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## The Other Worlds

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Prequel to *Ethon*

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Adreli Reien. That was my mother's name. Although I never knew her, she must have been great. She was born into an age when the Other Worlds were divided. Where there had once been peace and unity, the peoples of the Other Worlds were in three separate The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) groups: Craeles, Saerds, and Eves.

The Craeles were physically half-human and half-animal. They possessed the ability of changing in and out of both their human and animal forms freely. The most prominent members were the Velvitors. At the time of my mother's birth, not much was known about the Craeles. They generally The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) kept to their towers The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) and rituals – allies to none.

Saerds were the normal humans, the ungifted. They were the general population of the Other Worlds. Saerds were subject to none, unless their world had been claimed by the Kendren brothers. My mother's world had not been claimed. She was a Saerdian heir - one of the last. After the death of her father, she became queen of Caprith. She grew up knowing she was to protect and lead her world at any cost, and she was prepared The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) to do so. She was not prepared, however, to meet my father, an Eve.

Now, Eves were from the world of Evedon, yet they were not subject to live only there. Many worlds were known to have Eveon blood. Also, just as with the Saerds, there was an evil hand seeking conquest of the Eveon worlds. Its name was the Vrenyx. Its armies, known as the Nagreth, captured Eveon worlds one by one and joined them to the empire.

In this age of warfare and broken allies, my mother was born and raised. When she took the throne at age eighteen, she thought she was ready for anything. Yet, *anything* did not include the Eveon warrior and prince who suddenly appeared in her court. He said he was visiting to learn more of the Saerds. It did not take long for my young mother to fall in love. She The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) and her Eve were wed just prior to her nineteenth birthday. Their marriage was the first of its kind in generations - two royals from completely different backgrounds. It also created the strongest tie between the Saerds and Eves since before the fall of Balinorre. Caprith soon became a world of both Saerds and Eves, which in turn created a generation of Wends.

I am a Wend, as is my twin. We are the children of both Saerd and Eve, half bloods. In the Other Worlds we were a rarity, but in Caprith we were many. We were an ancient breed, extinct after generations. With the uniting of Caprith and Evedon, though, we were renewed. Now, one would naturally assume that a Wend would only be half as gifted as the Eveon parent, as a Wend was only half Eveon. However, a Wend was not only just as gifted as the parent, a Wend was more so, far exceeding that of the parent and dangerous to have for an enemy.

From the marriage of my parents, Caprith was transformed from a world of Saerds to a world of Eveon majority. The transition caused my parents to contemplate the destinies of their children. They sensed their children would have much to do with the future of the Other Worlds. They were right. Not long after my brother and I reached our first birthday, the Vrenyx attacked

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Caprith. In an attempt to protect The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) her children, my mother sent my brother and me into hiding. We were to become slaves in separate Kendren worlds, where we would not be found until the time we were to be set free and told of our true identity.

Moments after our escape, Caprith fell to the Vrenyx. My parents never saw us again.

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“Terry!” Hilda screamed into the kitchen. “Where are those dishes?”

“Sounds like the The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) old one needs more The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) sleep,” Terry muttered, dropping the large silver platter onto the counter in front of her.

Dainy stopped beside her and began filling the platter with bowls of steaming food. “You’re going to get it, Terry.” She glanced over her shoulder at The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) the kitchen door. “She sounds real mad this time.”

“Oh, relax.” Terry laughed. “You know you’re only in trouble if-”

“TERRY!” Hilda shrieked. “If you don’t have those dishes in my hands within the next-” The rest of her words were lost to a huge pot clanging to the floor.

“She’s mad.” Terry winced.

Dainy shoved the full platter into Terry’s arms. “Go!”

Terry dashed through the giant kitchen that served the Lantz Decapron’s castle. As she ran, she nearly tripped three cooks and bumped into four servers. But luckily she managed to keep the food upright and on the platter. She smiled and slid to a stop in front of Hilda. The The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) fat grouch yanked the platter out of her hands before haughtily rushing out to the Lantz’s banquet, reminding Terry of an over-stuffed peacock far beyond its prime.

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“Terry,” Dainy called out from the back of the kitchen, “I still need you!”

“Be right there!” Terry spun on her heels back through the crowded maze of servants.

