood in front of them, "Greetings to you Kings of Ildar." Galen quickly looked at his grandfather and his grandfather said, "I think that means my son is coming." "Yes," said Michael. "I have already summoned the second of you three Kings to join us." At those words a red whirlwind opened up onto the balcony not far from where the trio were standing. To Galen's surprise out of the whirlwind walked his father and two guards.

"Father!" Cried Galen and he ran over and hugged his father. I am so glad to see you. I have so much to tell you of what has happened."

"I know already son, but hold onto that for just a little bit."

All three of the past, present and future Kings of Ildar stood before the Messenger of God, the Angel Michael. Alexius and Derek bowed to their knees before the Messenger of God. Alexius pulled on Galen's pant leg to get his attention to do likewise.

"Kings of Ildar, do not bow to me for I am a fellow servant of the Kingdom as are you. Rise to your feet and hear my message. It is on you that the burden of this realm, the Kingdom of Ildar has rested. In the beginning the mantel was given to King Alexius. In its appointed time that mantel was passed by birthright to his son King Derek. Now I see before me the next ruler. In him has been given the gift of a Reader. In time as faith grows so shall those who will read from the book. As one who reads, you shall read and men shall have faith in the message of the book. Until that time, by royal birthright and a

time of testing in the fire shall be the Kingdom's third King be. After him there shall be four more before the King of all Kings shall come."

Galen looked at his father with a puzzled look on his face, "What test father?"

Derek looked over at Galen, "The one you just finished, I told you that you would be tested remember? And so you were, but so you shall be again."

Then Michael said one last word, "I must go now, but I give you warning. Even now as we speak, the evil seeks a plan to come against Ildar. Have faith and believe and remember the gifts you have been given for you are not alone." Then Michael looked directly at Galen, "Beware, the Prince of Darkness will come and seek you out, for you are a Reader. Remember what you have seen and guard what you have been given. He comes seeking among men those whom he may destroy. Your father needs you. There is trouble in the land so be strong for much is at stake." Michael and Galen's grandfather King Alexius then vanished before their eyes.

Galen looked at his father in shock ... "What trouble is there in Ildar? There is never any trouble in Ildar ... what is wrong?

Father just looked at him and said, "Let's go home, we will talk there."

Father was never long for words. He said a lot by not saying too much. Galen just followed his father into the portal and the two guards followed behind Galen, and in a matter of seconds they were all back in their time.

"Father," said Galen. "Is this one of the portals that is secret? It moves through time? How does this work?"



# UNEDITED





#### HOME AGAIN

he portal brought King Alexius and Galen back to the throne room of the King. As they walked out of the portal it quickly closed and the guards who had accompanied the King left the room leaving King Derek and Galen alone. King Derek seemed to be focused on something else and a bit troubled.

"Father, are you upset with me? I am truly sorry for looking at the book that got all this started."

"Son, I left you alone with the book on purpose, to see what you would do. If you had just sat there and done nothing then I would have been disappointed and believed you needed more time, but you didn't just sit and wait, you were inquisitive and were drawn to the book. That showed there is a power in you that is at work. I now know it is your calling that you are a Reader. Jehovah had a plan for you, a destiny to fulfill, and you stood up to evil. You learned and you are now the wiser. You will be a wise King for the knowledge you gained. So my son and reader of the Holy Book, I'm going to entrust to you the safety of the book for now, because I have something in mind."

"Okay, I'll just hold onto it unto you tell me otherwise. Father, don't you want to hear about what happened to me and the book?"

"I know you have much to tell me of your adventure and the fact that I found you in one piece tells me it turned out for the good. There are urgent and pressing matters of the realm that must come first. I'm afraid I have troublesome news."

"What is it Father? Tell me, I understand much more now. I am ready to serve even if it means my life." The King turned and looked at Galen for a moment with a very concerned look, "Let's hope that it doesn't come to that son. When it comes to war, let me give you a small piece of wisdom that my father told to me and that you need to remember. A wise King never seeks out war, but must always be ready for it, and I am ready for it."

"What are you telling me Father? Is war coming to Ildar, and are we not still concealed by the Zephaniah Stones? How can anyone even find us?"

The King looked a little worried as he told his son, "The reason I was called away from our weekly talk was two-fold. First, since you said you thought you were ready I decided you should be given your chance to prove yourself. I wanted to see what you would do and you proved you can read. I didn't know all the rest would happen, but at least you did protect the book. This is good.

The second reason I was called away was because we had word that the Mindosians and some of the Lycans have joined forces just beyond our borders. One of our spies had information that was valuable to us and the reason for the meeting. The spy spoke of your Aunt Leah. She was attacked after Mindosian solders overheard word of the glass by which you can see the Zephaniah Stones. If you can find the stones, they can be removed and the invisible barrier would be gone. They attacked her and killed William, then stole some of the glass by which you can see the things the Zephaniah Stones conceal. So I can only assume we are in danger.

Son, this day you have been tested like no other because you have a heavy burden about to be given to you. Today you have become your own man. Today your loyalty and your manhood were both be put to the test and I believe you are indeed ready."

"But dad, what about school? There is still two years left. I can't just walk out on the class."

"I'm sorry son, but your classes will have to wait and with news of a possible war, I understand that two of your friends, Tira and her sister Corinne, have gone to Yenom to await their father's arrival. Then I suppose he will take them home with him."

"What! How long will that be?"

"Well son I don't know. They will stay there until their father comes for them. He is a merchant you know. He travels from the old county in the far Northern parts, down to Yenom where he deals in goods, then heads back again. The girls should be there for a time while they wait on him.

Are you interested in these girls for some reason? Am I missing something that is more important than defending Ildar from attack?"

"No father you're not, Ildar is more important than myself and especially now. It was just that ... well never mind."

Then King Derek looked at Galen and started again, "I believe the enemy has inside help. The spy has informed us that one of the high priests possibly will betray us. I understand he was paid. It is sad, that for only thirty pieces of silver he is willing to lead the evil to Ildar and attack us. I have ordered that all the priests be confined to their quarters starting now with guards outside to make sure they stay there. Make no mistake I will deal harshly with whoever betrays my trust for their gain. Therefore, I have ordered our army be gathered as quickly as possible and ordered General Tauv to prepare for war. I did not seek this, but I will be ready for it."

"Father, there is something else I think you should know. I think it may be important. A few days ago after the class with Bishop Donay was finished, I had a vision of Tira and the medallion glowed and the Bishop saw it. Afterwards he was very intent on holding it and when I kept saying no he then wanted to at least see it. So I saw no harm in that and showed it to him. He was very interested in it, but I also had a vision as he was touching the medallion of a war and troops charging Ildar. Father I think he may have something to do with it. He may be that priest your concerned about."

"You may be right son, but we told you not to do that. It is for your own good and for Ildars good. I will send the guards to forcibly confine the Bishop to his quarters with guards outside."

"Father, I can't express enough that I want to help. What can I do? I will fight hard for you and the Kingdom."

"While we wait, why don't you quickly tell me what happened to you and the book that would make you have this new understanding you say you have?"

"I'm sorry, but when you left, I thought I'd sneak a peek at the book. To my surprise the letters began to move and then glowed blue. Suddenly I understood, just like it happened to you. Then the book called me and took me to another place and I saw a most beautiful creature."

"So who was this creature?"

"He was Lucifer."

"What did he want from you?"

"He wanted me to read from the book so he could fight against God and take your thrown, even the very throne of Heaven."

Galen could tell by the look in His father's face that he was shocked to hear this news and especially that Galen could read from the Holy Book.

"What happened next?"

"What I read he did not like and so he lied to the other angels in his charge. That's when they brought war to the Kingdom of Ildar, but the Guardians came and fought against them and he was kicked out just before you came."

"I do not hold this against you son, I did not know, and neither did you, that you were a Reader at that time. You were tricked and lied to by the Prince of Darkness for his benefit. Know this son and hear me well, the Kingdom you have loved and known for so long shares a common thread with the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our people are here because they love Jehovah. The Spirit of the Lord draws them, so they come. They may not even know why, but their hearts draw them here to a place they have never seen, but somehow they know it is here.

Your grandfather, King Alexius swore an eternal oath to Heaven and to those you met called the Guardians, that as it is in Heaven so may it be on earth and in this Kingdom. The war you witnessed in the time of your grandfather was a spiritual war, but what is coming to Ildar now is a very real physical war that is forged from the pit of hell."

#### A GUARDIAN IS BORN

#### An Act of Dedication

"Galen, now that I know you can read from the book and have been called out to know such things, it is clear to me your path. I am your father and King and so I bestow to you the task of protector of the Holy Book of Beginnings, forever protecting that which is true and eternal."

"But father I think ..."

The King didn't wait to hear Galen's objections. He called for the royal guards and the Priest, and even the Queen to come quickly. It didn't take long and soon everyone was gathered together. King Derek looked over at Galen, "Son why don't you put the book on the table next to you it will be okay sitting there while we proceed." Then the King looked back over at the priest who then stepped forward with the holy oil.

"Prince Galen, it has fallen to you by divine decree to be the keeper of such holy things." As soon as the priest began to speak the book suddenly began to glow it's soft blue light and to everyone's amazement the light shined only on Galen. He was now lit up in the blue light of the book. The priest stopped for a moment to look at the book, but then started again by pouring a small amount of oil on Galen's head saying, "With this oil I consecrate you and your life to the Lord who created you. I anoint your head so that your mind may not wander, or be deceived by the evil one. May you always be mindful of your duty and station for which you have been born." Then the priest poured a small amount of oil onto Galen's right thumb and said to him, "The thumb is the origin of all activity, and may these hands never serve another master other than the God who created them. With your right hand may you conquer your enemies, may you work for the glory and honor of all Ildar, and the greater Kingdom of Heaven." Lastly the old priest bent down and poured his oil on Galen's right foot saying to him, "May you never stray from the path you have been set on. May you never run towards the evil of this world, and with these feet may you lead men towards righteousness."

After all had been said and prayed over, the priest stepped back and King Derek stepped forward and pulled out his sword and told his son to kneel down.

"Now it has been shown to me that you are a true King of Ildar and in due time you shall see this come to pass. I charge this task to you Prince Galen that you are the one true protector of the Holy Book, a Reader of the Sacred Words. Now raise your right hand, for it is the righteous hand, and with it you will swear before everyone here and before your maker. Do you agree?"

Galen held up his right hand as high as he could, "I agree."

Then the King said to his son, "Galen Anthony Wallace, do you swear to protect the Holy Book that was given to your grandfather in this very place? Do you swear to preserve it for all generations and to protect it from all outsiders even unto death?"

"I swear"

"Do you swear to guard the Kingdom of Ildar as it is in Heaven, so it shall be here?"

"I swear"

"Do you swear to preserve the peace of the Kingdom? To cast off all selfish ambition and seek the well-being of the realm and the people in it?"

"I swear"

Then four of the royal guards positioned themselves on either side of Galen and lifted their swords over Galen at which point the priest then bowed his head. "This charge I give to you Prince Galen, for as long as you live you will protect this book and do what you have sworn. What say you?"

Galen felt a tear roll down his cheek as the impact of what was happening finally hit him. "I swear a holy oath in front of God and my family that I will do what has been charged to me, that as long as there is life in me I shall seek the Kingdom first and the truth which lies in the Holy Book of Beginnings ... I swear it." With those words being spoken the glow of the book faded away.

King Derek then announced "As those who are gathered here are witnesses, your family and the Priest of the Most High God have heard your vow and will hold you to your promise before God." The King then tapped Galen on both shoulders with his sword as he would a knight, then stepped back and stuck the sword as hard as he could into the floor before his son.

"You are now a Guardian of what is sacred and holy in the sight of God and on earth. This is now your sword. Use it to protect the Holy Book and the Kingdom from its enemies." King Derek leaned over and whispered in Galen's ear, "Press the blue jewel only in your darkest hour. It will not fail you."

The handle of the sword was at Galen's eye level. He looked up and there in plain view of his eyes was the same golden imprint of a crown and below it the same jewel he had remembered the Angel Guardians having. Now as Galen was looking at the golden crown on the sword handle and the jewel under it, the crown began to glow a bright golden color, so much so that everyone in the room saw it. The glow stayed for just a few minutes and then went away

King Derek said to his son, "You were a Prince of Ildar when you kneeled here before us. Now as your King I say to you, stand up, you Guardian of the Realm and of what is true. Stand up and begin your service before God."

Then King Derek took off his belt and handed it to Galen so he would have a scabbard for his sword, and his mother, Queen Katheryn, came over and kissed him and told Galen how proud she was of him.

"Mother, not in front of everyone ... please."

"I am your mother. I will kiss you if I want to and you better remember that young man."

UNEDITED

# UNEDITED



### Chapter Six Battle for Ildar



#### MAKE READY TO LEAVE



here was something that King Derek wasn't telling Galen, and he felt uneasy about it. He didn't have long to think about those things because the royal guards came in after his father left. "What are your orders sire concerning the Holy Book and for its safety?"

"Have your men make a second box as quickly as they can, make it look exactly like the original one that the book is in now, We will use it as a decoy. I have a feeling we will need to hide the book from those who seek to destroy it. See to it and then let me know when it is done. The time is short so hurry."

"Yes Sire, I will put men to work on it immediately, night and day. We will not rest till it is done as you request."

"Mother, since Father is called away with issues of the military, I want to assign guards to you, for your own protection. That is, if it is ok?"

"Yes Son, if you think that is the best thing to do." Then the Queen was off to tend to her business. After she was gone Galen told the remaining guards to help his Mother and to ready the sacred box to be moved on a moment's notice. "I believe by this time tomorrow we might have to flee the city. Now make haste and see to these things. Let me know as soon as they as ready."

#### FATHERS LAST ORDERS

That night all of Ildar was restless. The army had been deployed and the guards had been doubled at all the lookout stations. They did not think that any attack would be in the dark, but at first light. Galen had some time so he went out in search of his father. For some reason he just felt the need to see him again ... tonight.

A short time later, "Father, I am so glad I found you. Can you tell me what is going on that causes us so much concern?"

"Son, many years ago after your grandfather had passed away and the burden of Ildar fell to me, it was then that I was tested. Here in this place we first fought the great Evil One in the form of his servants here on earth. Pagans, who willingly did his bidding, came by the thousands to take back what the Evil One claimed as his own. It was the Holy Book, that you are now sworn to protect.

The Creator blinded that Evil One, called Satan, from understanding the words of the book, so he seeks a Reader to read for him. I have defeated Satan's hordes once, but now he knows of you. He is coming with thousands more for you and the book. I am not so sure that this time we will be able to repel them. War will always be the fate of man until the true King comes to vanquish Satan and to set up His Kingdom here on earth."

"My last order to you my son is to do what you have sworn to do. You will be sworn in as King soon because my time is running out."

"No father, don't say such things. I need you more than I ever thought possible. I need you."

"Galen, you do as you have sworn to do." Then King Derek took from a small wooden box he had in his pocket the Blood Red Medallion and put it around Galen's neck with the blue medallion that he already wore.

"No father," said Galen with tears in his eyes. "This is yours given to you by grandfather, you will need it."

"Yes son I know and now I give it to you, the next King of Ildar. Use it wisely. You only have to think of where you want to go and the whirlwind portal will open for you. Go through it, and then it will close. Now hurry and take your mother and the book and leave the city while you can and flee to the mountain city Kingdom of Yenom. Your mother has two elder sisters that you have never met. The eldest is your Aunt Leah who lives in Atoria. It was her husband William that they killed for the glass he was hiding for us. Tell Leah the King has need of the Secret of Atoria. She will know what you seek. Put

the stones in the box which contains the book. This way no one will even know the book is in the box. Then continue on to Yenom and find your Aunt Kari who reigns over the mighty city of trade and commerce. She will know what to do.

Now go and do as I have told you. Your mother and the guards all know the way, but use the portal son."

"But Father what about you?"

"Go, I tell you, and leave immediately."

Galen hurried back to where the Royal Guards were.

"Wake up, wake up all of you. We must hurry and prepare to leave now. Captain here is what I need you to do. The fake box that your men are working on, just take it, in whatever condition it is in, and load it on a wagon. Have a few of your men take it out the front gate of the castle and make a lot of noise so that all the Mindosians will see what they are doing. If they are truly interested in the book, then they will follow the wagon until they think they are safe to attack and take it. Will they ever be mad when they realized they have been tricked, but it will buy us some time.

One more thing captain. Have the real book along with its box brought to the meeting room along with twelve of your best guards; I will go get my Mother."

By the time Galen got to his Mother's chambers he was beginning to get anxious as to the urgency of the moment. Galen banged on his Mother's chamber door until she opened it for him.

"Mother you have to come now. We are leaving tonight by Father's orders."

"Why son, don't you think it is a little too early to be running away? I am not scared, but I will remain calm as I suggest you do also. Whatever your Father told you we will do, but we will not panic. I suggest you have a seat outside and practice being calm and you will see that things will happen as they are needed."

"But MOTHER ... WE HAVE TO GO"

"Wait outside son and the sooner you leave, the sooner I and the others can be ready ... bye."

"But ... but you don't understand." Then the door closed and the Queen was gone behind the door. So Galen waited. He thought of all the things he needed to do and all that could go wrong. He paced the floor, back and forth, until the Captain of the guard came running to him.

"Here you are, we have been waiting for you. What is the problem? Where is everyone?"

"They are behind that door captain and I can't get them to come out. I don't think my Mother understands the situation here."

So the Captain went over and banged on the door himself.

"Your Highness, it is imperative that we leave now. The danger grows by the hour. Please come out."

"Captain, that wouldn't even get me out of bed. Getting Mother out of that room is impossible."

Then suddenly the door opened and Mother and three hand maidens came out all carrying bags and boxes, and following after Mother. "Thank you Captain for letting me know it was time to leave, I was just about ready anyway. See Galen, a little patience and a gentile tone can do wonders. You might want to remember that. You are so much like your Father sometimes."

"Captain, will you please escort the Queen and the ladies to the meeting room. I will be right there."

Galen couldn't get his Father off his mind and for the first time in his life he intended to disobey his Father's orders. He would not leave his side in time of crisis. Galen went out to a balcony and by the light of the moon he looked out over the Kingdom for which his family had served and sacrificed for. As he stood alone he thought to himself, "Look at what has happened and it's all my fault. I cannot undo it or change one thing. Ildar is about to be at war and the only girl I have ever dreamed of is gone. I have no one to blame, but myself. I can never tell anyone how I feel, but the truth be known ... I miss Tira."

In the dark, alone on a balcony Galen shed a few tears at the thought of losing her. Would he ever see her again?

"I am responsible for all this wrong and for the lives that will be lost because of my actions. All this wrong happened because I wanted to read from the book. Now Satan knows me and is coming for me and many will die. I will separate myself from the book so if he does catch me, he will not have the book too."

Galen was alone in his decision. He couldn't tell his Father, but he couldn't leave him either.

#### ON THE EVE OF WAR

Galen had decided what he was going to do what needed to be done. First he needed to attend to the two most precious things in his life, which were his Mother and then the Book of Beginnings. He hurried as fast as he could to the meeting room where everyone had gathered. There was the box which contained the Holy Book and a few of the Zephaniah Stones to conceal it. There were the four guards that would go with the book, his Mother and her hand maidens. The Captain had also assigned one of his best men named Murk to personally see to the safety of the Queen and her hand maidens.

"Everyone listen to me as I have a plan. I will open a portal that will take you to the City of Yenom where Aunt Kari will protect Mother and the Holy Book. No one knows you are going there except me, and I will not be going with you. I have chosen to stay with Father and see this through."

The Queen Mother objected, but the guards looked at Galen and just shook their heads in agreement with him, knowing themselves what needed to be done. The Queen objected even more, but to no avail.

"I understand Mother, but I know what I feel inside. Love requires sacrifice, and it is my choice. I will come for you when it's safe."

At that moment Galen reached up and pushed the red jewel of his medallion while he focused his thoughts on Yenom. In the room where they had gathered a wind suddenly came up and swirled around them all including Galen. Within a few seconds it formed what looked like a blood red tunnel. As they stood watching, they could see inside the tunnel. They watched it lengthen and then as if it found its place at the other end, stopped its moving and opened up. Then everyone could see out the other end. It was Yenom and in a large room used for greeting visitors.

Through all the noise of the wind Galen yelled out, "Go now. Everyone go now. The tunnel will close as the last one leaves it. Aunt Kari will know what to do."

Murk picked up all the bags and items the women were taking with them as he lead the Queen and the rest of them all through the tunnel. Everyone followed Murk. The guards picked up the box with the Book of Beginnings in it and a short time later they all exited out the other end into Yenom. Galen watched them all go through the tunnel. He saw the last of the women step out into Yenom, and then the tunnel closed and disappeared in front of him.

The Captain of the Guard and two of his best men were left standing with Galen. Now the three of them made their way to the highest point of the castle where they had a good view of the countryside beyond the walls. Small fires could be spotted in the early morning hours, proving that the Mindosians were camped around the castle. Galen was sure of an impending attack and that the Mindosians had the glass to see the Zephaniah Stones. While they kept watching, waiting to see what would happen next, Galen pulled out the sword his Father had given him. He looked at it closer and especially at the blue jewel. This is the same jewel that Zurel and the Guardians had. Galen already knew what to do. He would press the jewel in their darkest hour, but that wasn't now, and so he would wait. Galen was more at ease knowing that his Mother and the Book were out of reach of the Mindosians for now.

Galen heard the sound of the trumpet blowing as his men came running towards the castle walls taking positions. The sun was just coming up over the horizon and from his vantage point we could see much better. General Tauv could be heard shouting out orders for the infantry to form and make ranks, while the cavalry was getting mounted and ready to defend the castle.

During the night Father had ordered all the people out in the country side to come into the castle walls. The castle was crowded now with a lot of scared people. King Derek had to stop the Mindosians and the Lycans, because they were evil people.

Galen waited for over an hour and nothing happened. The sun had risen now, so he fully expected the enemy to show up anytime. They did not disappoint him either. In the distance Galen began to hear the sounds of the enemy's horns blowing. He could hear the sound of thousands marching with their swords banging against the shields. He first saw the banners of the enemy rise up on the horizon and then thousands of soldiers came to a stop on the hills overlooking the place where the castle stood. With one voice they all let out yells and banged on their shields with their feet stomping on the ground. This was an attempt to strike fear into the heart of everyone in the castle. Ildar was not without its defenses though. General Tauv had hundreds of their best archers lining the first tier wall defenses and then a hundred more overlooking them on the second tier walls. Our armies were well trained and were all good men. They always fought with heart and conviction and for their families. The General could be heard yelling out "Hold the line men. Soon we will have our chance to wipe out the pagan invaders."

#### ONE LAST CHANCE

As Galen watched the drama unfolding down below, he suddenly felt the presence of something very evil. Then before him stood the image of that familiar Prince of Darkness looking more like an angel of light, but Galen knew his real form and stench.

"We meet again young prince. I have been looking forward to this moment for some time now."

"I want nothing to do with you, do you understand me?" said Galen.

"Now ... now, don't be so hasty. I have come to make a deal with you. I will stop this war now and no one need die today if you will bring the book and read the words to me. It is your decision."

"You can forget that deal you devil, I remember the last deal you made and it was no deal at all. You lied to your very own followers, all those angels are now doomed because of you. You are a liar and the father of all lies."

"You will soon change your mind young prince." Then he was gone.

#### THE BATTLE FOR ALEXIUS

Within minutes Galen heard trumpets begin to blow and the cheers of thousands roared from the hills as they began running towards Ildar's army.

"Press the jewel on the sword."

Galen heard the words in his head, but the shock of the moment had a hold on him as he watched thousands about to engage in battle with his own troops.

"Press the jewel."

There it was again. This time Galen held the sword up and looked at the handle where the jewel was and remembered the Guardians who stood with the Archangels against Satan's attack. Then he reached up and pressed the jewel.

As soon as he pressed the jewel, a bright light came out of the sword and shot out from his perch overlooking the field of battle. It caught the attention of everyone as it was extremely bright and for a brief moment blinded the enemy's men. All of Ildar's men were looking out away from the castle at the enemy in front of them.

"What happened?" Galen thought.

Then Galen heard General Tauv give the order for the archers to fire and with that volleys of arrows flew through the early morning sky. Many of the enemy fell to the ground dead. Again and again the archers let loose their arrows and again the enemy fell. There were so many dead that they were now running over the bodies of their own soldiers.

The enemy continued their charge and was about to engage the troops when Galen saw in the sky above them, mingled in the clouds, the flashes of blue lights. There were thousands of lights, and they came onto the enemy like lightning bolts.

Galen's eyes were opened into the spirit world and he saw demons riding on the shoulders of the Mindosians and the Lycans, causing them to charge into Ildars troops as the battle was now under way. Men were dying on both sides but mostly on the enemy's. The demons didn't care about the Mindosians. They just wanted to see blood and to cause pain and death. Galen saw his archer's fire round after round of arrows into their ranks and many died. As Galen watched, he could see the souls of the dead being pulled down into the pit of the underworld by the very demons that were on their shoulders jeering them on to their deaths. The dead enemy soldiers were yelling and screaming as their souls would stay in hell forever. All around him, Galen heard the sound of Satan laughing as men lay dying.

"You have only yourself to blame boy."

Satan continued to laugh. He cared nothing for the men fighting and dying for him. He cared only for the pain and suffering that he was causing. Galen heard below him the voice of his Father cry out so he looked over the wall where he was standing. He saw his Father's hands raised into the air. He was calling out to God for deliverance from his enemies.

It only took seconds when a strong wind began blowing from off the hills and down into the valley where we were. The wind became stronger and blew against the enemy and many began to stumble backwards. They were unable to keep the attack going as they could not stand up any longer and the entire army began to fall backwards. Father commanded that no one should pursue them, but to watch the power of the God they served.

In the spirit Galen saw the demons begin to run and the Guardians beating them back even as the battle was winding down. The Guardians had to beat the demons from off the backs of the enemy. Those who became free of their demon suddenly stopped fighting and retreated on their own.

The battle was going to be short-lived and it appeared that the Kingdom would be spared. Then Galen saw some of the enemy running around the castle headed for easier targets. Galen suddenly remembered what his Father told him. He needed to protect his Aunt Leah, his Mother and the Sacred Book.

#### THE SECRET OF ATORIA

Galen reached for the red medallion that was around his neck as thought of his mother and of Atoria and then pressed the red jewel in the medallion. In the matter of seconds a red tunnel opened up and he could see the small town of Atoria so he stepped into the tunnel, and a few steps later he stepped out into Atoria.

Since Galen did not know his Aunt Leah he asked around and eventually found someone who knew of her by way of her husband William McTavish. The town had just spent all day in mourning for William following his death at the hands of the Mindosian Spies, who stole some of the glass out of the caves.

A stranger, old and bent over came up to Prince Galen, "Sir, who may I ask are you? Who comes in such royal clothes and honors us by his presence?"

"I am Prince Galen of the Kingdom of Ildar, and this village is part of our Kingdom. I am looking for my Aunt Leah McTavish. Can you lead me to her? I would be more than happy to pay you."

"I am so sorry young prince, I had no idea of who you are, but I can help you as you ask. It is my honor to help the Kingdom, especially for a gold coin. Please tell your Father the King, that we were completely outnumbered when the Mindosians came here looking for the secret. Their spies knew exactly where to look and poor William resisted to the end as they tortured him until he talked. Then they killed him. They are not human I tell you. We need help, please."

"I understand and I have been told of the events here, but right now there are other lives at stake, so I need to find Leah McTavish. Will you show me where she is quickly?"

"Sire, look up on the hill, she lives half way up just follow the path. She is there now still in mourning." "Here is your coin and thank you for your help."

Prince Galen made his way up the narrow path that led to the small hut half way up the hill. The hill was covered with holes and caves, but he kept climbing until he got to the hut. "Hello in there. I have come in the name of the King of Ildar to speak with you. Please come out."

The door of the small hut opened and there stood a small woman of modest means who answered the Prince, "What does the King have in need of me?"

"My name is Galen, Prince of Ildar."

"You must excuse me please, but it's been too long since your birth, so I do not recognize you. Please forgive me."

"There is no forgiveness needed. I understand. My Father the King has instructed me to tell you that he has more need of the Secret of Atoria and that you would know what to do. I would normally have more time to be patient but there is a war and I am in a bit of a hurry to get to Yenom."

"Yes, I do know what to do. Please young prince, have a seat in my humble home and I will be right back."

Then Leah stepped behind a small wall into a secret passage which led into a cave, which no one but she and William knew about. William had died for this secret while only showing the Mindosian spies the lager cave that had already been picked over.

When Leah came back, she had a small bag in her hand which as anyone could see had several rocks in it.

"Come over Prince Galen and see a miracle from God."

So Galen stepped over and looked inside the bag and to his amazement, just like the box which contained the Holy Book, it was empty.

"I am always amazed every time I don't see these stones. I want to tell you on behalf of the Kingdom of Ildar that you do a great service to all. There is no gift large enough to say thank you. However of what I have with me, I want to bless you with, so please accept this on behalf of my Father the King."

Then Galen reached down into his pockets and pulled out all the remaining gold coins he had. He gave them to Leah for all she has done and especially for the sacrifice of her husband William.

"I must go now. I have to catch up to Mother, for she is already in Yenom."

Leah was grateful as she held the coins close to her, then one last time she cried out to Galen,

"Tell my sister Kari I send my love to her."

Galen thought of Yenom and then reached up and pushed the red jewel and the whirlwind tunnel opened and set its opening in Yenom. Galen walked through and stepped out into the City of Yenom.



# UNEDITED



## Chapter Seven

### The Mountain City Kingdom



#### THE CITY OF YENOM

when portal opened up in the main assembly area of the City of Yenom. As Galen stepped out of the tunnel everyone was shocked to see someone just walk out of what appeared to be thin air. Suddenly, three guards with spears and swords came running to capture Galen.

"Who are you stranger? How did you get here?" yelled one of the guards.

"I am Prince Galen Wallace, son of King Derek Wallace of Ildar. I am here to find my Mother the Queen and my Aunt Kari who rules over this city. Can any of you help me find them, please?"

Then even as Galen spoke there came the noise of someone coming down the stairs.

"I heard all the commotion and knew it just had to be my Nephew, which I hadn't seen in years. My sister said he would be coming."

She pushed her way through the guards and ran to Galen and embraced him in a long hug.

"Oh my, Galen you have grown up haven't you? So what is all the news? I want to hear all about it? What is going on these days? I hear there is a war brewing. Oh how I would have never guessed it? I just hope none of it comes here. I don't know what I would do. I mean those people are so scary and ..."

Galen interrupted her finally, "You must be my Aunt Kari that I have heard so much about?"

"Oh yes, I am your Mothers older sister and I think a little wiser for it to, but let's not tell her I said that ... Just our little secret right?"

Now Galen's Aunt Kari was married to a good man, Scott of Edmond, who was known to be a good and noble man of character. "Aunt Kari, I have need to speak to Scott about matters we are currently involved in. Where is he that I may speak to him?"

"Oh Prince Galen, you have so many questions. Come with me now and you shall find your answers."

Then Kari pulled hard on Galen's arm and went around the corner quickly. She leaned over to speak to him in whispers,

"The Mindosians have their spies here. They listen to everything being said and now that you are here, we may all be in trouble. Scott is gone. He went to get help from the King, but we have told everyone he is sick and very contagious according to the doctor. Now what news do you have of your father the King?"

"I just left the castle. He is safe right now as are the others, but I believe the people of Mindosia and of Lycan are under some evil influence. They are after the Sacred Book of Beginnings and a Reader who will read its words to their demonic leader." They will stop at nothing, Aunt Kari. You have to double your defenses, and on your walls also. Time is short."

"Who exactly is this "Reader" you say they are after I thought your father was the only reader?"

"I'M THE READER they are after. You should care because I believe they are coming this way after the whole lot of us."

"I see ... that does make a difference. You are a Reader also? When did this all happen? I must go visiting more often as I miss all the news."

"I did not know it either until I looked at the book and somehow I understood the words. Then I was sucked into the book and talked to Lucifer and saw a battle over all Ildar, and more stuff than you would believe right now. That's how I know."

"Wow," said Kari. "I really need to get out more."

"You have a serious problem young Prince, and I have already doubled all my guards. No one has ever, or will ever get through them, and about those spies, we are going to take care of them shortly. We can't take the chance anyway. You need to take the guards that came with your Mother and leave this place in the morning, at first light. You can go through the tunnel that is on the first level I will have a man light the torches in the tunnel that mark the way through."

"There is something I wish to ask of you, Aunt Kari."

"Well certainly, what is it?"

"I wish for my mother to stay here and not go on. The road ahead is full of danger and fighting and I fear for her safety. I want her here. That is, if you agree."

"Well, young Prince, I'm touched with your concern for your mother. Of course she can stay here; after all she is my little sister and I will tell her how much you care. She may want to give you a kiss. I hear you are fond of ..."

"Not that again!" shouted Galen

"From what I hear Galen, you need the practice, for a particular young girl has caught your eye. I know all about it."

"Can we not talk about that too, Father said she left and that's the end of it I guess."

"Let me tell you something about women young prince. When it comes to matters of the heart ... don't give up so fast. Miracles can happen."

"Yah! Yah! I know, and butterflies will come down and fly all around me. Anyway back to the crises. I will move out first thing in the morning with the guards and fresh horses, but I need to get a message to Father quickly and I think I know how to do it. Where are Mother and those guards?" So Aunt Kari took Galen to see his Mother and just out front of her chamber area were the guards that were assigned to her. Galen pulled one guard aside for a critical assignment. "I need you to take a message back to my Father, can you do that?"

"Yes my Lord."

"Tell my Father where I am and that at first light I am leaving Yenom through the tunnel that leads to the Eastern valley and the great river. I hope to lead the Mindosians away from this place. Tell him Mother and the Holy Book are safe for now. I do not know what awaits me on the other side of the tunnel, but I am willing to find out. Also tell him the forces here need to be reinforced with an additional contingent of troops until this crisis is over."

Then Galen stepped back and pressed the Blood Red Jewel on his medallion and again a whirl wind opened up in front of them as Galen thought of the castle and the meeting room they had assembled in. Then the other end of the tunnel stopped moving and opened up. The room was, for all purposes, only a few steps away now.

"My Lord, I have never seen such magic in my life."

The guard was so busy being amazed, he was reluctant to simply take the few steps through the whirlwind.

Galen, knowing the urgency of the matter, didn't have time to explain anything, so he pushed the guard into the whirlwind.

"Tell my Father I might need some help to the East of Yenom on the other side of the mountain."

The guard stumbled through the whirlwind and fell onto the floor on the other side. Then the tunnel closed and disappeared.

"I hope he gets that message to Father or I might not fair too well tomorrow."

The next thing that happened was the doors to the Queen's chambers opened and it was his Mother standing there.

"Galen come in here please."

Behind closed doors the queen could talk freely, but not before she gave Galen one of her big hugs.

"Motheeer ... please."

"Young man, I will hug you when I feel you need to be hugged and you better remember that. Now listen to me, I feel safe here and the box, with the Holy Book in it, is hidden here in this room, so it is safe. You need to send word to your Father that Kari needs help here,"

"Mother I already have, everything will be fine. I needed to know that you were safe and that the book is safe."

"Thank you son, and now I'll tell you something that you have obviously forgotten about. The two girls you have been so concerned about are here too."

"That is wonderful news Mother, where are they? I would love to see her ... I mean them."

"Well first I must tell you that ever since we got here your guard Murk and the one sister Corinne have been seen together and are inseparable. It's funny how love perks its head up in the strangest places and times. There is some funny business going on in this place. You better not be breaking some young girl's heart yourself. Take care of your own heart; listen to your mother, one kiss by the right girl will capture you forever. You are good and kind and I have a feeling that love will find you. There are rumors I hear, that love already has its eyes on you."

"There you go again with all this love talk. I have better things to do and a Kingdom to protect. I'm glad you and the book are safe, but I need to go." With that Galen walked out the door to find his aunt.

It didn't take long to find his Aunt who was busy with her own people, giving out orders and directing everyone.

"Oh hello Galen, how was your talk with your Mother? Oh by the way that spy problem I told you about will be over tonight. We know who they are now and tonight they will no longer be among the living. So what else can I do for you Nephew?"

"Yes, well ... like I said earlier, I'm leaving in the morning and I'm taking the guards that came with Mother and the one called Murk. My goal is to lead the Mindosians away from here, since I can't read anything if I don't have the book. Now I will need fast horses and weapons for everyone. Can you arrange that for me?"

"Little Nephew, I can arrange anything, consider it done."

It was getting late and the sun had gone down a few hours ago and Galen was thinking that he just needed some time to consider all that had happened this day and plan for tomorrow. Then Galen heard a solider calling out his name. He was exhausted and dirty from the hard ride to get news to the Prince. Galen hearing his calls ran to see what the emergency was and he was met there by his Aunt.

"Prince, I was on watch last night overlooking the plains where we could see the Mindosians. They were many like a great army moving parallel to Yenom, headed to the south-east. Then they camped in the valley. Do not go there as the Lycans are with them. I do not know if they suspect you are here."

Galen asked his Aunt to care for the soldier, but he still had plans to leave in the morning.

"This is even more reason that I need to go and lead them away from here for everyone's sake. The guards will ride with me tomorrow morning to try and lead the enemy in the wrong direction. Their bravery will be put to the test in the morning."

#### TIRA

It was late, but Galen felt the need to be alone and to reflect and pray about all that was happening. He walked out onto a large balcony that overlooked the city below. From there he could also see the land out beyond the walls and the road that tied the city to the castle Alexius.

He stood there for a few moments thinking of how all this would turn out. He wondered how he could bring peace to the Kingdom when they were at war with those they had once called their friends. Galen cried out loud as he shared his thoughts with God on the dimly lit balcony. There were only a few torches for light, but it was enough to pray.

"Show me what I must do Lord, I cry out to you. You who have created all things with the breath of your nostrils, speak to me now as I seek your face."

Then suddenly from behind him he heard the voice of a woman. "Excuse me, Prince Galen, I didn't mean to be here when you came out, and I was not trying to spy on you. I am so sorry. I just couldn't sleep with all that was happening, so I came out here to find some peace when you came out."

In the dark shadows Galen couldn't see who was hidden away.

"Were you hiding here to overhear my prayers?"

"No Prince, like I have already told you, I was here first."

Galen strained to see in the dim light.

"You seem to know me so you are at an advantage. Come closer, so I can know who I am speaking to."

She stepped into the light so Galen could see her and suddenly Galen's eyes were bigger than his head. He was frozen in place for only a moment as

he could not believe his eyes. Suddenly all etiquette was forgotten and without a word being said Tira ran to Galen and jumped into his waiting arms as both of them embraced each other. With only the light of the moon to see by Tira focused on only him when Galen did something he had never done before, the unthinkable happened ... he kissed her. Even Galen was surprised, for he had just realized a deeper truth, that the heart will not be denied. For that moment they forgot all the troubles around them and the entire world was theirs. Without any words being said Galen now had the most important reason in the world to end this war, he would make Tira his.

Suddenly the quiet of the moment was interrupted by a muffled scream. Then the next thing they saw was a body fall from the balcony above them to the ground below with a loud thud. Tira held on tighter to Galen, "What was that?"

"A spy I believe. Aunt Kari must be working late tonight."

"There are spies here," asked Tira.

"Well there is one less as of a few minutes ago. Listen to me Tira, my wish for you is that you stay here and not go back home with your Father."

Tira acted as if she didn't know what he would be talking about, "And why should I stay here and for what reason?"

"Well ... ah ..." Galen held Tira closer to him. "Well let's just say that when this war is over I will come back here for you."

"Your reason is that you will come back for me? A girl needs a little bit more than that to stay in a city all alone with spies falling from the sky above, hoping someday a prince will come for her. That is a fairy tale story told to little girls and as you can see I'm not a little girl anymore. Let my ears hear the big girl version of this fairy tale dear prince, and if it pleases my heart then I will gladly give it to you forever." Galen was beginning to squirm a little for he didn't know how to say what his heart wanted without blurting out something that would be all wrong. He had to choose his words carefully, or chance ruining the moment and maybe losing her. Tira was looking up at him waiting for the answer that would change her life forever or send her home.

"Well ... the truth is that from the first day I saw you at school I believed you to be the most beautiful girl I have ever seen. I couldn't take my eyes off you. When I heard from Father that you had come here to meet your Father and go home, I was devastated and my heart sank in my chest, but Father said my duty came first ..."

Tira put her finger up to Galen's lips to stop all his nervous chatter that was going to be endless.

"Galen, why is it when a man wants to talk of matters of the heart he suddenly starts to speak of his duty and never stops talking? If what you are trying to say is of love then say to me, so my ears may hear the words ... I love you."

Galen swallowed hard as he looked into Tira's eyes ..."I love you," suddenly came out of his mouth. "Now please don't leave and go home. I will come back again for you, and I will marry you."

Then Tira smiled and reached up around Galen's neck and the two kissed the kiss of first love. Galen liked this part and only after two kisses he now felt like a pro at it.

"So you say you will marry me? Do you think I am so easily won by words of love spoken on a dimly lit balcony?"

While the two were staring into each other's eyes another body fell from the balcony above. This time unnoticed except for the thud on the ground below.

#### WHERE IS MY HALO

"Tira, I want to ask about your sister Corinne. I haven't seen her since I got here. I hope nothing has happened to her."

"I can assure you Galen, Corinne is doing just fine. She is surrounded by lots of security."

"What security? Is she still in the city?"

"Galen I know you are the prince and all, but some things happen, believe it or not, without orders being given. Have you stopped to consider where your guard is, the one called Murk? I hear that he is on private security duty and the other guards are watching out for the Queen. What could he be doing? What could possibly be going on ... I do not know?" Then Tira laughed. "And you better not spoil it for her either. Now promise me you will not say a thing, and you didn't hear it from me."

"Okay, I won't say anything, but Murk needs to be ready by morning to leave with me. You know I work hard for my Father and I will help him to win this war and I need Murk. Get word to him to be ready. We leave in the morning. Also, as if I have to say this, but I will, so it is clear. I don't want you to go with your father, but rather stay here and I will come for you."

"I understand and my heart is happy now. Father no, Prince yes. By the way, what shall I tell Corinne?"

"That's between her and Murk, but I'm not sure she will like his cooking though. I guess maybe now, neither one of you are going with your Father. There are two more roses in the Gardens of Ildar this night. Don't tell anyone I said that either." Tira only smiled at Galen.

"Galen my love, I did want to tell you something which is important for me to say, if I may?"

"Tira you can tell me anything you want from now on. I am listening."

"I hear you say that you are working hard for your Father. Do you work hard for yourself, young prince, or for the people of Ildar? In my country when someone works hard for unselfish things, that brings good to all the people. Then we say this person has a halo about him. We would say to them, "We see your halo." What we are saying to them is that we see their good works and the good in them to do such things."

Then Galen interrupted her. "Well then I'm sure you can see my halo also?" Tira lowered her head a little and a big smile came to her face with a small giggle as she laughed at his words.

"Do you think I am funny or something, that you would laugh at me?"

"Oh forgive me my love, but I wouldn't take such liberties if I didn't ..." Then she was silent.

"Think what? Tell me what it is," said Galen.

She leaned over and whispered in his ear, "I think you are handsome sweet Prince and love of my heart."

Then she gave him a goodnight kiss on the cheek and headed back to the door leading inside. She turned back to him and her last words to Galen were whispered, "I love you ... good night." Galen just stood there in shock for a minute. Never had he heard such words spoken to him and from someone so beautiful.

Then he tried to shout back at Tira before the door closed, "You never told me if I had a halo. Anyway I'm sure I have a halo ... pretty sure anyway."

Galen stayed out on the balcony for a few more minutes contemplating how the events of life can change so quickly. God in heaven must have divine appointments for each person, as he thought to himself "I think tonight I just had one of those divine appointments. Her name is Tira."

# UNEDITED



## A King is Born in Adversity



#### A KING IS BORN IN ADVERSITY

he sun hadn't been up long when Galen awoke and quickly ran downstairs to see what had happened in the night. His Aunt had some news for him.

"Some of the Mindosians paid us a visit late last night. They woke me up in the middle of the night and you know how much I hate that. Anyway they were looking for you and that book. Of course I told them I had no idea where you were and if they upset the peace of my city that I would cancel their contract for goods along the trade routes. So I told them to leave and not come back and that they better hope they do not get caught by the King's guards that regularly patrol these roads."

"Wow, you really handled that well. I bet they took off fast?"

"Prince Galen, listen to me, this is no game. I know they didn't believe me, but they didn't dare call me a liar either. I'm sure they will be back with more men. So you have to leave and you can't go out the front door, because I'm sure they're watching. You will have to use the tunnel we dug through the mountain. I hope you don't mind dark places?"