Three hours later, but what seemed more like *The Other Worlds* (*The Other Worlds Series Book 1*) twelve, Terry made her way up to the turret she shared with ten other slaves, including Dainy. Night had begun its cycle hours before, and Terry wished she had been sleeping for most of it. Her shoulders ached from carrying heavy trays, her legs from climbing sets of stairs, and her eyes from being open. At least the Lantz hadn't ordered her to sing. Otherwise, her throat might have ached as well. For some reason, the Lantz - the Lantz's wife - preferred Terry's voice above all the other *The Other Worlds* (*The Other Worlds Series Book 1*) musicians hired for special occasions. She had the silly idea that Terry had the voice of an Eve, going so far as to call Terry's talent a gift. It was only praise. Terry was a Saerd, completely and utterly giftless. If she were anything else, there would be no reason for her to waste time *The Other Worlds* (*The Other Worlds Series Book 1*) singing at the Lantz's banquets and balls.

It wasn't the singing that bothered Terry, though. In truth, she loved to perform. It got her out of the kitchen. No, it *The Other Worlds* (*The Other Worlds Series Book 1*) was being ordered to sing that Terry hated. As a slave, Terry had no say in what she could or could not do. If she was told to sing, then she sang. If she was ordered to walk across the battlements on a tightrope while barefoot, then she had better be shucking off her shoes. It was the life of an orphan in a Kendren world.

A generation or two before, the people of Devrin *The Other Worlds* (*The Other Worlds Series Book 1*) joined themselves with the Kendrens. Their leaders had decided that instead of waiting around for an attack they would simply volunteer themselves into the Kendren kingdom. As a reward, Devrin royalty kept their positions as sovereigns, only answering to the Kendren brothers. For the most part, Devrin was able to remain as its own entity. However, some traditions and laws of the Kendrens were adopted, such as the use of Arthelian. It had become the acknowledged language of the Saerds under Kendren rule. True Saerds still spoke Saerdian. It was a sort of common tongue between the Other Worlds. But the Kendrens saw it as lowly. They chose to enforce their own creation of Arthelian as the new Saerdian. Thus, Terry had been forced to learn Arthelian from birth. She hated Arthelian. It was tiring and *The Other Worlds* (*The Other Worlds Series Book 1*) unpleasant. Thankfully, slaves only had to use it when speaking to their possessors. In Devrin, those who spoke Arthelian had political status, such as the Lantz and Lentz.

Another tradition Devrins acquired from the Kendrens was the abolishment of orphanages. Instead of orphanages, orphans were given as slaves to the richer inhabitants. In Terry's case, she had been placed with the Lantz as a toddler. She'd spent her known life within the walls of the Lantz's castle. Sadly, she couldn't remember anything of her parents or life as a free child, and unlike the slaves who sought to erase their pasts, it bothered her that she didn't have a single memory to cling to.

Terry sighed as she continued up the stone stairwell, watching out for the broken sections of the steps. The Lantz's castle wasn't exactly in the best shape, but Terry blamed that on his

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place in the line for the throne. In the Other Worlds, the system The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) of royalty fell from king and queen to the eldest heir, the prince or The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) princess. Below the heir sat the siblings – the Lantzes and Lentzes. The Lantz Decapron was the second youngest in a long line of twelve. Terry highly doubted the Lantz would ever be anything more than a Lantz, unless a sudden plague destroyed his entire family. But a plague was more unlikely than the Lantz becoming king. Thus, the Lantz's stairwells The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) were to remain in disrepair. He did not have the means to fix them, especially those used only by slaves.

At last, Terry reached the top of the last set of stairs. She let out a soft cry of relief and pulled a torch out of its mount The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) on the wall. As usual, she had been the first to leave for bed. With a The Other Worlds (The Other Worlds Series Book 1) yawn, she walked the short distance to the familiar oak door and pushed it open. She wasn't surprised to find the room dark and empty, not that it mattered. She could walk the room blindfolded; she knew it far too well. Terry turned to the mount beside the door and slipped the torch into it. The torch offered her enough light to see the outlines of the beds. Terry yawned again and headed for her bed at the far end of the room.

## **The Other Worlds The Other Worlds Series Book 1**

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