"One moment, I want to give you something and you must keep it a secret. It's for your own safety should they come back." Galen reached inside his pouch where he had held back a few of the Zephaniah Stones.

"Do you have a coin purse on you?"

"Of course I do"

"Watch what happens when I drop this in it."

Suddenly her purse could not be seen.

"What happened to it?" She said. "What magic is this?"

"Do not ask me where I got it, but it will keep you safe if you are in danger. Just reach inside this purse and hold the stone in your hand and you will be hidden from human eyes."

"This is truly a miracle ... hmm and a handy one too."

"Not a word to anyone. It must remain a secret and never let it fall into the wrong hands."

"Oh! alright, your little secret is safe with me, I swear."

"Now I have a question of a personal nature. I had a talk with Tira last night and we talked over a few things. She and her sister Corinne will not be going back home with their Father when he comes. Will you keep them here in safety until I can get back? I promised I will come back for her."

"So you found her, or she found you? It makes no difference, but I do love playing the matchmaker. Yes, I will keep the girls here with me and they will be safe so you can go fight your war."

"Aunt Kari my visit here was supposed to be secret."

"Oh it is Galen, only I know that... well Tira knows too ... and ... her sister Corinne knows and maybe a few others, that well ... I forget, but believe me it is a well-kept secret."

Galen thought to himself, "She will head straight to Mother as soon as I'm gone. She can't keep any secret for nothing."

"Now your horses are ready in the tunnel. There are weapons for all your men, and they are all ready and waiting. Tira is still sleeping and I'm sure very happy now. Now get out of here because I'm sure we don't have long before the Mindosians come back looking for you"

#### THROUGH THE TUNNEL

It didn't take Galen long to round up the few guards and Murk their Captain. These would be the few who would ride with Galen. The horses were readied and the fake box was fastened to the side of his horse.

"Men I can only promise you a hard ride, fighting, and possibly death. Know that you ride for your King and for that which is good. Ride with me and your grandchildren will tell many stories of when their grandfather rode with the Prince to save the Kingdom. Long live the King and the Kingdom of Ildar." The three men all raised their swords in the air and shouted together "Long live the King."

The tunnel was very dark and would have been almost impossible to travel. Thankfully, Aunt Kari had sent runners into the tunnel earlier to light the torches mounted on the walls that mark the way through the various turns.

They began at a fast pace weaving through the narrow tunnels following the torches that pointed the way for them. The goal was to get the Mindosian army to follow them away from the city. They passed the remains of those who tried and failed to make it through the tunnels alone, the horses trampling on their dried bones. It took about twenty minutes before they began to see some glimpse of light from the other end.

As they got close to the end and the opening was in view, Galen suddenly heard the sound of arrows flying past him and the silhouettes of men firing at them from the opening. One of the men screamed out, he was hit. They came to a halt quickly and armed themselves as they took cover behind rocks in the tunnel. The other two guards fired their arrows back hitting and killing at least one, maybe two of the enemy.

The guards yelled at Galen to stay put and ran up ahead to check the dead. "They are Mindosians," they should out. Then Galen ran up to see and

just outside the tunnel opening there lay several dead men. These he knew were men from Yenom who guarded this end of the tunnel. They had been ambushed and killed by Mindosians who waited to ambush them. That meant the Mindosians knew his Aunt had lied and that they had been there. The Mindosians would go back to take their revenge.

Galen called out to the wounded guard, "Are you still able to ride?"

"Yes my lord, it is my leg, but I can ride."

"I want you to ride back through the tunnel and tell my Aunt of this. She will want to make some changes in her plans. Tell her we will try to draw their attention away from her city. Now go and be quick."

#### ON THE RUN

Now Galen and his men had to ride as far away as possible and get the Mindosian army to follow them. He headed out to the east trying to get across the river before being sighted. If possible they could make it to the mountains where they could hide and cause the Mindosians long delays looking for them. Galen felt sure that his Father was gathering the army and other allies from the other realms to join him. He knew his Father would come to their aid if possible.

Galen's small band of men was riding as fast as they could towards the great Gio River. They were not far from it when one of the guards called out to Galen that they had some company. As Galen looked out into the distance, there on the tops of the ridges were the Mindosian armies. "How could they find us so fast?" thought Galen. Now their only hope was to cross the great river.

As they got to the river, the next problem was how to cross it. It was too swift to try to cross on horseback, so they went down river till they found a suitable crossing. All this took up valuable time and the Mindosians began to chase them, though still some distance behind. Galen decided it was better to chance the river than face the Mindosian army out in the open. Now what Galen couldn't see were the angels that were sent to help him. As it was once told to his grandfather, "You are never alone." Suddenly a gust of wind came. It felt good to the men and helped cool them off, but Galen also noticed the river level was affected too. The wind that blew on them also blew on the water and at that exact place where they stood, the water level became low enough so that the horses could make it through. Galen shouted out "Men the Lord is with us this day, let us follow His leading." Galen led the way and all the men ran their horses across the mighty Gio River until they reached the other side.

### THE MINDOSIAN TRAP

No time to delay, the enemy was almost to the river. As tired as the horses were, they pushed them and headed towards the mountains, only a few miles ahead. Then they all came to a dead stop. The mountain was covered with Mindosian soldiers.

"They must have been told of our plans," thought Galen, "we have a traitor in our midst."

Galen was running out of options. He was now blocked ahead and could not make it to the mountain. On the other side of the river, the army had made it to the river banks and they were looking for their own place to cross. The outcome was looking bleak as Galen looked at Murk and the two other guards he said,

"This would be a good time for Father to appear."

The reality of it was that things did not look good for them.

"Well men, it doesn't look good for us. I for one choose to go out killing as many of them as I can."

Galen got down off his horse and drew out his sword. Murk followed his example telling the other two,

"You two are free to go your way, but I think you will not get far. Better to fight and die with a prince then run and die a coward. I stand with Prince Galen."

The other two guards dismounted their horses and drew out their swords also. The four of them against the entire Mindosian Army was not a fair match, but rather a slaughter. The four formed a circle all facing out towards the enemy.

In the few minutes they had before certain death would come, Galen lifted his sword up to heaven and prayed a small prayer for a miracle. Then he also saw the golden crown on his sword and the blue jewel. His Fathers words came back to him,

"Only push the jewel in your darkest hour."

Galen remembered what happened at the castle, and maybe it could happen again. Could it happen here? Suddenly about twenty feet out in front of him, Galen saw the evil form of a red dragon, he knew it was Satan.

"Have you changed your mind yet young Prince? I believe this is your last chance. Look around you boy, you don't have a chance. Swear allegiance to me and give me the book and I will let you live. You will serve me and I will make you a Prince of men and a King to all. I will give you the girl if you do as I say."

"I will die before I give you anything. I do not know any girl that you refer to."

"Let me refresh your memory a little," said the dragon. "Her name is Tira."

Sudden anger filled Galen's heart when the jewel from the sword sparkled in the sunlight and caught his eye. He heard that same old familiar voice say to him,

"Press the jewel."

So Galen looked at the dragon and held the sword up high so he could see the jewel that now sparkled in the sun.

The dragon's eyes focused on the sword and he said,

"You hold the sword of the King. That means ..."

About that time Galen pressed the jewel on the sword. Suddenly its light shot out and the glow of it went out and surrounded the four men and then faded away. The dragon was now gone, but the next thing Galen knew was a volley of arrows were coming their way from all directions. The four of them backed up to each other and one of the guards shouted out loud to Galen,

"It was my honor to serve with you and now to die with the prince is a greater honor."

The other men all should words of agreement as the small group had no shields for protection. They knew their time was up.

#### THE MIRACLE ON THE PLAINS

Galen was busy looking to the skies

"We are not finished yet. This is not our end."

His eyes caught the flickering of lights in the clouds above them. They were blue and Galen's heart was now filled with hope, but the arrows were almost on them. They all braced themselves for what appeared to be certain death. Then at the last second the arrows hit something and fell back to the ground just feet before they found their mark. The image of a very tall Guardian, over fifty feet tall began to flicker as light passed through him. This time all the men could see the flickering light of the Guardian angel as it was given to all of them the ability to see into the supernatural realm. Then to their delight there appeared a second Guardian, both of them with swords and shields that were large enough to act as a cover for the men.

"Do you see them? They are here?" shouted Galen.

Murk was just standing there as his eyes could not believe what he was seeing.

"I will never doubt you my Prince. You have some mighty big contacts I see. It is a miracle from God, it is."

Galen kept his eyes on the clouds as he watched and saw the lights begin to descend like the rain over the earth.

"God is for us," He shouted. "He sends his army to those who believe. Look at the army of the Lord, for they are here as He has promised."

Murk could not believe all that he saw,

"You have friends in high places my Prince."

Then as all the men looked on, the battle suddenly was not about them anymore, the battle was the Lords, as it is written in the book. All the men saw hundreds of Guardians shooting down like lightning bolts to fight the demons from off the backs of the Mindosians. This time the Mindosian army kept coming and Galen knew they couldn't fight them all in the flesh. Galen noticed that the very large Guardians now drew out their swords as they fully intended to slay the Mindosian Army right there. As the enemy was almost upon them, suddenly another miracle happened.

#### FATHER COMES IN THE NICK OF TIME

Galen saw another army coming from out of the North from the direction of Ildar, all riding on the wind as it were. As soon as their feet touched the ground they began slaying the Mindosian troops. The army spread out and individual combat began. Sword against sword they fought. When Murk and the other two guards saw this they too left the circle they had and charged the Mindosians.

What they all discovered was that, without the evil demon on their backs, the Mindosians lost their will to fight and began to quickly surrender. The Code of Honor says, you cannot kill a combatant once he has surrendered and laid his sword down.

Now at the head of this army Galen saw his Father. He rode a white horse and on his head was his crown, a symbol of his authority. He made a path through the Mindosians and headed straight towards Galen. Galen saw no weapon in his hand, because Galen had the sword he used in battle. So how was he able to defend himself, or even make his way through the enemy lines? Before Galen knew it, his Father was upon him and walked through the large fifty foot Guardians that protected them from the arrows. Now the Guardians disappeared, and no one could see them anymore, but the fighting seemed to have stopped. Galen and all the others on the battlefield bowed their knee in the presence of the King.

"I would like to ask you a question son."

"Yes father, anything and thank you for coming when you did."

"Yes, well I thought you could use some help when I knew it was Satan that was after you. Then I was informed that you did not do as I told you. This stunt of yours was incredibly brave, but also very stupid. So, I would like to know what you are doing, and why are you out here with only three men alone? What were you thinking?"

"Father, I was thinking to protect the Holy Book by making the Mindosians follow us and leave the city and therefore leave Mother and the Book alone. I was trying to lead them away from Mother."

"And get yourself killed in the process? I would have never heard the end of that and you would have broken her heart. However, that was incredibly brave of you and your men. So, Guardian of the Holy Book, where is the book now?"

"Father, it is with Mother in the city of Yenom where it is safe. Aunt Kari assured me she had enough troops there to protect both Mother and the book. I even sent a messenger back through the tunnel to ask you to send more troops to Yenom for this very reason. I plan to return to Yenom to bring Mother and the Book back home to Ildar as soon as it is safe."

The King now pondered all the acts of bravery and the reasons for them given by his son. There was a long period of silence by King Derek as he considered his next words. Galen took a moment and looked around at the battlefield where now thousands of men lay dead or wounded.

The King saw his son looking around at the battlefield.

"It's a shame Galen isn't it? What do you think?"

Galen looked around,

"These men are dead. They did not deserve to die except they were pawns of an evil that never cared about a single one of them. All of this war and death brought on because I wanted to read from the book. The blood of all these men and many more is upon me. I am not worthy to be your son or to be Guardian of anything. I give you back your sword, I am not worthy."

"Be still, Galen, not so fast. A long time ago, like you, the first time I read from the book, I was called and stood as you did in a great room in front

of Lucifer. He tried his best, but I never read for him either. He cursed at me, but I never gave in. He swore eternal vengeance on my family, but I did not give in. I never gave in. Then he threatened to destroy me right there when suddenly a Guardian named Zurel showed up and snatched me out of there. He gave me that sword and told me about the jewel, that I should only press it in my darkest of times and they would come.

I gave it to you for the same reasons. Son, I cannot punish you for doing as I did. You proved your calling when you read from the book, you showed wisdom that even though you were scared as we all are, you stood up to Lucifer. You accepted responsibility as a King must, when you became the keeper of the Sacred Book. And don't you think that I did not know you disobeyed me and stayed behind for my sake, because of your love for me. Let me tell you son the words of the book, 'No greater love does a man have than he lay down his life for a friend.' In this you have proven your loyalty and your love to your Father. Sometimes son, a King needs to know when to break the rules for the sake of love and for the greater good. Sometimes there are just too many rules.

Now I see that once again you showed incredible courage along with three of your men to try and lead the entire Mindosian Army away from the three things you love the most, even at great risk to yourself."

"Father, I can think of only two things, Mother and the Book."

"Galen, you will find out that as King you hear everything and loose lips will soon reveal even the closest secrets made in dark places. Yes, I know of you and Tira so you can stop acting surprised. So you have found your Queen at last? Hold onto her son. If she is anything like your Mother she will love you and always be at your side.

Galen, since you like making up your own version of my orders, and you seem to excel in taking chances that only the angels would take, and the men seem to follow you like they do me; there seems to be only one solution to this problem. You are my son, so I can't kill you. Your mother would kill me. Hum, I think it is a good time for this."

Galen, I have an announcement to make to you and to my generals and captains of my armies. The job of being the King fell to me by means of succession. I did not seek it out. You're Mother and I have long dreamed of a different life. Now that you are of age and you have proven yourself as a Reader of the sacred words, a leader of men willing to make the hard, maybe even risky decisions, I believe a change is needed. Oh yes, one more thing I learned from your Aunt, you have yourself a Queen. Hand me that sword son and get down on your knees. This will have to do till we can get back home and an official ceremony can be arranged."

"But father ..."

### A KING, BORN IN ADVERSITY

"You are more ready than I was when I took over the crown. So no more talking ... kneel."

Galen looked around and saw the army of men and his own three guards come in closer forming a circle around his Father and him. Then General Tauv shouted out for all to "Kneel before the King," and all the men knelt where they were.

"You kneel on a battlefield stained with the blood of men used by Satan. Never forget, as you have seen today what war brings. Remember Galen, a wise King never seeks war, but is always ready for it. Now before all these gathered on this blood soaked field of battle, do you swear to forsake your own interest and seek peace as long as you live."

Galen raised his hand to heaven, "I swear."

"Do you swear to protect the truth to which you have already been sworn to protect?"

"I swear."

The King tapped the sword on each side of Galen's shoulders and again stuck the sword in the ground so that Galen could see the blue jewel embedded in the hilt of his father's sword.

"Then I, your father and your King, pronounce you the new King of Ildar for as long as you shall live."

King Derek took the crown off his own head and placed it on his son's head.

"Now rise as the King that you are. When we are all back home, there will be an official ceremony with the family and priest so the people can see what has been done this day. Until then only, I shall be above you. Through you our Heritage will live on."

Galen heard the shouts of all the men of the army.

"Long live the King. Long live King Galen."

Galen stood to his feet and all the men and the army raised their swords to heaven and cheered for him. Galen found himself very humbled at what had just happened because he felt so unworthy. Then Derek shocked everyone when he knelt before the new King. Everything went quiet. Everyone wanted to hear what would happen next. The only thing that could be heard was the sound of Derek saying,

"Long live King Galen, King of Ildar and all its territories and keeper of the Holy Book of Beginnings."

Everyone stood back up when Derek raised his hand in the air to get everyone's attention.

"Katheryn and I have always dreamed of taking a trip, but because of our duty and responsibility to Ildar we never did. Well I believe the time has come. I seem to have the time and a reason to go, and your mother will be glad too."

Then all the men banged their swords against their shields and cheered for King Derek.

"King Galen, it is not my place to tell you what to do, only to say that if I was the King in charge, I would show respect for those who have fallen and I would bury them. I would collect all the weapons so they would never be used against you again. Then I would take my army home, but like I said that is what I would do. You are King now, and it's time to make your own decisions. Rule well son. Ask of the Lord what you may, but always seek wisdom and keep a humble spirit before God. The Army seems to like you too, don't abuse their trust in you."

King Derek got back on his horse and immediately his escorts came up alongside him. He leaned down from his horse to say a last word of advice to his son.

"Remember all you have learned about the Book. Honor the spirit of the One who is found in its words, and know this Galen, the greatest secret is that He is alive indeed. Maybe it's time you let that secret out of the bag so all men may know."

"Yes father, I will try to remember all you have told me. When will I see you and mother again?"

Derek laughed, "Well son I'm not leaving right now. We will stay to see your coronation and from what your Aunt says ... your wedding. Let me fill you in on a little family secret of our own. If you want to get a message out quickly, just tell your Aunt. I bet you already know that, don't you? The balcony thing was genius, and by the light of the moon too. Nice moves, I'd say. You swept her off her feet son, and I couldn't be more proud. Yep, your Aunt knows everything." Galen just stood there speechless, "How could that woman know all that and tell Father so fast?"

King Galen and all the men watched as his Father and his guards headed back home. The army made a path for them to ride through. As they made their way through the path, the men raised their swords into the air and cheered for the King Derek, for all the love and respect they had for him as their King. The end of an era had just passed, but the time of Galen, the new King had just begun and that would prove to be most exciting time. Ildar was about to enter into its Golden Years.

After Derek was gone and out of sight, General Tauv turned to ask the new King what his first command was?

"We are not savages, we honor the dead. Then we go home."

THE JOURNEY HOME

On the journey back home Galen finally had time to reflect on all that had been going on and the miracles that had happened. When he was able to relax and calm himself, his mind went back to Tira. They only had a few moments together, but she had never left his thoughts. That evening, as they encamped to rest, Galen called the captain of the army to come and talk with him.

"I have a message that needs to be delivered. Who among all the men is the most trusted, call him."

A short time later the Captain brought to Galen his most trusted messenger.

"Your majesty this is Robert, he is Ildarian, and his loyalty is beyond question."

"Robert, I have written a message for you to deliver to my Aunt in the City of Yenom concerning a maiden by the name of Tira. Please ride as fast as you can and make sure she gets this message. Also take three soldiers with you for security"

Galen handed Robert a hand written message he had written earlier.

"Yes my lord, I will leave tonight."

Galen turned to the Captain, "Would you please tell Murk that I would like to speak with him now."

"Yes my Lord, I will see to it immediately."

After a little while Galen saw Murk running over to where he sat around a fire. Galen stood up and embraced his friend.

"Murk my old friend, come and join me. Have a seat with me around the fire so we may talk a while.

"I'd be happy to your majesty. Oh yah and congratulations now that you are the King, I think that is a good thing. I am with you all the way." As he then slapped Galen on the back.

"Just a little bit ago I dispatched a runner to Yenom asking my Aunt to send back the troops to Ildar and with them send Mother, the book, and Tira. I'm sure Corinne will follow her sister, what do you think?

"Hum there is a good question for ya. I spent time with the little missy I did. We were close and it was kind of dark, then I said ... then she did ... and then we ... but we both promised not to tell. It's our secret."

"So what was the secret?" asked Galen.

"Well that she kissed ... ha now you're trying to get me to tell our secret."

"No, you wouldn't accuse your King of doing that would you?"

"Hum ... that's a good question. Let me think on that one. But I will say if she doesn't show up at Ildar with Tira I will personally go get her and bring her back. I think she might like the thought of me kidnapping her."

"So Murk, is that how they do it where you come from? Just go grab a woman and drag her off?"

"Oh no your Majesty. We are not barbarians, well I'm not anyway. I will let her eat and gather some food first then I will take her."

"Well I think that will sweep her off her feet for sure," said Galen.

"Listen Murk, as a friend, I just wanted to tell you that I asked Tira to marry me the other night. I would have told you sooner, but you and Corrine were missing and presumed in hiding, I don't want to know any details, so just save them."

"If you are asking for my advice my King, I will only tell you what I have heard. If you follow through with this, then your life is about to change ... FOREVER!" With a big smile on his face Murk had finished speaking.

"Ahh, that helped ... thanks."

#### HOME COMING

With an army the size they had, it took another day to get back home to Ildar. Runners had gone ahead of them to announce their coming and that Galen had been made the unofficial King until His Father the King could get all the official announcements made and a ceremony time appointed. Carriers came out to meet them with the royal banners and flags that would announce a King's arrival. It was all quite a show and a celebration that all of the country joined in. People were happy that the war was over so soon and that they were all safe once again. As Galen and the army entered the city all the people came out to welcome them home. Galen smiled back and waved to the people because it was for them that he served and for them that he fought the enemies of their Kingdom.

With all the joy of homecoming Galen's heart was with Tira, wishing she was there by his side to see the homecoming. He hoped the runner delivered the message and that soon she would come home to Ildar.

Galen was soon in his chambers looking out the window. A lot had gone on since he last stood there. That girl who caught his eye two years ago was now all he could think about. God does work in mysterious ways he thought. A chance moment to pray on a balcony ended with him in love and a promise made to marry Tira.

"Well I guess every King needs his Queen," he thought. "Tira is a good woman. She just might make a better Queen than he would a King?"

Galen wasn't too sure concerning matters of the heart, the heart seemed to be powerful and able to conquer the mightiest of men.

#### THE GRAND FEAST

That night General Tauv, the captains and the men of valor were invited for a feast in the grand banquet hall. Many came to celebrate their victories and there was food enough for everyone. The women danced and the musicians played their music in celebration of the evening. It was a time full of joy and everyone was excited and happy.

Suddenly the wind blew the great doors open which would normally take two grown men to open. There were some screams from startled women but everyone stopped what they were doing and looked towards the doors. The banners and draperies that hung in the room all flew up and then back down again as a sinister greyish smoke entered the room. It blew around the banquet hall and swirled around and then settled directly in front of Galen. Everyone moved back away from Galen and the mist.

"What is this evil?" Galen said loudly. For a few moments nothing happened, it just sat there in front of him. He tried to move to the side, but it moved with him. "What evil are you?" He said to the mist. "What have you come here for?"

Then a voice came out of the mist "I want what is mine. Give it to me." Now, Galen knew what this was about ... the Sacred Book of Beginnings.

"You will never have what you seek devil and you are not wanted here either. Be gone and never come back, because if you don't, I will call the Guardians, for they stand with us."

Then it dawned on Galen, that by his own words he had just awakened to the power his father knew. This was what Lucifer knew about his father, that just knowing the words of the book is not enough. It was when Derek spoke the words that he had power over Satan. Now Galen's understanding of this was complete. He could not fight against Satan by himself, but he had the power to speak the words of the Holy Book.

Galen did not even stop to think. It was like a sudden burst of courage overtook him so he stood up in front of the mist. All the men of war and the women dancers, everyone watched him, and with boldness he had not known before, he yelled out,

"Satan, by the power that my father knew, the power of the spirit of the Holy Book, I command you to be gone and to never return."

The voice in the mist spoke again to Galen, "Be careful of the words you speak young King, for I have what you seek. You will not have her until I have what I want." Everyone in the room was shocked. What was he talking about? Everyone was asking each other, but as soon as he said this Galen knew of whom he spoke.

"Tira." "Again someone innocent was caused to suffer because of him," Galen thought.

The mist started moving and more curtains flew up in the air as it headed up into the rafters. Then Galen had another thought as the words of his Father King Derek came back to him, "You are the Guardian of the truth and the Holy Book."

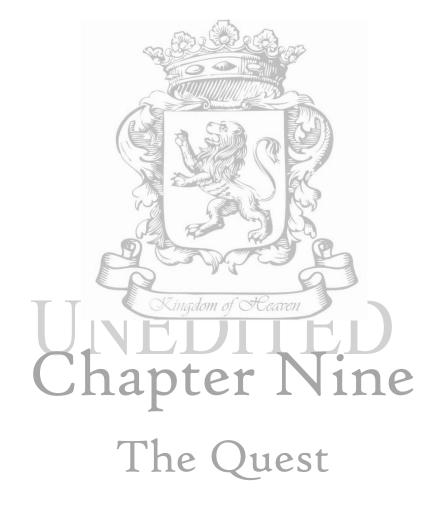
Galen looked up at the mist that was now at the top of the rafters and yelled out to it,

"If you come back I will do as my father did before me for I am a Guardian as he was. Remember, that in this land there is a Guardian that stands against you. For as long as I live I will stand against you, and this Kingdom will stand against you."

Then from within the mist everyone heard a woman scream, and the mist disappeared. The men of war and all the people gathered there stood and cheered for King Galen's triumph over evil. The atmosphere became pleasant and all the people believed and gave thanks to God from whom their blessings came. A huge burden had been lifted from Galen's heart, but a new one had replaced it.



# UNEDITED





#### SEARCHING FOR TIRA

eace at last. Galen had fulfilled one of the promises he swore before his father. He had kept the peace in Ildar and though there was peace once again, Galen's heart was still heavy. He lay awake at night wondering where Tira was and why his Aunt hadn't sent her back yet? There was the mist that talked about Tira, he was sure of it. That scream he heard ... Galen was sure it was her. Finally, he had to do something, so he summoned his friend Murk, who was now Captain of the Guard.

"Murk, it has been too long now and my spirit can find no peace. I am deeply concerned about the whereabouts of Tira and why she hasn't come to me yet. Send out as many messengers as it takes to find Tira and bring her back here. They are not to rest until she is safe here in Ildar."

"As you wish my lord, I'll send runners to Yenom which is the last place you saw her. Then they will spread out across the land till the maiden is found and brought back here."

"After you have sent the runners out then come back. I have more to discuss with you and get word to General Tauv to come and speak with me."

"Yes my lord."

A few hours later:

"General I have something on my mind that only you can make happen."

"I am here my lord, how can I serve you?"

"There are a couple of things that require your unique qualifications. I just had Murk send runners to Yenom to inquire about the young woman name Tira. But there is a deeper concern because I have not seen anyone come out of Yenom since we left there through the underground tunnels. I want you to take a force of about two hundred men and go there. Find out what is going on and fix it. Bring me back the two women Tira and Corinne, the sacred book and my Mother. Do not let anything get in your way. Meet force with force, but get this finished. Leave as soon as you have the men and the supplies gathered.

The second thing is that I am concerned about our borders and for the safety of our people. I am thinking that we need to increase our patrols and if possible expand our borders for the safety of Ildar and its people. First resolve the problem going on at Yenom and make sure everyone is secure back in the castle. When that is done, then start to recruit those who would serve their King as spies to go and live for a time among those who would be our enemies and report back. We cannot be surprised again like we were last time. Father was too trusting and you saw what happened."

"It is good that you are thinking of these things my King. I have spoken about such matters before with your father, but we never got to a point of doing them. After I have gone to Yenom, I will make a plan and come back with the details for you to approve."

#### TIRA IS MISSING

A week went by and still Galen heard no word of Tira. No runners came back, no word at all and still he waited. General Tauv returned back from Yenom, He brought back Tira's Sister Corrine, the sacred book and his mother the Queen, much to the joy of His Father. The General came to give his report to King Galen.

"I'm sorry my lord, but we have searched Yenom and your Aunt tells us that Tira ran off the day you left to go through the tunnel wanting to warn you of the Mindosian trap. She couldn't stop her. The maiden ran after you and has not been seen since. Your Aunt has had men out looking for her ever since." In a fit of desperation Galen yelled out,

"I want Tira found no matter what the cost, no matter how long it takes. Offer a reward of fifty pieces of gold to whoever finds her."

"Yes, my lord, I will see to it immediately."

Galen's heart sank and a thousand things went racing through his mind of what might have happened.

"She risked her life to find me and I will do no less now to go where I have to, to get her back."

#### THE WOMAN NAMED DIAMOND

A few days had passed when there was news of a woman by the name of Diamond who came seeking an audience with the King. Galen's Mother and Father were with him when they heard of this woman, Diamond.

"Galen," said Katheryn. "I believe this to be the same woman who came to us just before you were born. Yet she doesn't seem to have aged and no one knows who she is, or where she comes from. Please be careful son."

"I have news that you seek concerning a maiden named Tira. I am a poor woman and if what I know is of value then I should receive compensation for it."

"There is already a reward offered to anyone who can tell me where she is. So tell me this news you have and I will judge if it is worthy of the reward."

"Tira is safe and unharmed for now."

"What do you mean unharmed?"

"She was captured by a trader named Zocor and sold to a Dark Elf, a slave of the underworld. She is being held in the Valley of the Two Moons that are beyond the River called Gio. There you will find her being held by the Dark Elf in the Cave of Ravens. He seeks to take her as his own when the waning Blood Moon has peaked and a new moon illuminates the altar, then she will be taken on it. Search your heart young King and if your heart be true you will overcome. The maiden you seek calls for you even now. Know this that the Dark Elf is protected by an evil spirit called Anu. He is powerful and there is a dragon who watches over the cave night and day. Do not delay for the cycle of the Blood Moon will appear in two days. It has already begun."

Galen jumped to his feet and yelled for General Tauv to come.

"I will see if this dragon understands the point of my sword when I run him through with it. I will only give you half of your reward now. If your information is true and she is there, and when I bring her back you will get the other half. But I warn you old woman if this is a trap, I will kill you myself when I return. For now take your money and go in peace."

Then Galen motioned to Murk the Captain of the Guard and Murk handed her a bag with half her reward in it.

"Yes my King, you will find your love there, my word is true." Then without any other words or explanation Diamond slowly disappeared before the eyes of everyone.

"What magic is this?" shouted Galen.

Just moments after the old woman Diamond disappeared from the presence of King Galen, she re-appeared inside the cave of Ravens and stood before the Red Dragon.

"Did you do as I commanded," said the dragon?

"Yes, my lord, just as you said. He believes one of the Dark Elves bought the girl and has her here. He will come for her in two days with the coming of the Blood Moon. He wears the Blood Red Medallion of his Father."

"I will be waiting for him. He will watch as his love dies in front of him."

Diamond looked over against the wall and there was Tira chained to the wall. Tira screamed as loud as she could, but it was in vain.

In the meantime ...

General Tauv came running into the throne room where he had been summoned. "Yes my Lord, how may I serve you?"

The King turned to his advisors, "We still have treaties with the Kingdom of Nordoff, is this correct?"

"Yes we do. They are old ones but your father honored them and so do they."

"I would guess that they do not know that this devil is in their midst and has taken Tira. I do not have time to contact them about this matter I will just have to deal with it when we get there. General, gather up an army of three hundred men all on horseback and ready for a fight. We will be moving fast and out for blood if that is what it takes. We will leave today and be there today. Come back to me when the men are ready."

"But my Lord, how can the men get there the same day as we leave? It is at least two maybe three days ride to the border."

"Trust me General, I know a few tricks my Father taught me. Just be ready as soon as the men can. Meet me outside the castle in the open field."

Galen looked over at Murk, "My friend, are you ready for another charge against evil?"

"I will follow you to hell and back to rescue Tira from a Dragon."

Galen just smiled and slapped Murk on the shoulder,

"Good because you're coming with me old friend. We go to fight a dragon whose face I have seen personally. I have kept my word to father and Ildar is at peace, but now I will keep my word to Tira, she desperately needs me now." Galen ordered that his Father's sword be brought to him, and then a breast plate of hardened leather was given to him and leg guards. Murk being the Captain of the Guard had the same armor brought to him.

"Now let us make our plans Murk. Here is what I'm thinking ..."

### A VISIT FROM ZUREL

It was taking longer to gather the army together and Galen was anxious so he decided to go to his private chambers to pray. He could not find any rest for his spirit was so upset thinking of what Tira must be going through all because of him.

As he was pacing the floor talking under his breath to God he suddenly noticed his medallion begin to glow its familiar blue glow even though he had his Father's Blood Red Medallion. It still could be used like the blue one also. Before he had time to think about that, the room suddenly lit up with a soft blue light. Galen quickly turned around and there was a familiar face for sure. Standing before him was a mighty winged warrior named Zurel, Chief Captain of the League of Guardians.

"I remember you," said Galen.

"Yes, and I come this time with a message. There is coming a time of testing. Stay strong and be of good cheer for the one who has your heart shall bear you a child and he shall be great in the Kingdom. Stand strong for the evil one seeks to sift you like wheat. Now go, the girl's time draws near. The adversary which is that Dragon of old is waiting in the Cave of Ravens."

Then Zurel faded away and all Galen was left with was hope that Tira could be saved, Galen ran to the meeting area to see General Tauv.

### TIME TO LEAVE, TIRA NEEDS SAVING

"General, are the men assembled yet?"

"We are working as fast as we can. You asked for three hundred men and that takes some time, but we are here." The general turned around in his saddle and yelled to the men behind him, "Everyone mount up."

Galen rode out in front of the troops with Murk right next to him. Galen had never been to the Cave of Ravens so he did his best to think of what it would look like. When he felt he had a good idea of what he wanted, he looked over at Murk and said,

"I hope this works, since I have no idea where we are going."

Galen reached up and pressed the Blood Red Medallion. Before his hand could reach his side the wind suddenly picked up and began blowing over all the men that were assembled. Then the wind became stronger and began swirling around everyone until it resembled a whirlwind tunnel. Some of the horses were getting spooked by all this, but their riders quickly calmed them down. In only seconds a full blood red whirlwind tunnel had formed in front of everyone. They all watched the other end of the tunnel search for the landing point Galen had focused on. It didn't take long and in a few seconds the end of the tunnel stopped and opened up. All the men could see a grassy plain in which to run to.

Galen's horse rose up onto its hind legs as Galen shouted out, "Follow me into the tunnel." With that Galen started out as fast as his horse could carry him and right next to him was Murk. The General and all three hundred of his soldiers followed him into the tunnel.

It was not a long run through the tunnel so there were many soldiers exiting the tunnel as more was entering the tunnel. Finally as the last of the men came out the tunnel it then collapsed and faded away. "General," said King Galen. "Send out a few scouts in every direction and find out where we are, and who is out there waiting for us. Tell them only one hour and then come back. In the meantime have the men rest and water their horses, and stay on alert. I'm sure there is a fight coming."

#### JOINING FORCES WITH NORDOFF

King Galen didn't have to wait long for a report. About forty minutes later one of the scouts came back with a report of a large group, possibly an army camped out in a valley a few miles to the west. He had a chance to meet one of their scouts and talked with him.

"We are in the Kingdom called Nordoff and they only know of the evil that is in the valley, but are unable, or maybe too scared to do anything about it. They do not know what to do, but they did tell me that parts of the Mindosian Army guards are in the valley and the caves. I told the scout why we are here and about the girl. He rode back to tell his Prince."

Galen stood to his feet, "I will go and speak with this Prince of Nordoff. I don't know much about them, only hearing Father speak of them a few times, that we still have treaties with them. I'm sure they will honor their word. Murk, General Tauv come with me and bring three of your men. We will go see what we can learn, and tell the men to make camp here while we are gone."

So Galen and his few men rode out to meet the leader of Nordoff's Army. As they got to the top of the last hill overlooking the camp, Galen was surprised to find the Prince also riding up the same hill to meet him.

"Greetings to you King Galen," as the Prince bowed his head towards Galen out of respect. "I am Prince Phillip of the Kingdom of Nordoff, and yes, even this far away word has already reached us of your ascension to the throne, as the new King of all Ildar. I know of the treaties that our Fathers, in times past, have made with each other. I pray that they are still binding with you, as they are with us."

Then Galen raised his hand up as high as his head saying,

"Greetings to you also Prince Phillip. The treaties of our Fathers holds true in Ildar and always will. But now my heart is heavy in the matter for which we are here. I am sorry I had no time to send runners to inform you of our coming, but time is of the essence now."

"Yes, your Majesty. I understand we have a common problem? I am at a loss as to how to deal with evil dragons who curse my land with their presence. I am hoping you know."

The prince noticed the Blood Red Medallion around Galen's neck.

Galen wanted to offer the prince a meeting that night,

"I know of this dragon. I have seen him before, but this matter we can speak of later if you are willing to come to my camp. Come tonight at twilight, we will talk then."

"I accept your offer," said the prince. I will bring my Generals with me, so we can work this out tonight. I will see you then."

With that Prince Phillip rode back down the hill to his camp.

That evening Galen, his friend Murk and the General sat around a fire planning the best way to get past the Mindosians without causing another war.

"Ildar is at peace and I'd like to keep it that way, but we will fight if we have too." said Galen.

Then a guard came running to the General and whispered in his ear some news. The General turned to Galen

"The Prince of Nordoff has arrived to talk to you. Shall we leave, so that you may speak in private?"

"No General, you and Murk stay. So let's hear what the Prince has to say." Galen looked at the guard, "Bring the Prince here to the fire so we may talk."

### AN UNWANTED VISITOR

Prince Phillip came up into the fire ring and greeted King Galen and his men. Then Galen offered him a seat next to him.

As the two of them began to talk about how they may deal with the evil and still rescue the girl, the fire in front of both of them began to grow until it suddenly exploded in sparks and smoke. The image of the dragon came out of the fire pit. All of the guards and those around the King jumped back and drew their swords as if it was an enemy they could fight. The head of the dragon came out of the fire and into the face of Galen and the Prince.

"My patience with you young King is over. I will take the girl and she will be mine at the end of the cycle of the Blood Moon. The longer she is mine the less she will remember you until she no longer knows you. If you do not bring me the book then I will kill her. If you do bring me the book then I will at least spare her life, but make her my Queen of the underworld. Her life is in your hands, but you will never have her. I want what is mine."

Then the dragon turned and looked the Prince of Nordoff up close and in his face,

"Why do you want your men to die in the desert and yourself a failure scorned forever by your father?"

The Prince stood to his feet and pulled out his sword and slashed at the dragon, but the dragon was made of smoke and just laughed at the efforts of the Prince.

Galen shouted at the dragon, "You will have my answer in the morning. Now be gone you devil, I will not talk to you again."

The fire erupted once again and then died down to its normal size.

The Prince was shocked and his mouth was wide open as he stuttered out the words.

"You ... you defied the evil spirit and he left us. You are indeed a powerful King. I cannot fight this alone, or we shall surly die. And now this woman will become the Queen of the Underworld and kill more of us. It shall be as you say. I need to go back to my camp now. I must leave."

Galen turned to his men and said to them, "I wonder what got into him?" They all laughed.

Then the General looked over at King Galen,

"Sire, I know you don't have the book. What do you plan to do when the evil spirit comes back?"

"I'm not sure general. Maybe I just bought Tira some time. He will not harm her if he thinks I will read for him. This is why I sent the book away from me so this wouldn't happen. Believe me Captain, there is another way and I have a plan. We still attack like I said. Just make sure the men are ready and especially those troops from Nordoff. Their Prince Phillip scares easy, but I hope his troops don't."

The two camps settled in for the night preparing for the battle in the morning. Galen knew that the dragon had a small army of Mindosians that had broken off from the rest before they went to war with them. Those would be the ones most susceptible to the demon host upon them. Those were the army Galen had to overcome to get to the cave.

# VALLEY OF THE TWO MOONS

(Battle of the Cave of Ravens)

In the morning everyone was ready and waiting for Galen. The army was ready for battle and Prince Phillip's army stood ready as the Prince had promised. Together the two armies crossed over the Gio River headed towards the Valley of the Two Moons where Galen would lead the charge against what was left of the Mindosian army.

"Prince Phillip, I will lead my men into the battle with the Mindosians and if any run away or escape then you and your men can run them down and kill them. Make sure they are all dead. It is better to fight them here and kill them now, than for them to run away and we have to fight them again later."

"This is a better plan," said the Prince. "I like this plan."

"Good" said Galen. "Now we are both happy."

Two hours later they came to a rocky place in the desert with huge boulders that could be seen for miles around. There was only one entrance into this valley from their direction. The entrance was marked by two extremely large boulders that in times past had been rounded off to look like twin moons. This is how the valley got its name.

Prince Phillip shouted over to Galen "You go this way through the two moons and from this point on I warn you of the evil that is beyond."

"I understand Prince, but I didn't come this far to be stopped by even the devil himself. I tell you that He who is with me is greater than the evil of this place."

Galen then led his three hundred man army into the Valley of the Two Moons. After the army crossed under the twin moons they fanned out into the valley and formed a battle line several men deep and waited for the army of Nordoff to get themselves into place. After Galen felt that sufficient time had been given for Phillip to get into place, he pulled out his father's sword, and the jewel sparkled in the sunlight for all to see.

"Do you see this sword men? It is the sword of a Guardian, given to me by my father, a true Guardian of what is righteous and true. I am a Guardian." Then the men drew their swords and began to hit them against their shields while they shouted out cheers showing solidarity of spirit.

"There was a time when in the heavens above, the first Guardians also stood to protect the Kingdom of Ildar from the same evil we have here today. We have a common enemy and today we continue the fight that started in the heavens above. Today our ancestors look down at us and as they battled the evil of their day, so we battle the evil of our day. Today is our time, our fight and our victory."

All the men again banged their swords against their shields and shouted as loud as they could.

Just then from out of the rocks and the cave came the army of the Mindosians. By now Galen was used to seeing things of the spirit world and this time he could see that each man had a demon on his back. Each demon slobbered his vile evil drool down onto his host filling each man with hatred for Galen and his army. Out of their mouths came cursing and swearing straight from the pit of hell itself. Their hatred was so evil they would fight like mad men and have strength beyond their natural ability.

Murk, the captain of the army, came up to Galen to urge him to stay behind and let them fight, "You are too valuable to lose" he said.

"I will not stay behind. I will lead this charge and I will find Tira. Nothing shall stop me from this."

Then Murk turned and made a gesture and several men came and joined them in the front, flanking King Galen on both sides.

"Then please allow these men to join us for your protection."

"As you wish, Murk."

"You only have to give the word my Lord and the men are ready to follow you."

Galen knew what they were up against, but he believed in what he had seen from his last experience and he was not about to back down.

"Men, we have already beaten this devil once, and today we shall beat it again."

The men let out cheers and shouts.

"Trust me, your children's children shall read stories of our victory in the Valley of the Two Moons."

The archers were ready and the army was ready, and swords were drawn.

Then at the very last second Murk looked at King Galen,

"I hope you have a great plan, because now would be a good time to execute it your Majesty."

Galen raised his sword in the air and it seemed like every eye in the valley was on that sword, Galen pushed the blue jewel under the crown embedded in the sword. There shot out of the jewel a brilliant blue light that for a moment blinded the Mindosians, but not Galen's army.

Galen shouted out as loud as he could "For the glory of God," and with that he was off. He headed straight for the Mindosian army. He looked to his left and then to his right, and saw his men were in line with him and even slightly ahead of him. The Captain's own guards had gone out a little further ahead to protect Galen. With the horses now in a full run, both sides seemed to be on the verge of a collision of mammoth proportions. Then Galen heard a voice say to him,

"Press the jewel Galen ... press the jewel."

The army was only a third the way to the Mindosians when the archers fired their first volley of arrows into the Mindosians and many of them fell over dead. There was only time for one more volley of arrows before the army was too close to chance a third.

Galen looked at his sword and pressed the jewel yet again and again the blue light shot out over the valley blinding the Mindosians.

As the army reached the half-way point to the Mindosians, all the lances had been lowered and now faced out towards the enemy. There was no turning back. All Galen was thinking about was Tira in that cave.

Then from behind him Galen felt their presence coming. The Guardians had not let him down as thousands of Guardians came swooping down into the valley and just over their heads. Their swords out in front of them, they came ready to battle the demons that were the real cause of this. They came like lightning and quickly began beating and throwing the demons off the Mindosians. The demons held on but quickly began to fall to the ground and run from the Guardians. As Galen got closer to the enemy, several of the men came up in front of him to protect their King.

Many of the Mindosians fell to the ground and were trampled under by the horses. The Guardians had fought and beaten the demons off the Mindosian army and the ones who had no demons on them now lost their desire to die that day and turned and ran.

The Nordoff Army was in no mood to take prisoners and so they ran the men down who fled and killed them. Prince Phillip found Galen on the battle field and shouted out to him

"We have killed all of them who ran away. We will not fight them again."

The overall battle lasted for only about fifteen minutes when the enemy finally ran away followed by Nordoff's Army, who was in hot pursuit. This left Galen's army standing at the entrance to the cave.

### THE CAVE OF RAVENS

Galen asked his friend Murk to go with him into the Cave of Ravens. Then the General stepped forward to volunteer and with him several other soldiers also stepped forward. Galen thanked them all saying, "You are brave souls to volunteer for this, but there is a young maiden of Ildar in there who needs our help. Let's go get her."

Almost immediately, as soon as each one of them stepped into the cave, a spirit of fear fell upon the volunteers. One man turned back and ran out of the cave. Galen whispered out to the rest, this is going to take all you have, stay focused. As they followed the path into the cave, the walls seemed to be moving. Shadows danced around them as Evil did his best to scare them off. Then almost without warning the incredible sound of thousands of bats came rushing through the cave. Their numbers were so great that the sound of them vibrated off the walls. They all covered their ears and ducked for cover.

"Stand firm," Galen called out.

Along the way there lay dead bodies of those who were not as fortunate as they were. They had become food for the Ravens. Galen turned to Murk and whispered to him,

"Now I understood from where the cave got its name."

Murk said back to him, "Why didn't they call it the cave of bats. There are thousands of them in here."

"I know why," said Galen. "It doesn't sound scary enough."

Murk looked around, "I'm plenty scared enough as it is."

Finally they came into a large opening in the cave and there standing in front of an altar was a man draped in a red robe with a hood over his head hiding his face. Galen could see Tira lying on the altar behind him struggling to free herself. She tried to scream, but was tied and gagged. The men all drew their swords ready for anything.

"Your weapons will not help you here" said the man in the red robe. "Have you brought what belongs to me? The Book which your father stole, I want it back ... now!"

One of the men who entered the cave with them was an archer. He drew back his bow and let an arrow fly and it went right through the creature in the red rode. The creature turned to look at the archer then shot out bolts of light and hit the archer knocking him to the ground. The General was quick to bend over and check to see if he was dead or alive,

"He is alive your Majesty, but barely breathing."

Galen who was losing his patience seeing Tira tied up. He started moving closer to the creature as Murk and the others spread out, and began moving closer themselves. Tira could see what was happening and struggled to get her mouth unbound. Finally she managed to slip the rag that covered her mouth down enough to scream out,

## "G A L E N!"

Tira's scream to Galen startled the creature who then pulled the hood of his robe down over his head, and let out a hideous evil scream of his own which sent everyone to the ground covering their ears. The creature began to twist and contort himself. Galen and the men could suddenly smell the horrible stench of sulfur.

"I know who you really are," said Galen. That robe can't hide you. I know your smell you devil, and straight back to the pits of hell I will send you." Then the creature contorted, letting out his screams. Galen saw his chance to run and get Tira. Suddenly a large red tail came out of the creature and hit Galen knocking him back several yards and into the rock wall. Galen was okay except for his hand. He looked at it, and saw there was a large cut on the top received from the strike of the dragon's tail. Tira screamed out again to Galen for help.

Within seconds, standing before all the brave men and Tira a large Red Dragon, the creature himself. The dragon stood facing them. The stench of the sulfur was even stronger than before. His body was covered in red scales like plates of armor, but as Galen noticed, up close there were places that a sword could get in and do its work. The dragon's hind legs were thick and powerful, used to support his weight. His upper limbs served more like arms with claws that he used like hands. His tail was long like a whip he could use to lash out at his enemies. The dragon took a second and looked around at all the men, but then focused on Galen. He lowered his head down closer so he could look Galen in the face. The dragons face was rough, and his skin scaled. His eyes were the color of fire and he breathed hot air from his nostrils onto Galen. Galen stood his ground not backing off. Galen watched drool drip out of the dragon's mouth onto the ground just in front of him. Galen had a close up view of the dragon's sharp teeth. The dragon seemed to be daring Galen to try and rescue Tira now.

Then Murk cried out,

"What evil is this? I cannot fight a spirit, but a dragon I can."

Then he ran up to the dragon drew out his sword and stabbed the dragon. His sword found a spot between the heavy scales that covered him. The dragon let out a scream and swung its tail around striking Murk, knocking him back into the wall of the cave.

Galen shouted over to Murk, "Are you okay?"

"Yes," Murk shouted. "I am not dead from the likes of this ugly dragon. I shall cut off its head and hang it on my wall as a warning to other such dragons."

"Nobody is cutting off his evil head," said Galen. "There will be no trophy of evil today. There is only one place for evil such as this and we will send it there ourselves."

The dragon was now busy watching Murk who he had just knocked to the ground. Then the dragon raised its head up and let out a loud roar. Just then one of the other men ran over to the dragons other side. With sword in hand and with all his strength stabbed the dragon again. The dragon reacted quickly and before anyone had time to react, bit off the arm of the solider throwing him into the air, where he landed at least twenty feet away. Galen gasped at what he had seen. The man screamed for help, his arm was missing and so was his sword. One of the other men ran to help him and dragged him far away from the dragon.

Galen was now aware that the dragon could be hurt and he knew there was some hope. The dragon was devilish and evil, but he still had a very fleshly skin.

. "Men, listen to me, encircle the creature, but stay back away from its tail. Then we will all attack it all at once. Aim for its chest, it has to have a heart. We will end its life right here."

Then Galen and the men all spread out encircling the dragon. Galen made sure he was the one closest to Tira so that if there was the chance he could run to her and quickly grab her.

The dragon moved away from Tira as he saw the men approaching. He raised himself up and roared in anger once again that these mere men would dare try to attack him.

"DO IT NOW," yelled Galen.

The men threw their spears at the dragon, but they bounced off the dragons heavy scales. With their swords they managed to stab the dragon, but they just could not cause enough damage to make the dragon back far enough away from Tira.

Galen saw his only moment and made his move towards Tira as she screamed out to him for help. Her scream caught the attention of the dragon. The creature seemed to not even be bothered by the few stab wounds made by the swords of the men. He turned his evil head towards Tira, and he saw Galen dashing towards her. Then with all his power and strength the dragon raised up on his hind legs while he kept the other men at bay by the moving of its tail in front of them.

The dragon looked down on Tira who was still bound hand and foot laying on the granite slab. Quickly he grabbed her with one of his claws and held her high in the air for Galen to see. All the while Tira screamed out for Galen.

The dragon looked at Galen and spoke directly at him, "This is your fault, I wanted the book not her. Have it your way."

Galen's name was the last words everyone heard. The arm and claws of the dragon suddenly turned into a fireball which consumed Tira as she screamed it out and then was gone.

Galen screamed back, "No-o-o," and threw his sword at the dragon, but before it could reach its target the red dragon vanished.

Everyone was in shock not expecting these events to happen as they did. They were brave they would have died to save her. Galen was overcome in grief and collapsed right where he was. He cried out to God that he didn't understand. They all were struck by what they had seen, Murk was the first to speak up, "What does this mean? Is she dead or sent somewhere else?"

Galen looked up,

"She is not dead. He sent her somewhere else. You are right Murk. He would not kill his only bargaining chip. He sent her some place and we need to find out where that is."

Then men went back through the cave and noticed that the feeling of fear was gone now. There were no dead bodies, they too were now gone and even the bats were not there.

Murk asked out loud "Do you suppose the bats and dead bodies were even there in the first place, or all illusions of evil?"

"I don't even care nor do I want to know," said Galen. "Let's just get out of here."

When they got out of the cave all the men cheered that they had not been killed, and actually made it out alive. With a somber tone of his voice Galen told the General to take the men back to the camp and to tell Prince Phillip to pull back also.

### IS TIRA ALIVE?

There was a physician in the camp that the General called to tend to the wound on Galen's hand. That night, back at the camp everyone was pretty quiet. No one was in the mood to be happy, as they all could feel the pain of having lost Tira. Murk went over to his friend the King and sat down around the fire with him.

"That wound looked pretty bad, I see the doc bandaged it up for you." Galen said nothing, just staring into the fire. "Galen there is nothing to gain by sitting alone. I will sit with you, in case you want to talk."

Then Galen said to his friend, "What is there to say, she is gone. What I've been going over and over in my head is something Zurel the angel told me. He said she would give me a son and that he shall be great in the Kingdom. What happened to that? I thought it was a promise. I guess I don't understand."

"Galen, as your friend let me tell you something, you don't know. Tira is dead not, but you're acting like she is. You didn't see her die, you saw her vanish. You just don't know where she vanished too. Where did that dragon send her, is what you should be thinking about."

Galen thought about that for a moment ... "you're right Murk, thanks."

"Now I came over here to tell you something too. There is some hope yet my King."

Then Murk waved for a couple of guards to come over so Galen could see them. "Look what Prince Phillip caught hiding in the bushes in the valley of the Two Moons," said Murk.

The guards pushed the woman to the front to stand before King Galen again. Galen stood to his feet and drew his sword.

"You are the one called Diamond who told us to come here. Now Tira is gone. It was a trap that you set us up for. I Trusted you, and I made you a promise that I would kill you myself if you betrayed me."

Then Galen took a step in her direction with his sword about to run her threw.

The woman fell to her knees quickly and cried out "Mercy ... mercy my King. Allow me to speak one last time. Surely you are not in a hurry to kill an old woman."

"Say your last word you evil woman."

"The one you seek, the girl your heart longs for she is not dead."

Galen was stunned and took a step back.

"There is only one person who can help you now. Only an Ellendale Princess can tell you where your love is. She can read your heart and follow it to her. The Ellen's are very secretive people, but the princess is pure, and she will help you."

Galen was interested, but his patience was all but gone. "If they be so secretive, how do you know of them?"

"Your Majesty, I am forbidden to say. It is my oath from childhood."

"Talk, or you will be food for my sword."

Then Galen lifted his sword in the air and ran it as hard as he could into the ground in front of the old woman. Diamond looked up and there was the golden crown and the blue jewel facing her now.

"The next time I grab my sword will be to kill you, if you do not tell me everything."

Now as tears fill her eyes and through her sobbing she told King Galen. "I was once one of them. I was a Princess of Ellendale. I ventured out beyond the gate following my own desires and my heart became corrupted by the evil side. I was a fool and I lost all that I had. I lost my powers, my beauty was taken and I was exiled, banned for life. Maybe to help you find your love is my only hope for redemption."

Galen wanted to hear more, "Tell me how I find this place called Ellendale and this Princess?"

"I can only tell you this, you must travel the Road Less Traveled. It starts where you begin, and travel towards the East. Be warned that if evil is in your heart, the road will become too rough and hard to pass over. Travel the road if you can to the very end. Use the bridge to cross over the great river that no one can cross.

Once across you will be in the land of Ellendale, home of the Ellen's. They hold great power especially over matters of the heart. The land is protected by a gate, and if you have a key you may then enter, but the key is different for everyone. The key hole is enchanted for it sees your intentions and will change according to what it finds in you. Think a pure thought and the key hole will be easy, but think of evil or anger is found in you and the key hole will disappear.

Once you have entered, seek out the one they call Emmy. She has the golden hair of the blessed ones. Look for her in the Cathedral of the Saints, only she can tell you what you seek."

Galen jumped up and told Murk.

"I will leave tomorrow, I will do this and I will find this woman called Emmy and then I will find my Tira and redeem myself. How do I know you are not lying to me old woman."

"Sire, I have never lied your Majesty."

Then Galen called for the guards, "Guards take this woman away and hold her till I say otherwise. Do not let anything happen to her, but see to it she does not get away."

Then the guards came and took the old woman away.

Galen looked over at Murk "Did you get all of that?"

"Ah, let's see ... follow the road no one is following and it winds around over to a bridge that no one can cross. Be happy and the key hole will like you. Go in find Emmy ... be happy. Yep I got it all."

# UNEDITED



# **ChapterTEen** The Land of Ellendale



# THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

alen wasted no time in making his plans. "General, I don't think we will need the army from this point on. Keep a small contingent of about twelve of your best men and a few archers and send the rest home. I would like it if you accompanied me and I'd like for Murk to come along also. He is handy in a fight and I hear his cooking can be eaten without dying."

"Hey there," hollered Murk. "I like me cooking and so does Corinne and she is still alive and doing fine I might add."

Galen poked back at Murk, "Has anyone seen Corinne since you left the city of Yenom? How do we know she likes it?"

"I'm going to go get my horse ready. I can be insulted anywhere."

The next morning everyone was ready to go and the army of Ildar was packed up to head home.

"So where do we find this road less traveled anyway?" asked Galen.

"Now this is why you brought old Murk, because I listened. She said the road starts where you begin."

"And what is that supposed to mean anyway?" said the General Tauv Galen looked down and all around the grassy area where they were,

"I bet I can figure that one out ... follow me." Galen led them about twenty feet when something started to appear.

"It's here. Look it starts where we began our journey. It's a magical road. You have to be going to Ellendale to even see it."

Then out in front of all the men now was a road to follow and it looked like it would be an easy ride along this road.

So the group began their journey. The road was wide enough for all them to comfortably follow and it was smooth, free of rocks and boulders, tree limbs and stumps. Trees were there for the shade where no tree was before. Up ahead everyone could see the road actually appearing as they followed the lead of the road. Even when the trail came to a river, the road simply turned into a bridge and spanned the river. After some time a guard turned around and looked behind them.

"I can't believe it General, turn around and look."

Everyone stopped and looked behind them. The road disappeared several hundred yards behind them. The general shouted to everyone, "Men we must consider a new policy that we need to stay together and absolutely no falling behind. Lord knows what would be your fate if the road vanished out from under you."

# A WATERING HOLE

The journey was uneventful for several hours. They came to a large open area and Galen decided they could use a rest and time to water the horses. There was a large lake nearby whose bank was next to the road with lots of shade trees to make it the perfect place to take their rest. As they were sitting at the water's edge they noticed the water close to them began to move and splash as if some fish were trying to get the flies that flew on the top of the water. Murk was the first to say something,

"Looks like we may have dinner for the night, I can catch me a fish or two and then we all eat."

As they were waiting for more signs of a fish something else came out of the water. Suddenly many little flying creatures came out of the water. These had wings and were pleasant to look at, and almost all of them appeared to be female. Each man, including Galen, was dealing with many of the small beautiful creatures. All the men seemed to enjoy the creatures who were now actually talking to them. It seems they were as curious about each man as the men were about them. Galen had questions though,

"I will say that you are delightful creatures, but what are you. I have never encountered your kind before, or even heard of you. Please tell us who you are."

All that the little creatures would do is to smile. It seemed that all they wanted to do was to make you happy.

Then as they sat by the water's edge a disturbance began out in the middle of the lake that everyone noticed and a degree of fear came over them. Out of the disturbance rose the image of a woman with wings, who was very beautiful to look upon. She was not small like the fairies, but of a normal woman's size. There was a glow about her, and a hint of blue light came from her. As all the men watched, the woman of the lake glided over the surface of the water till she got to where the men were.

"Greetings to all of you in the name of Ellen, from whom the Kingdom of Ellendale was named. I am called Nissa. I watch over and care for these little water fairies. They mean you no harm. They are just curious little ones and very playful too. They enjoy helping travelers that stop here. If you ask them, they will bring you food to make your rest here more pleasant. It is rare that we get so many visitors such as yourselves all at the same time. I pray your journey so far has been a pleasant one?"

Galen stood to his feet as he wanted to ask about the princess.

"I am Galen, King of Ildar. We travel to the place you spoke of called Ellendale in search of a Princess named Emmy. I pray she may tell me where my Tira is. She was taken by the dragon to a place that we know not where and I mean to get her back." "True love is a precious thing indeed," said the Lady of the Lake. "The answers you seek are for Princess Emmy to give. I see your hand has been wounded. This too the Princess can heal for you. Stay on the road and it will take you to the gate, I hope you brought your key with you."

Then Nissa, the Lady of the Lake dissolved like water back into the lake.

"Men I suggest we do like the lady said and ask the Fairies for food and then we will be back on our way."

In a moment the fairies took off all over the lake to the banks where fruit trees grew in abundance. They came back with fruit of every kind and gave their pieces of fruit to the men.

# WHERE THE ROAD AND THE HEART MEET

Back on the horses Galen was ready to start again when he said to Murk,

"I hate that devil, for what he has done. We will hunt him down and send him back to hell and take Tira home."

Just then the road began to shake and from the ground beneath great rocks and large weeds came up. Holes in the ground could be seen that if a man was not carful he would fall into.

Murk turned to Galen, "I don't think the road liked what you said your Majesty. Forget about that dragon for now try thinking happier thoughts. At least till we get to this gate."

Then Murk shouted out to everyone, "All you men, you have to clear your minds of anything hateful. We are going to a place that will not let us in if we have hate in our hearts. Maybe this road will return to what it was if it can't find any evil in our hearts." Galen was not happy, but he knew Murk was right. Galen just sat on his horse and had to focus, he took a few deeps breaths then reached down and pushed the blue jewel on his sword. Only a few seconds had gone by when there suddenly appeared a glorious angel before him.

"You pushed the jewel Galen Wallace, King of Ildar. I feel the heaviness that is in you."

"I do not know what to do and my Father is not here to ask counsel of. I cannot fight the anger that my heart feels for this dragon. My heart hurts for Tira. Now this road is almost impassable."

"Your heart breaks for the love you feel, but anger is never allowed in the Kingdom of Ellendale, so the road blocks your passage. Clear your thoughts and let the anger go."

Then the angel vanished.

Now everyone was looking at Galen, and he became uncomfortable about it,

"Am I the only one mad about this?"

No one said a word. Then Murk said to Galen, "We are here because we love you and are loyal to Ildar. We just want to get Tira back like you do."

Galen realized he was the cause of this problem. He took a few deep breaths and thought of Tira and how much he loved her. She was the focus, not that dragon. As they looked on the obstacles that had littered the road, now they vanished. The road was not as smooth as it was before, but now they could at least continue on. As the men started back on the journey, Galen leaned over to tell Murk something,

"You're a pretty smart guy Murk."

"Yep, I am. You know Corinne told me the same thing she did. It's like my momma always said, I'm more than just a pretty face."

# THE KEY

King Galen and his friends spent that night camped out along the road and feasted on what little they had and the fruit the fairies had given to them. By early the next morning they came to a bridge that seemed to stop in the middle of the air. The other half seemed to be missing.

"What do we do now?" said Murk."

Galen looked down from the bridge,

"Well we're not jumping off, that's for sure."

So Galen got down off his horse and walked to the edge of where the bridge ended and reached out a little bit and he hit something.

"There seems to be something here, but we can't see it."

With both hands Galen could feel a barrier blocking the rest of the bridge. A few seconds later, to everyone's surprise, the object was becoming visible now.

"Stand back," said Galen.

As they watched, a wall of rock began to appear before them. What was hidden now seemed to reveal itself. The gate entrance to Ellendale seemed to be this invisible rock, which makes the bridge appear to stop in thin air. Galen and the others were now looking at a round metal ring in the rock about chest high. The metal ring seemed to have a layer of water in its center that didn't run out of the ring.

Murk looked at the round object rippling with water, reached up and stuck his finger in the liquid.

Murk started to yell "It's got me ... it's got me, run for your lives."

Everyone pulled out their swords and looked around ready for disaster at any moment.

Galen called out to Murk, "My God man, are you alright?"

Then the look of pain on Murk's face changed to a smile as he pulled his finger out of the liquid and said,

"Sure I'm ok. It just got me finger a little wet that's all."

"What is wrong with you Murk? Did your mother drop you on your head or something?"

The other men had a good laugh, "Good one Murk."

"Well actually she did. She said it fixed more problems than it created, but she said I bit my tongue and that's why I talk like I do. There is always good to find in anything I say. The women seem to like me ways. They think I'm cute, just ask Corinne."

The metal ring changed the water into a strange solid symbol. It was waiting for Murk to put his key in the new keyhole shape. They all looked at each other, and then to Murk.

"Well Murk," said the General. "What do you have that fits that shape?"

Murk thought about it and then said, "I'm not sticking anything of mine in there."

General Tauv asked Murk, "What do you have Murk that you can stick in the keyhole so we can all go in?"

Suddenly Murk's face turned red, "That's personal."

After a minute the keyhole changed back into its water form and waited for someone else to try.

Galen knew exactly what to do.

"The woman Diamond said the key is personal. Apparently whoever touches the object it thinks you are the one with the key so it changes for you. Now what the key may be is another matter. Let me touch it and let's see what it wants from me." So Galen reached up and he touched the liquid as Murk had done and again it began to change. This time the liquid became a round circular indent in the ring.

"What kind of key is that," said Murk.

Everyone looked at the round hole knowing they had only one minute to put a key in. Murk looked over at Galen and his eyes opened wide,

"Galen, your medallion ... quick put it in the key hole."

Galen was quick to pull his Fathers medallion out from his clothes and over his head, as quickly as he could he slid the medallion into the key hole and key hole then became active and spun the medallion around a few times and as it did the Medallion turned a soft red glow and then the key hole popped the medallion back out into Galen's hands.

Then before everyone a part of the rock opened up like a door. It was the same size as the bridge and allowed all the men and their horses to enter and continued on the bridge and into Ellendale.

### WELCOME TO ELLENDALE

Everyone finished crossing the bridge and then just stood there looking out at the scene that lay before them. Beautiful trees and grass that seemed to gently sway with the breeze that blew. The path they had been following continued on and up a small incline about a quarter of a mile. The men continued on until they reached the top of the small hill. There they stopped and the view was now overwhelming.

Ellendale seemed like a paradise with lush gardens, flowing meadows and beauty everywhere you looked spreading out as far as the eye could see to distant mountains on the horizon. They saw fields of wild flowers of all colors that swayed in the breeze. They all seemed to be singing a song that was soothing to the ears. Their soft music would sooth even the most savage of beasts. There was a lake that could be seen not far into the distance and a glass building was sitting next to the water.

Galen was amazed but his heart would not rest until they reached this woman called Emmy.

"This is a wonderful place men, but let's not forget what we're here for. We shall follow the road until it comes to its end." So Galen and his men continued down the road they had been on for several days. The road seemed to follow along the large lake. Along the way sounds could be heard of birds in the trees and the ruffling of tree tops as the wind gently blew. So far there was no sign of any people other than nature putting on a show for the travelers.

The road made a turn with the lake and then out in front of the men in the middle of the lake was a large island. On the island there was a Cathedral that was the most majestic of anything Galen had ever seen. The road finally came to an end at a small wooden dock where a small boat was sitting. Murk looked behind them just in time to see the road disappear and they were all standing at the small boat dock.

As the men stood there looking at the road disappear from beneath them, they suddenly had some very small visitors. The River Fairies came from out of nowhere and seemed to be very curious about them. They were only the size of a finger. All of them were female and all had their own unique beauty. They were different from the other fairies because these liked to talk. "Hi, what kind of creatures are you? We are the Fairies of Ellendale. We live here. Do you live here?"

The men were speechless. Now they're talking to fairies,

"What else will happen," they thought.

Galen tried to talk to them, "No we don't live here. We are just travelers looking for the Princess who is on that island over there."

With that the small fairies all gasped.

"You will like her. She is so kind to everyone. She is our Princess. She watches over us from her place on the island. She is very pretty, you will see." Then they all gave a small laugh, "Hehe."

Then the General interrupted,

"My Lord, the size of this boat is too small for everyone to get in. Your Majesty, I believe there is only room in the small boat for two. I shall stay with the men and we will wait here for your return. You and Murk go find this Emmy in the Cathedral. May God grant you what you seek."

The fairies all spoke up together, "Yes the princess can help. Go see the princess, yes ... yes."

"Thank you General. I'll take Murk with me, that is if he doesn't sink us on the way."

The fairies all laughed, "He he."

"Hey I heard that," said Murk. "I'm going to get in the boat, and show you how good it is for old Murk to be in the boat."

With all his weapons and the bags he carried, Murk took one step into the small boat. It suddenly moved out, then in, then out again and Murk's arms waved up over his head. Before he know it, he fell in the lake much to the enjoyment of everyone, even the River Fairies who laughed that much harder than the men did. They flew over to help poor Murk, but he was too much for the fairies.

"Are you okay there my friend," said Galen, as he was laughing.

Murk was standing in about waist deep water and so he just walked out of the lake and back to the dock.

"Well I think I need to leave me weapons and food bag here and maybe this heavy leather armor that is now soaked."

He bent over and emptied the water out of his boots and tried to shake more water out of his clothes. "That was refreshing," said Murk. "Now that I'm lighter I will get back into the boat."

Everyone laughed again and watched as Murk carefully got himself back into the boat.

The fairies all cheered for Murk, "He did it ... yay" and clapped their hands."

"Okay your Majesty. I'm ready. You can come in the boat now."

Galen climbed into the boat and Murk rowed them over to the island.

# EMMY

It wasn't long before the tiny boat came to rest on the shore of the island. Murk and Galen jumped out and took a second to look at the Cathedral and the rest of their surroundings. Murk was the first to say anything,

"Yep this is exactly what I would have thought it would be like, if I had thought that, but I didn't."

Galen turned his head and looked at Murk, "Are you feeling alright Murk? Do me a favor and don't think for a little bit and give that powerful brain a rest, okay? Now follow me."

The pair walked up to the front of the Cathedral and Galen gave the front door a jiggle and discovered it was open so he and Murk pushed opened the front door and walked in. From the inside it looked like any other Cathedral with rows of pews all waiting to be filled. There were large stained glass windows that lined the outer walls all with scenes of another time, a glorious time in Ellendale's past. The Cathedral was not old or musty, but very clean as if it had been cleaned just for their visit. The men walked down to the front alter area and still no one was in sight.

Galen yelled out, "Hello, anyone here? We come searching for the Princess of Ellendale."

Still there was no answer. To one side of the alter Galen could see that there was a door, so the two of them went over and found the door opened also.

Once the two stepped inside they were very surprised at what they found. This was a banquet room. There was a very large table that ran the entire length of the room and even beyond. Everything here was fresh and smelled like new with candles lining the table, but something didn't seem right. Galen looked again at the table and to his surprise the table went on and on and he could not see the end of it.

"Murk did you see this room when we were outside? This room was not here on the outside, but inside it is here, and not only here, but it extends beyond our sight. It seems to go on forever why hundreds could eat at this one banquet table. How could this be?"

Murk was just as amazed as Galen, "I do believe my entire family could sit at this table. Well, that is if we all had clean hands. Mama would kill us if our hands were dirty."

Galen just rolled his eyes upward whispering to himself, "Lord ... My burden is heavy indeed."

It was about that time that a blue beam of light appeared in the room. The top of the light went right through the ceiling and up into the sky. The two men stood back in wonderment of what to expect next. A blue ball of light came down the beam and into the room and finally came to rest at the head of the Banquet Table. Both Galen and Murk's eyes were wide open and they could not believe what they were seeing.

Suddenly the blue mist shot out a brilliant light in all directions and when the light had faded away there standing in the midst of where the light had been was a beautiful woman as tall as they were, and not the normal size one would expect for a fairy. Her hair was golden in color and her dress was long and flowing. She had multicolored wings that were almost transparent. She smiled as she looked at both of the men.

"I heard you would be coming King Galen of Ildar. I have been waiting. Now, what a joy your friend Murk is. He puts a smile on any face when he is near. Be blessed Murk, for your heart's desire I can see. A family is given and your future is true. Blessed are you and for your kindness I will show you a small picture of the happiness that awaits you."

Murk seemed to go into a trance and just stood there motionless ... just staring.

Galen however was a little upset. Their journey that was supposed to be kept in strict confidence seemed to be known here.

"Who could have told you I was coming? No one but us knew that?"

Emmy just smiled "You are a King. You should know that the Fairies know everything."

Then Galen looked over at Murk, "What is going on with him? Hey Murk wake up."

Emmy just smiled, "I am letting him see his future as it is now set before him. He is happy there."

"Princess Emmy I have come ...."

"I know why you are here young King. With you it is more difficult because you are the King."

"So did the fairies tell you that too?"

Emmy walked over closer to Galen,

"I see you have a wound on your hand."

Emmy reached out and held Galen's hand that had the wound on it. Then she unwrapped the cloth that bound the wound. For a moment she closed her eyes and focused her thoughts on the wound.

"This wound came from an act of love."

Then as Galen looked on, the cut began to heal, but it left a scar on his hand.

"Galen looked at his hand, "Why do I have the scar still?"

"It is for you a badge of honor, that love requires sacrifice. Every time you're true love see's it, she will know at what cost you came for her."

Then Emmy put her finger up to his lips.

"Shhh ... no more talking. Quiet your mind young King. I feel a heaviness, a great hurt in you."

The Princess reached out and touched Galen's chest with her open hand then closed her eyes.

"Centuries ago our people, the Ellen's, learned one of the many secrets of the heart, that it longs to be loved. When true love is given by two people their hearts form a link. This link is what binds the two hearts even when they are miles and even countries away. We have learned how to follow the link and therefore find true love's partner.

Emmy's eyes were still closed, so she could focus on Galen's heart.

"I feel a great hurt in your heart Galen. You weep. I see the object of your heart's desire, and it is for her you cry... her name is Tira, a beautiful name for a beautiful heart. I see more ... your love was born out of youthful innocence, but in a time of war on a balcony it became true and everlasting, a promise made and the heart link was established. She ran to warn you ... she was taken." A tear ran down Emmy's face. "Again I see that great love requires great sacrifice ... always." A moment later ... "I have found her. She cries out for you. Her heart's link is weakening. She loses faith that you will come. You need to hurry, or she will be won to the dark side."

Then Emmy took her hand off Galen's chest and stepped back.

"This great evil cannot be allowed to happen," said Emmy. "You will need help. I declare that Ellendale will stand with you." Just then the jewel on Galen's sword began to glow its blue glow bright enough that Emmy saw it.

"You carry the sword of the Guardians. This is a glorious day to be remembered. There is a Guardian in Ellendale. What we have I give freely to a Guardian."

Emmy lifted up her hands to the heavens, her voice suddenly became thunderous as if she was speaking to the heavens above.

"Listen to me all my people. A Guardian is in Ellendale and I call on you for help. A great injustice has been done against this Guardian in the matter of love. All of Ellendale joins him in his cries for justice. King Galen of Ildar has come to us for help. Can we who love, do no less, but to give of our best in defense of such a perfect and pure thing? Bring to these men and their companions the Golden Armor of the Heavens above. Bring to them the Golden Shields which no earthly object can pierce."

Suddenly hundreds of fairies appeared in the room having six different pieces of armor for Galen and Murk. The fairies helped Galen get the armor on, and then put Murk's armor on for him since Murk was still standing there seeing his future.

Emmy had one last gift to give,

"King Galen, noble Guardian, you will need more than armor to defeat the great evil which holds your love

Emmy held her hands out in front of Galen as a small ball of light formed in her hand and soon became very bright.

"I give to you our most precious gift, from the top of Mount Gillia in the Eastern Heights of Ellendale. I give to you from what comes from on high, I give to you what we call 'Exousia,' it is authoritative and commanding power." Emmy gently blew on the ball of light that was in her hand and it began to move and went inside Galen's golden armor and inside of Galen. Galen gasped deeply as he could feel this new power was now also in him. It was powerful and Emmy seemed to be a little drained from the experience.

"Be wise King Galen. I say to you believe for you now have power over the evil. Speak the words and it shall be as you say. Speak and evil has to obey. You must go now for the dragon is waiting for you, but for Tira, her time is running out."

Galen was now frantic to find Tira,

"But where is she? ... where is she?"

"Tira is being held in the village of Traverse, three day's journey from here. The evil is strong there and her will to resist will be gone by tomorrow. Use the Blood Stone I see around your neck, it is the only way. I will assign a fairy to help you. Her name is Myra. She shall stay with you till you are back home. She will help you. Now go, hurry for Tira's time is almost at hand."



# UNEDITED



# Chapter Eleven

### Rescue Tira



#### THE RESCUING OF TIRA

uddenly Murk woke up from his dream, "What happened? I was talking and then I saw Corinne and we were happy and there were little Murk's. It was something beautiful I tell you."

"Murk," hollered Galen. You have to wake up more! Let's get out of here. I know where Tira is and we don't have long. Follow me."

The two men ran out the door of the Cathedral and back over to the boat. Murk did notice the new golden armor they both had on. As Murk was rowing the boat back to the shore, he took a moment to ask about their new armor,

"How did we get such fancy armor and how did it get on me?"

Galen looked at him, "Murk you wouldn't believe it if I told you."

When they got back to the shore Galen could see the fairies had already been here too and all the men had on their golden armor as well. Just as Galen was stepping out of the boat, he suddenly heard something buzz by his head and then over to the rest of the men. It moved so fast no one could see what it was nor could they swat it or capture it. Then it stopped right in the middle of everyone.

"Greetings my name is Myra. I am a Fairy from the village of Cherrywood Meadow. I am sent to you by the Fairy Counsel of Ellendale. I have been assigned to help you in your fight against the terrible evil." Myra pulled out her knife which was very small even in her hand. "I am ready and I know how to handle a knife and stand my ground in a good fight."

The men all laughed at Myra's knife and the thought of her fighting with them. The General laughed the loudest.

"A fairy in a fight with that? You will just be a snack in the mouth of the dragon."

Myra quickly flew to the General's face the grabbed his nose and gave it a good twist as hard as she could. Then raised her knife up in the air and stabbed the general's nose.

"Ouch," said the general. "Hey that hurt."

"You big baby," said Myra. "I have to toughen you up, I guess."

Galen had just about enough,

"Stop it, both of you; just what I needed is a fairy with an attitude. We have to get ready to fight the dragon. Tira's very life depends on us now. General, get your men on their horses and get ready for a fight."

A few minutes later everyone was ready, even Myra the fairy was waiting with the men.

Galen reached up and once again pushed the blood red jewel on his medallion and then focused all his thoughts on a clearing two miles to the North of the Village of Traverse.

As it had before, the wind picked up and then spun itself into the shape of a whirlwind. As all the men fought to stay steady from the wind and Myra the fairy was holding on for dear life with her feet horizontal with her little body. Galen saw her and so he rode over grabbed her with his hand and stuffed her in the saddlebag over his horse. It only took seconds and the other end of the whirlwind found a mark and came to rest in a field a few miles away from the village of Traverse.

"Okay men, follow me."

Galen was the first one into the blood red tunnel, and a moment later was on the grassy hills a few miles outside of Traverse. Seconds later the rest of the men came through the tunnel and the end closed up and disappeared.

"General, send out your men and find where the village is? Then come back, and don't let yourself be seen."

"Yes, my lord."

Galen had forgotten about the fairy. He heard a noise that sounded like yelling, and then he remembered about Myra.

"Well little Myra why didn't you say something sooner, now you're free."

"I can find out where the girl is," said Myra. "I'll have you know that I am not happy about being in that bag. I was told to help you, and so I will. That bag smells like your horse ... just horrible. When is the last time that horse had a bath anyway? The Fairy Counsel will hear about this, I promise you."

"Myra ... Miss Myra," said Galen. "Can I ask you a favor?"

Myra was there almost instantly, "Yes, sure, anything, what is it? I'll do it."

"If you can just be quiet for a moment I have something to ask you ... now that is better. You said you can find Tira. If you can do that, will you help me and go find her? Then come back and tell us where she is ..."

Before Galen could even finish asking Myra, the fairy from Ellendale was off like lighting. As fast as she had ever flown, Myra was already looking in every hut and every structure. She was in and out before the people even knew anyone was there.

The last place she went to was also the largest building in the village. This one had no windows open as the ones it had. It was boarded up. She had to squeeze herself under the door and then she flew up to the rafters and hid. She overheard many evil men all arguing over what to do with the girl.

"Let's just kill her now. What are we waiting for? The boy is not coming."

"She is useless to us. Why not sell her?"

"We can't sell her now. Look at her, she is withering away. She is not worth anything ..."

"QUIET I SAID," This was the evil lord Anu. "I will send you all back to Hades if you don't be quiet and do what I say. The boy King will come and if he waits too long then his precious Tira will be no more. She will be what I say."

Then the evil lord Anu laughed and looked back at Tira who lay on the floor chained, half naked, dirty, and hungry. He threw a piece of bread on the floor for her to eat.

Myra couldn't take it anymore. She flew off as fast as she could back under the door then off to tell Galen.

"Galen, Galen" she cried out as loud as she could. "I found her ... I saw her. They have her chained and dirty on the floor. She is so weak, but there are many evil men in there as well. I will lead you there. Come, come now as fast as you can."

By now the other guards had returned so everyone was there and ready. Galen jumped up and mounted his horse,

"General, are all the men ready?"

"Yes your Majesty."

"Murk are you ready to ride and fight like you have never fought before?"

"Murk is always ready. Anything for Tira."

Murk pulled out his sword along with the others. Myra pulled out her knife. They all shouted out loud,

"For Tira."

With Myra leading the way and followed by King Galen, Murk, the General, and his few men, they rode as fast as they could over the few hills to the village. Myra turned one corner then another. The men on their horses were right behind her at a fast pace. The men of the village heard the sound of charging horses and men of war riding through their village. The noise alerted three times the men that Galen had with him, and all the villagers came to fight the intruders. They grabbed their knives and pitch forks. Some grabbed their swords and some just clubs. Whatever they could get, they came running, shouting,

"Death to the soldiers."

Galen and his men finally got to the building that Myra led them to and they all jumped off their horses with swords ready to fight. Everyone took up defensive positions in a semi-circle facing the angry crowd of armed men.

Murk looked over his shoulder at Galen and shouted to him,

"We can handle this, you go get Tira."

Myra the little fairy knew there were three very evil men in the building and that Galen would be out numbered. So she pulled out her little knife and flew in under the door and as fast as she could and went right in the middle of all the evil men to get their attention.

"Why is this fly bugging us?"

"Wait it's not a fly. It's some kind of bug I say. OUCH the thing just bit me."

"Hey ... OUCH, it bit me too. Get this thing before it kills us."

The men drew out their knives and one his sword. Then Myra landed on the shoulder of one and whispered in his ear,

"You fat ugly coward you."

The man turned to the man next to him,

"What did you just say ... fat ugly coward am I?"

"I said nothing to you. You are drunk and stupid and too ugly to look at any longer."

So with his knife he stabbed the first man and he fell to the ground. Myra was already on the shoulder of the third man whispering in his year, "He was your friend. Are you going to let that barbarian kill your friend? Are you not going to do anything?"

Then she blew some golden fairy dust in his ear and flew away. The third man drew his sword and attacked the man who had just killed his friend. Just as the two men began to fight amongst themselves, Galen broke down the door and came charging in with his sword ready. He quickly struck down one of the men and spun around and ran the second man threw with his sword.

Galen was left standing in front of their leader.

"Who are you?" he shouted."

Galen couldn't help but see Tira lying on the floor at the feet of this creature."

"TIRA,"

Galen shouted as he went to her immediately. Her clothes were torn so badly that not much was left of them. She lay there dirty with a chain around her neck.

"I am Anu of the underworld. You don't remember me? We last met in a cave just before you met my pet dragon. How did that work out for you? Not too well I think because he brought me the girl. I take this form when it pleases me. There is coming a day when all men will worship me as they do in this village. That is, before you and that retched fairy came in and killed them. I will pay the fairies and the Kingdom of Ellendale a visit for this."

Myra flew right up to his face and stuck out her little knife,

"And we will be ready for you too. The Fairy Counsel will hear about this."

Anu brushed her off with a small evil smile.

Tira looked up at Galen, her memory was almost gone. She stared at Galen trying so hard to remember. She reached up and touched his face,

"I know you."

She looked like she was in a daze as her eyes were clouded, but she managed to take a deep breath to say something else ...

"GALEN!" she screamed out and then collapsed.

Galen became enraged. He rushed in before Anu had a chance to react and ran his sword through him and then backed off.

"I hope you die you monster."

Galen went back to Tira and undid the chain around her and lifted her up in his arms.

"Tira ... Tira look at me. I'm so sorry for leaving you alone. I'm so sorry."

He held her close as he could feel she had a little life in her for she was very weak. Galen laid her back down on the table, but then from behind he heard the groaning sounds of something. He turned to see what it was. There in the corner, the evil Anu had begun to transform into the red dragon he had already fought in the cave several days ago.

Myra flew as fast as she could to the dragon and stabbed him with her knife several times to which the dragon just swept her away with his claw right out the window where she got caught up in the battle outside. Myra saw the General was almost over-powered by one of the villagers. So being full of fairy courage she flew in the blink of an eye and stabbed the villager in the nose and flew away. The villager cried out,

"OUCH, there is a fairy devil here."

One second later he was run-threw by the sword of the General.

The General looked at Myra and said,

"That was very brave of you to do that for me. I thank you, I guess I was wrong about you. You're the bravest fairy I have ever known."

Myra was surprised at the generals thanking her. She took a moment to think and then told the general,

"I'm glad to help; there are a lot of people who need a good stabbing right now."

Meanwhile back in the building ... The hideous red dragon now stood before Galen again, "I see this time you wear the golden armor of the heavens. Otherwise I would just kill you like an ant under my feet. You continue to withhold the book from me. It is mine by rights. I have decided not to kill your true love, nor will she be mine, but rather I choose to make you suffer as I have. I want you to know what it is like to not have what is yours. She will be a constant reminder to you every day when you look upon her."

Then the dragon took a deep breath and breathed it on the table where Tira laid. The dragon's breath was green and like a mist went out and covered Tira and the table. Galen jumped back from the evil mist. Just then all the men and Myra ran into the room from outside because the battle outside was over and the villagers that did not die all ran away. The men saw the green mist covering Tira.

"What is going on now? What has the dragon done to Tira?" shouted Murk.

All the men and even Myra gasped at what they saw.

The Dragon said, "Galen has brought this on himself. She is not dead, but she is not alive either. You will never have her."

Then Galen heard a voice in his head,

"Galen, remember the gift I gave you. You have Exousia, the power of words. Speak it and it shall be as you say."

The next thing Galen said because of his anger at what the dragon had done was,

"You devil, I command you in the name of my God to be gone from here ... now."

Suddenly the Dragon disappeared. All the men and Myra cheered ... "Yea he is gone. Good work Galen, you beat him, chased him away"

Galen knew no joy as he could only look upon Tira laying there, her clothes ripped and torn. She was dirty from being chained to the floor. All he could do was hang his head and cry for the one he loved.

Everyone was quiet for a few moments as they looked at Tira wondering what they should do next. Myra flew over to Galen,

"I think you should take her home now. She has been through a lot. She needs to go home."

## UNEDITED

# UNEDITED





#### BACK TO ILDAR

alen turned around and told everyone, "Go get your horses and bring mine to the front. We're going home now. I'll be there shortly. Wait for me outside. Go now everyone. Leave me alone for a few minutes with her."

Everyone left the room and now it was only Galen and the motionless body of the girl he had asked to marry him. Galen reached up and took Tira's hand and remembered holding that very hand on the balcony and kissing it. He bent over and kissed it again.

"I'm sorry Tira, you sacrificed yourself for me. No more harm shall every come your way as long as I live, that I promise you."

Then Galen picked Tira up in his arms from the table and carried her out of the building and to his horse that Murk had waiting for him.

"Thank you Murk, just hold my horse steady for me so I can get in the saddle with Tira in my arms. I will take her home myself."

Galen walked his horse over to an open place in the village and then reached up and pushed the blood red jewel in his medallion. The wind started and in only seconds he could see Ildar at the end of the whirlwind. Galen walked his horse through the wind tunnel and in very short time stepped out into Ildar just in the front of the main gate. Seconds later the rest of the men came through the tunnel also. Myra stuck her head out of the bag on the General's horse and then took off into the air and followed Galen.

The guards saw all this happening, and saw Galen and the others outside the main gate,

"Open the gate its Prince ... oh King Galen."

The gates opened, but Galen just stayed where he was as the others rode on in front of him. The general shouted out orders and many guards came running and formed a line on each side of the entrance. Flags were brought and a royal welcome had quickly formed. People came to see what was happening, but the news spread quickly. Even Galen's Mother and Father came to their balcony to see the commotion down below. His mother Katheryn was shocked when she saw her son still sitting on his horse outside the gate holding a body. Katheryn dropped everything; she and Derek ran down below to wait for their son.

There was no cheering, only the sound of somber quiet. Then Galen started his slow entrance into the Castle. The people bowed their head in respect as Galen passed by. The horse walked the long line of spectators as everyone's eyes were focused on Galen's golden armor and the girl he held lifeless in his arms. Murk came over and grabbed the reigns and guided the horse over to Galen's Mother and Father who waited at the entrance.

When the horse came to a stop, Galen's father King Derek came over, "Let me help you son."

King Derek took the body of Tira and took her inside. Once Galen knew she was safe in his Father's arms he slumped over from exhaustion and fell off his horse and onto the ground. All the people gasped including Queen Katheryn, but Murk ran to his side.

"I will carry you from here my friend."

Murk carried Galen through the same door Derek had just taken Tira through.

Katheryn leaned over to one of her servants and told her to run get the physician now. Bring him to me.

Galen was taken to his chambers where the golden armor was removed and he was laid down on his bed. Murk stayed to stand watch over his friend. Soon the physician came in to look at Galen and after several minutes he said, "I see no visible puncture wounds, only normal scrapes, scratches and some bruising. After several hours of rest and some much needed cleaning up, he will be fine. Get him some food so when he wakes up, he can eat. A boy his age is always hungry."

The physician walked down the hall to a large room where Tira had been taken. She was laid upon a bed where she still had not moved. The Queen and the King both stood to the side of the bed looking on.

"What do you think is wrong with her?" asked Katheryn.

"Give me some time please my Queen, this is very serious. Other than being dirty and unconscious I'm not sure."

The physician checked both her arms and then her legs and feet. He then examined her head looking for cuts, or bruising, or any trauma to her head. He listened to her breathing for a minute.

"She is barely breathing, but enough to stay alive. But if she doesn't get any food or drink in her she may still pass away for lack of nutrition. What has done this to her I cannot say. Only a greater power than I have can bring her out of this sleep she seems to be in. Get her cleaned up with a cloth bathing and proper clothes. At least she will be decent when looked upon. Only time will tell if this will wear off or just how long she might be like this. I am sorry you're Majesty and my Queen."

#### A MIRACLE FOR TIRA

Galen laid on his bed asleep the rest of that day and all that night. Murk never left his side keeping vigil over his friend, making sure he was okay. Early the next morning, Myra the fairy came flying in the window checking on Galen for herself.

"Is he still asleep?" she asked "He needs to get up and go check on Tira,"

Murk looked at her, "Well, let him wake up first, then I'll tell him." Myra didn't wait, "I can handle this." she said. Then before Murk could say another word "WAIT" ... it was too late.

"OUCH!" hollered Galen. "What stuck my nose?" Suddenly Galen was awake. Myra made a mad dash for the rafters.

"Murk what did you do? I was asleep and doing great."

"But ... but, I didn't do anything. Where is that fairy, I feel like fairy stew right now."

Myra swallowed hard, "I hate stew," she said to herself.

Galen sat up and took a moment and then he remembered,

"Tira, how is she? Where is she?"

"Well you seem to be back to your normal self," said Murk. "Your mother the Queen said to tell you to go get a bath first, then you can see Tira. She set guards outside her room and they won't let you in there smelling ugly. Just go get clean and come back."

"But how is she?"

"She is still asleep or something. She hasn't moved since you brought her back. They have cleaned her up and the physician has checked her, but so far no one knows what to do."

Galen ran as fast as he could to get himself clean and then dressed so his Mother would allow him in to see Tira. Galen and Murk got to the room where Tira was and the guards let them in. Corinne, the sister of Tira was seated next to her bed. She had been crying for her sister.

"Galen ... Murk, oh I'm so thankful to see you both."

Corinne ran over towards them and Galen held out his arms, but Corinne ran past him and into Murk's arms.

"I'm so glad you have come back"

"I couldn't let you down, now could I? Someone had to help this youngster and bring the both of them home."

"I knew you could do it. I'm so proud of you," said Corinne.

Galen just stood there looking at Murk, hum? But then Galen remembered why he was there and then thought to himself,

"Murk can tell his story any way he wants to. I'm here for Tira."

Galen went over to the side of her bed. They had cleaned her up and her clothes had been changed. She was very beautiful just lying there so peaceful looking. Then His Father King Derek and Queen Katheryn came in the room after hearing that Galen was up and about. Galen went over and gave them both a hug, "Father, good to be home and Mother I missed you so much. I did the best I could. You have to believe me."

"Son, you did a great job. I have already heard the reports from General Tauv. He speaks very highly of your efforts and your bravery. That golden armor you all have, I will want to hear about that later, but all this confirms my actions on the battlefield. You will still be officially crowned King as soon as things calm down for a while. So how is the young woman now?"

"No one seems to know what is wrong or how to help her, so I don't have an idea on how to find out what we should do." said Galen.

Corinne then very quickly asked Galen,

"What is it Galen? What needs to be done? She needs help now."

Galen turned back to his dad, "Father, do you still wear the blue medallion that you traded me for?"

"Yes I do, always do Galen ... why?"

"Will you please press the jewel for me?"

Derek pulled the medallion out from under his clothes and pushed the blue jewel in it. They all waited for a moment. Then a sudden blast of blue light appeared and there stood Zurel the Angel, messenger of the Lord. Everyone squinted for a moment until the bright light went away. Zurel just stood there for a moment in silence waiting on Galen. "Zurel we need help. You're the only one I could think of."

"I have always been here waiting for you. Remember when I said 'You are never alone?' This your father knows well."

"Yes, I remember you telling me that," said Galen.

"So why didn't you call us in your hour of greatest need? We can't come if you don't have the faith to callout to us."

"But I didn't have the medallion, the blue one"

"I never said you needed it. I told you what I did so you would have the faith to at least do something, but you never really needed the medallion, you just needed faith to call on the Guardians."

Galen stood there looking like he was in a daze, rethinking all those times he really needed their help. Maybe Tira wouldn't be in the situation she is in now if I would have called for help.

"I need you now more than anytime, for we are all in a loss to help Tira who lies on this bed unable to wake up. We have no hope except it be in God alone, I know, it is only He who can undo this wickedness that has been cast upon her."

"Galen, you already have your answer, you have had it all the time."

"I have?" asked Galen. "What is this answer and I will never forget it."

"The Book of Beginnings," said Zurel. It is life and in it are the words of life. What is in Tira is the work of evil. Evil can never bring forth life, only death and this," as he pointed to Tira. "You and your Father are both Readers." Then Zurel began to fade away, but not before one last word. "Bring the book and read, it brings life." Then Zurel was gone.

Galen quickly turned to Murk, "Murk, go as fast as you can and get the temple guards and have them bring me the box which contains the Holy Book."

"Sure Galen ... err your Majesty."

Then Murk took off as fast as he could.

"Father, when the book gets here ..."

"No Galen I will not. This is your time. I need to know that you are ready?"

Galen paced around the floor while he waited. Then he went over and held Tira's hand and waited. It took about fifteen minutes and then the door came open and the temple guards came through the door carrying the Holy Box draped with the Royal Draping's showing its importance to the realm. The guards set it down close to the bed and then left the room. Murk came running back in so not to miss anything.

As everyone watched, Galen lifted the lid off the Sacred Box and the blue light shot out and filled the room and its light was greater than the daylight that shined in from the window. Galen knew about the Zephaniah Stones and so he just reached in and felt around till he found the book and lifted it out. Corinne and Murk both gasped some, but still took a few steps backward away from the book and Galen.

All Galen could think to do was to set the book on the bed next to Tira. "This is Holy Ground now," Galen said out loud. Then he opened the cover of the book, and as he did the book seemed to take over and the pages began turning on its own.

King Derek said, "It never did that before."

The pages turned and then stopped more than half-way through. Galen stepped back and looked at the pages and the symbols. After a few seconds the letters at the top of the page on the right began to move and then glow, Galen looked hard at the letters that were now glowing and then he spoke out loud, "Darkness shall not rule you, but overcome the darkness with the light." Then the symbols stopped moving and Galen closed the book. "I don't know how I know this, but we should leave her alone with the book tonight. I know Father that we have never done this, but tonight I think we need to. The guards should stay outside her door with these windows locked from the inside. Just Tira and the book, that's all"

No one said a word and they all left and did as Galen said and locked the windows and had the guards stay for the rest of the day and into the evening. No one knew nor did they see that standing on the beams in the ceiling was Myra, the fairy from Ellendale.

"I will guard her tonight since they locked me in here."

The day passed and Galen went back to his old routine of meeting with his Father. This time, their time together took on a new feeling of mutual respect. Galen had so much to share with his Father. Several times that day Galen asked if anything was heard from Tira's room. The answer always came back the same,

#### "Not yet."

Late that evening Galen checked back again and still the answer was No. Out of frustration Galen went on to his chambers, where he could be alone and pray. He left instructions, that if there was any noise heard from Tira's room to come get him. Galen paced the floor talking to himself and then to God. He was looking for answers for why things happened the way they did. Did Tira really have to go through this? Then he remembered the words of the messenger, "She went to warn you." All he could think about was her sacrifice and he fell asleep thinking of that.

In the meantime several rooms down the hall from Galen, a sudden blue light shot out from under the door. The guards saw it and one of them went to get the Queen, who had left strict orders on what to do. Meanwhile trapped inside the room, Myra's eyes shot wide open, her heart jumped and she gasped at all she saw.

#### AROUND THE BREAKFAST TABLE

Galen had a rough night and so he found himself still asleep when he was suddenly wakened by the beating on his door.

"Galen, Galen, you are being summoned to the dining hall to eat with the King and the Queen. They are asking for you. Please hurry."

"They always want me to hurry. Whatever I'm doing they want hurry, hurry, hurry. Okay I'm hurrying ... again."

Galen finally got down the stairs, "Good Morning, Father. Good morning Mother, stopping to give his Mother a small kiss on her cheek.

"Is there any word on Tira's condition? I would appreciate any news."

"Well son why don't you eat something first and then we will talk."

"Are you hiding something? What's happened? Is she okay?"

"Galen, when there is news you will know it."

"Hum that sounds interesting. Okay I will eat and when I'm finished then you can tell me the news."

Just then Queen Katheryn's attention was drawn to the hallway leading to the dining room. Galen was busy eating too fast to notice.

"Why look dear we have a guest for breakfast." The Queen went over and gave their guest a long hug. Then Galen heard a woman's voice "Why thank you I am so happy just to be here, I'm so hungry."

"You can sit there next to Galen our son, if he can be a gentleman and help you with your seat," said the Queen.

Galen knew what that meant, so he jumped up and for the first time actually looked at the breakfast guest who his Mother had invited to sit next to him. There standing next to him was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. It was Tira. His eyes quickly filled with tears as he reached out to her and the two of them embraced. The entire kitchen staff had known of Tira's miraculous recovery. They had all been sworn to secrecy, but came out to see what would happen. Everyone was watching, but to Galen all he saw was Tira and he would not let her go. Tira and Galen both shed tears of joy holding onto each other for dear life. Tira looked Galen in the eyes, but Galen could not say no to himself anymore and he kissed her with such passion his Mother began to cough and tried to interrupt.

"Galen ... I say Galen. You need to finish your breakfast son. Let Tira have some food son. KIDS ... please! ... at least come up for some air."

Finally Tira and Galen sat down next to each other at the table. Katheryn helped Tira get some food on her plate, and then Galen said to his Mother,

"I can use some more also mom, Hey mom."

Galen's Father wanted to talk to Tira for a moment over breakfast, so this was the right time.

"Tira dear, I can't tell you how shocked I was to hear of what happened to you. Also Katheryn and I are both very proud of Galen. What a brave thing you did, Son. It opens many doors for us especially in Ellendale."

Tira looked back at the King,

"Your Majesty I have only one request to ask and that is that I do not have to talk about these things. Mostly I have nothing to say, because I have no memory of them or anything since I met Galen on the balcony in the city of Yenom. Next thing I knew I woke up here in a room and a little fairy came to me and talked for the longest time. She was so delightful."

"Oh you poor dear," said the Queen. "You saw fairies? You might just need more rest that's all."

Derek looked at Tira, "Tira dear it will never be mentioned again, I promise." Tira looked at the King and the Queen and then she smiled and mouthed the words,

"Thank You" to both of them.

Then Tira said, "I have a question myself if I may."

"Why of course dear what is it you want to ask?"

"Earlier this morning we spoke of my plans, whether I would stay here and stay in the school, or go home with my Father? I said, that from what I do remember, Galen had asked me to marry him." Tira turned her head to look at Galen and put her hand on Galen's hand.

"Was that a real proposal Galen? Do you really wish to marry me, or was it a boyish trick to steel a kiss?"

Then Galen swallowed hard, and looked around. His Father was looking at him and His Mother was looking at him, even the servants were looking at him.

"Ah ... Well yes ... I mean no, it was no trick and yes I was serious."

Tira let go of Galen's hand, "Why Galen, you're the one who asked me. Do you not remember, or have you found another?" Tira was obviously upset now.

The Queen was upset too,

"Son you better apologize to that girl now."

"Tira my love, I am sorry. Really I didn't get to finish what I was saying. I was agreeing with you in my own way I guess. Yes, I did ask you to marry me and I do still want to marry you."

Whew, a huge sigh of relief came over Galen. He finally got it said without anyone getting upset. Tira smiled and squeezed his hand again. His mother smiled at him, but with that certain look in her eye, and his Father was trying hard not to burst out laughing.

Tira looked at Galen she had another question.

"Why sure Tira, what question do you have for me ... anything."

"I was wondering, because I don't know how things are done in Ildar, but if we are to be married is there not an engagement ring involved?" Again Galen looked around the table and His Mother Katheryn was looking straight at him. His Father was looking at him and again all the servants were now in the dining room where all the drama was happening and they too were looking at him. Everyone was waiting on Galen's big answer.

It was at this time that Galen's Father decided to say something.

"Son, how can I trust you with a kingdom if a simple proposal and ring causes you so much stress?"

Galen thought to himself, "Thanks Dad for that, and in front of Tira too."

Then Katheryn looked at Derek, "You leave him alone, I have a few stories about you I could tell too. Galen will take care of his responsibilities in his time. This is between the two of them.

Tira was still waiting on Galen for an answer about a ring.

"Well Tira ... yes there is a ring and you will have it soon. After all you went through a lot and I thought you would need some time."

Tira squeezed his hand harder,

"... but maybe not that much time. You will have a proper proposal and a ring to go with it tonight."

The Queen was so excited to hear that.

"We have a lot of planning to do for a wedding. When shall we plan for this blessed event to happen?"

Galen never thought a simple thing like getting married could be so stressful. Suddenly Galen couldn't think of a word to say, he was truly speechless and staring at his food. His father was having a good laugh by himself while he ate his breakfast, which was more than Galen was doing.

Tira was feeling better now after she had eaten something.

"Well seeing how I now know Galen's intentions towards me are true, and that he has romantic plans for tonight, I would say then, that we can talk about a date for the wedding. I have to talk with my sister and we have to send runners after Father. There are so many things to do I can't think of them all by myself, so I thank the Queen for her offer of help. We can start tomorrow, if all goes well tonight. Galen, my love, like all girls I too have always dreamed of a romantic night when my true love asks for my hand in marriage."

Galen looked at Tira. She had a big smile on her face. Galen's mind was racing all over trying to figure out how he was going to make all this happen by tonight. Tira asked Galen,

"Is this what you have in mind? I hope so. Now you have something to work on today."

Again, Galen's Father almost fell out of his chair at the look on his Son's face. "Can you handle that Son? Do you need some help?"

"Not right now, Dad. Thanks."

Galen felt that leading men into battle and fighting the Mindosian army and the dragon all combined was preferred over this ordeal. Then Tira seeing the stress on Galen's face rubbed his hand some to get his attention and then stood up and leaned over in front of everyone and gave Galen a kiss on his forehead.

"It will be fine my love. Be calm and let your heart direct you."

Tira sat back down. What no one saw was all the servants were quietly clapping and jumping up and down in excitement for Tira, quietly cheering her on and then dashing back out of sight. Tira's few words of kindness and her gentle kiss calmed Galen and gave him confidence that everything was fine and that she was happy.

"Well," said the Queen, "If you kids have that worked out, then the women have a lot of planning to do, don't we Tira?"

"Yes we do, I need to send for my family. It could take a week, or more for them to get here." "Of course you do dear. Leave everything to me. Galen will send a messenger today for your parents."

At some point in all of this Galen realized he wasn't in the picture anymore. Just getting to this part was hard enough he thought. Then after some thought Galen declared ...

"Just tell me when and where to show up."

The two women didn't even hear him as their excitement of planning for the wedding drowned him out. Even realizing no one was listening to him at this point, Galen looked around at his family and then at Tira, who would soon be his wife. He thought to himself how much he had to be thankful for. He gladly would give Tira a proposal that she would remember forever.

#### TIRA'S PROPOSAL

Tira spent much of the day with the Queen and was going over some preliminary ideas for the wedding, and she was very excited. Every girl has dreams of her own fairy tale wedding. On the other hand Galen was running around trying to plan just one meal. It would be their first meal together and everything had to be perfect, so Galen went straight to the kitchen to speak with the main cook.

"Chef Marcus, I hear you are the best cook in the entire Kingdom,"

"It is not for me to judge," said the chef.

"I need a special meal for tonight. I want to propose to Tira and it really needs to be something special. Can you do this for me?"

"Sire, we are so busy here. We feed many people that the King brings into the realm. I'm not sure I can pull anyone away for even one meal. I have so many helpers to manage. In my kitchen I call them Kitchen Elves." Then the Chef stopped for a minute to give his kitchen elves direction. "You there, big one, clean the spill on the floor and I need more pots brought in. Where is your little friend anyway? He is asleep again, isn't he? I made you manager of him. Go find him and get him working, or I will send the whole lot of you back to your village. Be quick now."

Galen reached into his pocket and showed the chef a gold coin. Suddenly the chef could not take his eyes of the glittering gold coin. A new thought came to his mind.

"Well maybe this big elf could fill in for me and I could pull together a special meal. Actually the big one is a good cook in his own right. He alone could make you this meal, but I will do it instead because it has to be perfect. What food are you thinking about Sire?"

Galen thought for a moment, "I was thinking of a nice pheasant with aged wine from my Father's private stash."

"Sire, again my apologies, but we do not have pheasant today."

Galen thought about that some, "How about a chicken?"

"Sire, again the chickens have all been cooked and given to the poor that we feed."

Galen thought about that too, "How about fish?"

"Sire, again we have not yet received any fish from the morning catch."

Galen reached down into his pocket again and pulled up two more gold coins and showed them to the head chief.

"Sire, how would you like your pheasant cooked and only the best wine for you and your love tonight. When would you like dinner served tonight?

"Seven sharp," said Galen. "You're a good man Chef Marcus. I'll clear the wine order with my Father for tonight."

Next Galen went to his old friend Murk.

"I need a special favor for tonight Murk. Do you have maybe four good men for me tonight? I need them to escort Tira to diner. Have your men in full dressed uniform. Ask my Mother where Tira is and have her in the garden at seven tonight. Can you do that for me? Then have men posted all around the garden for security tonight."

"I will make it happen. Anything for my friend and Tira. She deserves it. Seven sharp tonight, and don't be late."

Next thing Galen did was to go as fast as he could to the Royal Jewelry maker. "Thomas, I have need of your expert skills today."

"If it's about a ring for Tira, I am already on it, Sire."

"How could you know that already?"

"Your Mother the Queen came by two hours ago. She buys a lot of my jewelry so I owe her. You're not supposed to know anything about this."

Galen reached down into his pocket and pulled out his last gold coin and showed it to Thomas. "What do you say now?"

Thomas reached up and took the coin, and then leaned over in a quiet tone, "Your Mother gave me her own ring to have resized for an engagement ring for Tira. I will start on the wedding ring tomorrow. You know nothing of this, right?"

"I was never here," said Galen.

Everything seemed to be going good for Galen's big plan to give Tira everything she wanted. Galen was in the castle going back to his room when he heard his name called out.

"GALEN ... Galen wait for me,"

Galen turned around to see his Mother coming after him.

"I wanted you to know I have resolved one of your problems for the day. I am giving you ... well, I mean Tira, a ring my Father gave to me when I was her age. I am having it resized as we speak. A runner should get it to you as soon as it is ready, so you will have it for tonight. I had a long talk with Tira after the book brought her back to us. She is so sweet and will be a good wife to you."

"I know mom and I'm sorry for being so nervous this morning. I really messed up didn't I?"

"You did better than your Father did, believe me.

#### DINNER, DANCE AND A RING

By seven that evening, Galen was waiting in the garden for Tira. He was dressed in his best uniform with all the trimmings trying his best not to disappoint her expectations. The table was set for two. Candles lit up the area and musicians had already begun playing their music. Galen had sent her a very special invitation earlier and Murk's guards had already left to accompany her to her appointment. So it was no surprise when she actually did arrive right on time. This was the first time Galen had seen her at her best. She was a true vision of beauty and elegance all mixed together.

"Well Tira, thank you for coming. I hope you have found everything to your liking so far?"

"Oh yes Galen. Everything is so beautiful and you look very handsome in your prince uniform."

"I thought we could start with some food first.

"Oh yes and I'm so hungry now. I haven't eaten since this morning."

So the music played and the two of them finally got a chance to talk and be alone, or at least they thought they were alone. Murk, the chef and the ring maker all were hiding not far from the garden in the bushes.

"Murk, how can we know if they like the food if we are so far away?" said the chef.

"You just hold your horses. They're eating your food and still alive aren't they?"

"Has he given her the ring yet," said the ring maker.

"Both you be quiet for a minute and let them have their time. Besides I have a secret weapon, a way to find out everything."

"What is this secret weapon you have? It is certainly not your brain, or we would know something." said the chef.

Just then the chef cried "OWE. What was that? Something stuck my nose. I have been wounded."

"It's Myra, my secret weapon. She is a fairy."

The chef is still holding his nose, I do not believe in fairies. This is ridiculous. A fairy indeed ... OUCH, there it is again. This garden has bugs in it."

Murk looked at the chef, "I wouldn't say that if I were you, she's kind of sensitive."

Suddenly Myra the fairy flew right up to the chef's face and stopped. "So you don't believe in fairies ha? Maybe this will help you, feel the point of my blade."

"OUCH," said the chef. "She did it again, oh my poor nose."

Murk whispered over to them, "Will you two be quiet, or they will hear you. Myra, go see what they are doing and then come back and tell us."

Meanwhile back at the table in the garden ...

"There is something I think you should know Tira. During the battle with the Mindosians my Father gave me a battlefield promotion you might say, to King. He said it would be official when we got back and they could arrange for an official coronation. I'm just not sure when that will be though, but he will tell me."

"Why would your Father give up the crown at his age? He is not an old man at all?"

"Well, from what I know and what Father has shared over the years is that he never wanted to be King. It was forced onto him by my grandfather King Alexius. He did it because he felt it was his duty. He and my Mother have always wanted a different life, to travel and not be so burdened down with the responsibilities.

So, if I was the King, then the Kingdom would still be in the family, and the lineage would carry on, and he gets what he always wanted."

"Why that poor man," said Tira. "He has really given up his life for Ildar. I believe you will be a good King Galen."

"Well you might say I'm a King in-waiting, if there can be such a thing. That would make you, Queen in waiting."

Tira gave a small laugh at that. "That sounds funny. Galen I must say this food is excellent. How did you get something like this together and so fast?"

"I cannot reveal my secrets of course, but I will say my pockets are lighter tonight because of it."

Tira smiled, "I would like to complement the chef personally. I think it is important to tell people when they have done such a good job."

"I can make that happen, one minute."

Galen called out to the guard, "Get the chef and bring him here."

The call went out to get the chef. Now since he was actually close at hand, he heard the call and got up and straightened himself and miraculously walked into the garden.

"Yes my lord, I hear you wanted me? I hope the food is to your liking?

Tira looked at the chef, "I'm sorry to bother you good chef. I'm sure you were very busy, but I just wanted to tell you ...oh my lord chef, what happened to your nose? It is bleeding in two places. I pray you didn't get wounded fixing this wonderful pheasant for us? Did the poor bird put up that much of a fight?" The chef quickly reached up and covered his nose with a towel, "Oh no my lady the bird was very cooperative, I just ran into a fairy ... I mean a very mean bug ... OUCH. Where are you, you menace. I will make fairy stew with you," the chef yelled at Myra."

Tira was laughing by now, "Oh I see have you met my friend Myra? She is a fairy I met last night. She is so sweet."

"No," said the chef. "This one is not sweet. This one is a menace, a bug from down below who loves to torment. OUCH, stop this right now," yelled the chef. "Excuse me my lord and lady. I have to run and take cover. I'm pleased you are enjoying your dinner."

With that the chef ran off into the night. A minute later Galen and Tira heard it again, "OUCH, stop that you devil. Get away from me."

Again Tira laughed. "So far it has been a fun evening."

After they finished their dinner Galen knew what he had to do next. "Tira, I really messed up this morning because I was just nervous and everyone was looking at me."

Tira put her hand on Galen's arm for a moment to tell him something. "Galen, I know you were nervous and you went through it all for me. Being nervous is just normal. I do not want anyone else, but you. I believe you feel the same way."

"I do Tira. For all I have done, I did all for you. I choose you and no one else."

Tira leaned over and gave him a kiss.

"Isn't there something you would like to give me now?" said Tira.

"Oh yes ... I almost forgot ... I mean I was getting to that." Galen then got down on one knee and took Tira's hand and kissed it. "You are very beautiful tonight Tira and I want to ask you something, but I'm sure you already know." Galen reached down into one of his pockets and pulled out the ring that his Mother had given to be resized.

"There hasn't been enough time to have the proper ring made. This is the ring my Father used to propose to my Mother with. Mother has given it and had it resized. Would you accept this ring? I offer it to you as a token of my love and if you will have me I would like to marry you."

"Oh, Galen, thank you. I am so happy. You have worked so hard and yes I will accept your proposal and the ring is beautiful. Please do not change it."

Galen slipped the ring on Tira's finger, "It fits perfectly," said Tira.

Galen had a big smile, "So are you happy now?"

"Oh yes very happy,"

Meanwhile back in the bushes the ring maker waits:

"Little pixie, please tell me, does she wear the ring? Can you tell me?" Myra was fast. She flew over the top of the bushes and snuck a peak and then back again.

"He gave her the ring already and she is wearing it."

"Oh thank you little pixie person, very good to hear."

Myra's face turned sour looking the second time he called her a pixie. Moments later Tira and Galen both heard, "OUCH."

Tira asked Galen, "What was that sound, I heard?"

"Just ignore it, maybe just a pesky pixie."

Galen and Tira danced for a while until Galen's Mother and Father came out and joined them for a dance. Tira wanted to show the Queen the ring and thank her for her gift. Katheryn was glad Tira was so happy.

"Well Tira I am so glad to be having another woman in this house."

"I am glad too." said Tira

The Queen reached up and whispered something to the King, who then shook his head and turned to Galen.

"Well son I'm told your wedding is to be two weeks from tonight. I bet you didn't know that did you?"

"It seems when it comes to wedding and courtship, there are many things I don't know. Not knowing things is kind of normal for me now." They all laughed.

Tira looked up at Galen, "You poor little thing you, maybe I have surprises also. Don't ask me what it is, but two weeks from tonight you will find out." Galen was stunned.

The King laughed a small laugh at the two young people and then resumed talking to Galen.

"So Galen I have heard good reports of your bravery and leadership in battle and again in the village of Traverse and again in Ellendale. I think you are becoming a legend already. The Army respects you and will follow you anywhere, so I was told. So, I believe you are ready, well more so than I was anyway.

When it's time, you will officially be crowned the King and your young Bride to be, your Queen. Galen my Son, your life is about to change forever."

#### THE FIVE FOLD PROPHECY

During the following two weeks Katheryn, Tira, many of the servants, and maids, got many things accomplished. Tira's Father and Mother finally got the word to come to Ildar quickly. Galen's Aunt Leah and Kari all came with their families. All of Ildar was alive with activity and many people celebrated all throughout the last week with dance, lots of food and much partying. The flags and banners were hung on the castle walls all in celebration. Tira became the talk of everyone and the topic of most all conversations. Her parents were stopped on the streets and were being treated as royalty themselves. Galen watched it all from the balcony of his room and everything that he saw made him very happy and it was all good.

Being very appreciative Galen looked up into the heavens and raised his hands and gave thanks to God for the gift He had given him in Tira. While he was giving his offering of praise to God he suddenly felt the presence of someone behind him.

"I come with greetings and a message for you King Galen. Know that you are greatly loved in heaven and God has heard your prayers of thanksgiving. Your betrothed is pure before the Lord. She will be the mother of those known as Guardians as you are and your father and his father before him. Men who are willing to rise up and take a stand to protect the truth of the Holy Book as you and your father have. The Medallion given to you shall be for them an inheritance of service. Now understand this, for your faithfulness and that of your Father and his Father before him. It has been granted for seven generations to rule, two have come, one begins and four remain. The seventh shall be denied for a season, and then the promise of the greater Kingdom shall be his, when men shall run to and fro upon the earth. A great evil will rise up in the latter days and deceive many. Except by the mercy of God, no man will be saved."

Then the angelic messenger vanished from before Galen. His spirit was shaken within him at what he had just heard. Galen knew the fate of the Kingdom and of its future and it lay heavy on his heart. These things and many others he dwelt upon in his time of meditation and prayer. This information Galen kept locked away secretly in his heart for another time.

### THE BOOK OF THE KINGS

There was a matter Galen had on his mind as a way to honor his father and grandfather. He became concerned that all the mighty deeds they had done and the stories of the Kingdom would one day be forgotten unless they were written down as a record for generations to come. Galen planned to call this book the "Book of the Kings."

Galen called on someone from the Kingdom that he knew was a perfect choice for such a project. His craftsmanship was without question and quality would stand the ages for future kings.

In Heaven there is a record of our works that stands for eternity. On earth there will also be a record of works, but the works of the Kings, for they were accountable to God as to the affairs of the Kingdom. As it was with the Book of Beginnings, Galen ordered this new book be bound the same with seven bindings and inlaid with silver and the seal of the King be placed upon it.

Galen would at a later date begin to fill the book with the deeds of valor and of the beginning of the Times of the Kings. Galen ordered the wise men and those that record their history to come together and begin their work, but as for now ... well Galen had a wedding to get to.

# UNEDITED



# UNEDITED Chapter Thirteen A Royal Wedding



### THE WEDDING

alen had not left his chambers all day and was more than dressed and ready long before it was needed. He heard a tapping on the window glass of his room and looked up and to his surprise it was Myra, his little friend. He opened the window to let her in.

"Hi Myra, so you decided to stay and watch the wedding before you go home?"

"Who's going home?" Myra asked. "What I came to tell you was that our Princess Emmy is here in Ildar for your wedding. She said she wouldn't miss it for all the Pixy dust in all of Ellendale."

"You mean she is sitting out there wings and all? No one in Ildar has ever seen a Fairy, or a Pixy, not to mention a Princess of such a place."

"The Princess can show her wings or not show them. If she likes you then she lets them be seen, but she can hide them and blend into a crowd like everyone else. We are not without our resources you know."

"Yes I have heard some of your resources at work. Do you know both the Chef and the Ring maker are not talking to me because of you? You be careful with that little knife. I will tell you something my Father has told me many times now. 'Galen, he says, you can catch more bees with honey than with vinegar, and in your case it's a short pointy little knife. You remember that little girl.""

Myra stood there in the air with her arms folded, "And I'm not a little girl. I'm a Fairy."

"And a very pretty Fairy too, if I don't say."

Myra's face lit up and she took off flying all over trying to keep his attention. "You think I'm pretty? Oh, I just knew it. He loves me."

Then Myra flew out the window as fast as she could go. Galen just shut the window and laughed.

The guards outside beat on Galen's door three times, "Prince Galen, your mother the Queen has sent us to bring you to the church or she will have us hanged."

Galen opened the door and got in the middle of the escort like he had done so many times before.

"Well let's not let that happen. It would be hard to get you're uniform to fit with a stretched neck. I tell you guy's this, the women are running the place, for sure."

The guards looked at one another not having a clue what Galen was talking about. They just shrugged their shoulders and moved out.

Galen arrived in the church and his mother Katheryn was quick to show him where he needed to stand. She already had the Priest and his best man, Murk standing in place waiting.

"Hey Murk, don't you look pretty," said Galen.

"I was told I had to wear this monkey suit and smile."

"Who told you that?" asked Galen

"Corinne and the Queen did. The women are running everything. I think they're going to take over."

"Nah, they don't want to go fight and swing a blade." said Galen.

"Don't say that too loud, they might be armed." Murk smiled big. At least one incident I know of."

"So I heard the other night, someone yelled OUCH," he whispered. They both laughed quietly. Galen, Murk and even the Fairy Princess Emmy laughed too. Everyone was now waiting for Tira to appear.

Father stepped up to the altar just behind Galen and the Priest.

"Well I see we all have made it. Congratulations are in order. These clothes itch and I hate wearing them. Galen you better stay married son because I'm not doing this again. Your Mother has been like an old army Sargent these last two weeks. I have managed to hide and stay unseen until she caught me and told me to stand here and smile."

"Galen and I think the women are taking over and the Queen is the leader" said Murk.

"And he is right too dad. Who is wearing these monkey suits anyway, and who runs all over Ildar fighting while the women lay in bed and get pampered?"

"Galen my son, you have a lot to learn about the women and class is about to start on you boy, real soon."

The Queen quickly took her place next to the King behind where Tira would be standing in just a few minutes.

At the appointed time, the coach with Tira and her Father pulled up to the red carpet. The trumpets sounded announcing they have arrived. First, Tira's Father stepped out and then turned around and offered his daughter his hand so she could balance herself while stepping out of the coach.

Now the five Bridesmaids and the five Groomsmen lined themselves along the top of the stairs outside. Each was on their respective sides as they too now waited for the Bride to come.

The Royal Guards all wearing sabered swords took three steps forward to the red carpet's edge to form a line to the chapel entrance. All eyes outside were on Tira now. Tira and her Father ascended the twenty-two steps to the church entrance, then stopped and waited for her time to enter.

The nod was given indicating everyone was ready, and the musicians started to play. Two guards reached out and opened the doors of the church and two seconds later the first of the seven bridesmaids with their escorts stepped forward to enter the chapel. The seven bridesmaids began to come in one by one escorted by seven captains that had served Galen in the battle to free Tira. Apparently the Queen had coerced them into wearing the same stiff formal uniforms Galen, Murk and the King had to wear. At least Galen wasn't alone in that, but if Tira was happy, then it would be okay. The seven captains didn't seem to be complaining about escorting the young ladies down the aisle. Galen just happened to know all the bridesmaids were single. Already one of them was spoken for, Tira's sister, Corinne.

Corinne was the first bridesmaid to come down the aisle. She saw Murk standing in the front all dressed up in his uniform. The look on her face and her smile were for Murk only as she came down the aisle with her escort.

Galen whispered back to Murk, "Hey Murk she's smiling really big at you. Something is going through that mind of hers."

"Quiet, I'm trying to focus here, Corinne just gave me that look ... is it time to panic? This uniform is really tight you know that. Hope I don't pass out."

"If you two don't be quiet you're going to mess this up and the Queen will make minced meat out of both of you." said the King.

The Queen looked right at her husband, "Derek can you be quiet for just five minutes? That's all I ask. You're always talking."

When all the bridesmaids had finished coming down the aisle the music changed. Finally the girl everyone had been waiting for stepped through the door with her father. Galen couldn't believe his eyes as he asked himself if this was the same Tira? She was more beautiful than any other in all the land. Even partially hidden behind a veil, he still couldn't get his eyes off of her. He memorized every step she took down the aisle.

Finally they reached the altar area. There was a small pause so Tira's Father could give her a last kiss and offer her hand out towards Galen. Galen reached out and took her hand and they both faced the Priest together. Now the Sacred Book of Beginnings sat on a small table in front of the priest. Tira and Galen were in front of the book and the book had been opened, but no one knew where it was opened to or even who had opened it.

The ceremony was a blur to Galen who couldn't get Tira off his mind. So much had happened that his mind was running in every direction. He tried hard to focus and repeat everything that the Priest said. The next thing he knew, it was time for the ring. Galen fumbled around in his pocket for the ring which Tira had worked so hard on with the jeweler to create special for her. Galen found it and placed it on her finger. Galen couldn't help but notice how calm Tira seemed to be while he was so nervous and fumbling at everything.

Then Tira did an unexpected thing. She reached out her hand to Galen's and called his name in a soft whisper.

"Galen, be calm. Relax, it will be okay. We have as long as we want to take."

Her touch made Galen focus on her and forget about his anxiety for the moment.

Then the next thing Galen heard was the Priest telling them and all those who were in attendance,

"I now pronounce you man and wife. Now Galen you may kiss your bride."

That part Galen heard loud and clear, so he lifted her veil and gave her a kiss that was to be remembered. Everyone's eyes were glued on the two of them. Even little Myra the fairy who had found a spot in the rafters, clapped and smiled so big, even wiping away a small tear when they kissed.

The Sacred Book of Beginnings that was directly behind them began to glow. All the people in the church saw it as it reached out and encompassed Tira and Galen for just a few seconds and then faded away. Tira and Galen both turned to face everyone. Then the priest pronounced to everyone, "It is my honor to present to you Mr. and Mrs. Galen Anthony Wallace.

### THE FIRST DANCE

After the wedding everyone made their way in the great banquet hall. Galen's new friend the head Chef had found a large group of Pheasants that somehow ended up on everyone's plate as the main course.

Tira seemed to fit so well into her new role, like she was born for this. Galen sat back in his seat and watched her wave to people while her sweet smile was winning their hearts. Galen sat there and took it all in. A feeling of satisfaction and well-being came over him.

Our enemies have been defeated and for now the Kingdom of Ildar is at peace. The Kingdom was entering into a time of great prosperity and abundance. Galen was still wearing his medallion and while no one was watching him he slid his hand over his shirt where the medallion was and just to himself he thought,

"May I never forget your kindness and mercy and the gifts you have given to me. Most of all I thank you for Tira."

The Medallion gave a soft and short glow and then it was gone.

An hour later Tira and Galen were escorted to the first party in the castle. His Father and Mother were there and his Aunts and their families and all of Tira's family. Tira and Galen shook the hands of family and friends forever until finally it was just their time. Galen finally got to dance with his beautiful bride. All the people watched as he danced and Galen was sure they were all looking at Tira, but then so was he.

Galen suddenly remembered something that was said back on the balcony while in the city of Yenom.

"Tira?"

"Yes my husband?"

"One day soon you will see a crown on my head. Then I can give you all of what you deserve."

Tira looked up at Galen, "Galen, I don't need anything. I have all that I want right here, I have you. But do you want to know what I do see?"

"Is this a trick question?" Galen said. Tira just smiled.

"I see your halo. You are truly a good man and you will be a generous and a wise King."

"So now I have a halo, do I?"

"Yes you do." Galen was silent for about five minutes ...

"Tira, I have something to tell you. It was told to me as coming from the highest authority"

"And what is that my husband."

"You're going to be a great Queen one day and a great mother."

"A Mother? We never really talked about this did we? Are you trying to tell me something ... Galen ... G A L E N ... are you listening to me?"

### THE END



## Epilogue



s it is with all things, evil never takes a rest. It is always seeking a time and an opportunity to make something worse. The evil lord Anu from his throne in the underworld saw the Book of Beginnings sitting on the table in the chapel unguarded.

Suddenly the Bishop Donay who always had a fleeting curiosity about both the medallion and the Holy Book had an evil thought. As the Bishop walked into the chapel, he saw that everyone was in the banquet hall and he alone was in the chapel.

"It can be yours," came an evil voice. "Take it now, quickly while no one is here and take it to another land that I will show you, where you can sell it. You will be rich beyond your wildest imaginations."

In a dark area of the chapel where they could not be seen, sat Murk and Corinne, alone. They were talking about the wedding and making some plans of their own. Corinne happened to notice Bishop Donay walking through the chapel,

"Look, isn't that Bishop ..."

Murk quickly covered Corinne's mouth with his hand, "Shhh, don't say a word, keep quiet." He whispered.

As they were watching, the Bishop Donay moved quickly towards the Book of Beginnings setting on the table, as he did the book began to glow a deep red color, and he quickly took the book from off the altar table and wrapped it in some old cloth and stuffed it in a bag he carried over his shoulder. The Bishop quickly walked out the front door. Corinne looked at Murk, "I guess he is taking the book to put it away since everyone forgot it was out here?"

"I hope your right," said Murk.

The Bishop Donay walked down the chapel steps and got onto his mule cart and slowly made his way out of the city.

To Be Continued ...

Episode 2

The Rise of King Galen







# UNEDITED

# For the Glory of the Kingdom of Heaven



# K I N G D O M Chronicles

## Cast of Characters, Places and Things found in the Book

- 1. Alexius Wallace: Called by God to travel to Ildar and be its first King
- 2. Anu: Ancient demon of the underworld, leader of the group of evil deities called the Anunnaki
- 3. Aram: Evil demon of the underworld sent to steal the secret of Ildar
- Atoria: City where the stones were found in its caves. Became known as the Secrets of Ildar.
- Blue Medallion: Round medallion with an Angel in the middle and a blue jewel in the center of the angel. Used to summand the Guardians in your greatest hour of need.
- 6. Blood Moon: A point in the moon's cycle to mark the time Tira was to be taken by the Dark Elf.
- 7. Bishop Donay: Religious man who teaches classes in the castle
- Book of Beginnings: Ancient book of creation and the acts of God and contains God's word to man. Only by faith can it be read and its secrets be known. Given to King Alexius and his family to watch over and kept safe.
- Book of the Kings: Book Galen had made documenting the deeds of the Kings of Ildar
- 10. Caledonia: The Northwestern territories home of the clan called Wallace Ildar: Home of the Castle Alexius (so named for its first King), located in the Kingdom of Ildar: Made by no human hands, but of God to be a beacon of hope to the world, a place where the oppressed, down trodden and suffering could find rest. Made of the white stones found in the mountains surrounding it.
- 11. Cathedral of the Saints: The place in Ellendale to find the Princess Emmy
- 12. Cave of Ravens: Cave where the Dragon held Tira captive
- 13. Cherrywood Meadow: The village from where Myra the Fairy comes from
- 14. Chef Marcus: Head cook in the castle Alexius. He was given charge to prepare the special dinner for Galen and Tira.
- 15. Corinne Juliet Seager: The sister of Tira, also schooled in the castle.

- 16. Dark Elf's: A slave of the underworld. Bought Tira from Zocor and took her to the Cave of Ravens.
- 17. Derek Wallace: Son of Alexius, inherited the throne that he did not want
- 18. Diamond: Old woman who provides information and fallen ex-Princess of Ellendale
- 19. Dragon: Representation of Satan and of evil
- 20. Ellen (Ellen's): An ancient people who learned the secrets of the heart.
- 21. Ellendale: home of Princess Emmy and a refuge for the fairies.
- 22. Emmy: Princess of Ellendale
- 23. Fairy Counsel: The high counsel that oversees the affairs of all fairies in Ellendale.
- 24. Galen Anthony Wallace: Son of Derek and Katheryn, Became the King of Ildar
- 25. General Tauv: General of all the Army of Ildar
- 26. Guardians: Angels who come to help and fight for those who believe
- 27. Heart Link: Created when someone has a strong attachment to something, or someone. It is used to locate the object or person.
- 28. James: The Father of Queen Katheryn
- 29. Katheryn Wallace: Wife of King Derek and Mother of Galen, Father was James
- 30. Kitchen Elves: Nicknames given to kitchen helpers in Ildar
- 31. Kingdom of Ildar: Home of the Castle Alexius
- 32. Kingdom of Nordoff: Neighbor Kingdom of Ildar, armies led by Prince Phillip Leah McTavish: Married to William McTavish and elder of three sisters, Katheryn the Queen of Ildar and Kari of Yenom.
- 33. Lycans: The Kingdom of Lycan whose leaders gave into the evil and sent its army to join the Mindosians against Ildar
- 34. Mindosians: The Kingdom of Mindosia, whose leaders gave into the evil and became empowered by demons of the underworld to attack Ildar.
- 35. Myra: Fairy from the Village of Cherrywood Meadow, sent by Emmy and the Fairy Counsel to help Galen.
- 36. Mount Gillia: Located in the Eastern Heights of Ellendale, where Exousia comes from.

- Mountain of Decisions: Located on God's Holy Mountain from which the blue Medallion was forged from.
- 38. Murk: Soldier in the Army who becomes a Captain, best friends to Galen
- 39. Nissa: The Woman of the Lake on the road to Ellendale. She watches over the Fairies there.
- 40. People of the Way Biblical reference to Christians (Acts 22:4; 22:4)
- 41. Perkily: Far Northern territories home of the ancient Vikings
- 42. Prince Phillip: Leader of the Armies of Nordoff
- 43. Reader Someone who could read from the Book of Beginnings
- 44. Red Medallion: Given to the King to be used to open and whirlwind tunnel to different times and place. Known as the Blood Red Medallion
- 45. River Fairies of Ellendale: Fairies who live in the lakes and rivers of Ellendale
- 46. River Gio: The boundary marker of the Valley of the Two Moons
- 47. Road Less Traveled: Few there are that travel this road to Ellendale
- 48. Robert: Trusted messenger of King Galen Scott of Edmond: Husband of Kari ruler over the city of Yenom.
- 49. Stones of Fire on the Mountain of Decisions: Where the Blue Medallion was forged from.
- 50. Sword of the King: Given to the King by the angel Zurel. Matches the sword of the Guardians having a golden crown under its hilt and under the crown the same blue jewel which can be used to call the Guardians.
- 51. Tira Elizabeth Seager: Father was a wealthy merchant. She attends school in the castle, falls in love with school friend Galen.
- 52. Valley of the Two Moons: Beyond the River Gio, home of the Caves of Ravens.
- 53. Village of Traverse: The village where the dragon was keeping Tira prisoner.
- 54. William McTavish: Loyal to the crown of Ildar and keeper of the Mines of Atoria in which are found the secrets of Ildar.
- 55. Zephaniah Stones: Meaning of the name is to be hidden (concealed) by God. These stones were one of the three secrets of Ildar, found only in Atoria, hidden away in the secret caves. Their whereabouts were only known to one man,

William (married to Princess Leah). The stones had the ability to make the seen, unseen.

56. Zurel: Angel and Chief Captain of the League of Guardians

# UNEDITED