

The characters Torvald Arend 'Tor' & Victoria Angela (nee Connell) Svensen, James Conrad & Cathryn 'Cathy' (nee Hunter) Svensen, Brett, Dana Lynn (nee Svensen) and Sabrina Angela Kashnikov, Roger, Gytba Louise (nee Svensen) Roger Jr. & Heather Louise Delancey, Axel Torvald & Madelyn (nee Barrett) Svensen, Bradley Torvald 'Brad' & Janet Lee (nee Mondragon) Svensen, Trenton, Nancy Jeanne (nee Svensen), Trenton Junior and Chelsea Corbin, Ronald Arend 'Ron' & Brenda Mae (nee Cartwright) Svensen, Lawrence James 'LJ' & Alicia Leanna (nee Svensen) Hood, Valerie Connell, Walter Lee Sr. & Harriet (nee Bishop) Connell, Walter Lee Jr., Michelle Annette 'Misha' (nee Kazjinski), Walter Lee III, Joseph Franklin 'Joe' and Sarah Noel Connell, Robert James & Elizabeth Ann (nee Caine) Sands, Barbara Caine, Edward and Mary (nee Leese) Caine, Richard & Wilhelmine Marie (nee Kurzweil) Delancey, James William & Nancy (nee Roland) Kurzweil, Erich Martin & Ivanova Marie 'Iva Marie' (nee Schmidt) Kurzweil, Jason & Natasha 'Tasba' (nee Porter) Cumberow, Peter the dispatcher, El Casa Del Burrito[®], Leonard's Restaurant[®], Hunter Auto Parts[®], Right Way Groceries[™] and Steven Nanomantube are the property of Kellan Meig'h and may not be published or reproduced in any form without express written permission. Any resemblance to any fur or person, either living or dead is purely coincidental.

*(Gah, this is tedious!)*Note* More rambling credits/warnings below! Please read and heed!*

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“End Game”

By Kellan Meig'h

Prologue - “The Who, Where & Why”

I would like to start by admitting the fact that I rarely do prologues. I have always felt that a person reading one of my ramblings would have already read the preceding tomes (listed in order), “A Voice From The Past”, “Lost”, “The Price Of Worship” and “A Loss Of Rights”. For those who haven't read my other stories or would appreciate a quick(?) review, here it is.

First off, I should start with a little about the “Immortal Couple” series in general. I began writing this series in September 2007 after I had read and became inspired by a few online stories such as “Identity Crisis”, “ZigZag The Story”, “A Little Nothing”, “A Little Something” and “Surt Show”, just to name a few. I had always enjoyed Sci-Fi where there was an anthropomorphic character or two in the mix because it seemed to add depth to the story. After reading the above-mentioned tomes, I decided to pen a Fan-Fiction based around some of the happenings in ALN, ALS and Surt Show.

Because I enjoyed the character Aslaug Larsdatter (property of Joan Jacobsen, the RL filly), I decided to make one of my key characters an equine. I have to admit that I have an affinity for horses, especially the big drafters. There is nothing like riding a two thousand-plus pound beast at full gallop. Particularly if he's armored and you're armored, too. Tons of kinetic energy. A total rip, too. The reason my main character's wife is a tigress is this; I refer to my Real Life wife as my tigress for reasons I will not go into here. It suffices to say that my main character deserves a tigress mate just like his writer deserves one. There is a lot of my tigress in Victoria, just so you know.

Enough of my ramblings and digression, so onwards to some information about the story.

Location: A parallel world, very similar to modern-day Earth with one exception; humans did not evolve. In man's place, some but not all animals evolved into bipedal sentient beings. There are sentient primates, orangutans and chimpanzees for the most part, but no man. Sorry. That means their home world is fully anthropomorphic in nature. There are other parallel worlds they have been to that are just like ours and some that are a mixed bag of anthro and human. When the Immortal Couple have to go to a full-humanoid world, they assume a human appearance. She would look middle-eastern and he would look very Nordic, pale skinned and blond hair.

The exact central location for the story at hand is Portola Hills, California, near Whiting Ranch for those of you that live in SoCal. And no, I did not pick that location intentionally, Teric. (inside joke)

The year and season: Fall, 2016.

The players (Gah, here's where it gets a bit long-winded): Torvald Arend Svensen, a very tall, heavily muscled blond stallion and his wife Victoria Angela (nee Connell) Svensen, a Bengal tigress. They are the two main players in my stories.

Torvald was born in the early 10th century in Denmark, made his mark on the world and was slain in a battle in Saxony, an area of modern-day Germany that his kind, the *Hedni*, had taken in conquest.

Hold it; slain in battle, you ask? Yes, he met his demise on the heath south of his village, doing what he did best; being a berserker. He was almost unstoppable but a German longsword proved otherwise. While the others continued the battle, his dead corpse was carried away by two warriors wearing white leather armor, their ultimate destination with the deceased stallion was Valhalla.

Valhalla, you say? Yes, Valhalla. It would seem the Gods had paid attention to Torvald, noting his mindset and the way he treated other furs fairly and equally. They had decided that he was not done just yet and had other plans for him. He was destined to be a Warrior For The Gods, a celestial troubleshooter if you will.

He was brought back to life (which had the side effect of being made immortal) and sent to study under a mage in Seattle, Washington on the world that would become his new home. The year was 1891.

Torvald studied under the wolf mage Ivar Johnsen for a few years until his studies were derailed by some unfortunate turn of events in 1893. His mage was killed and he was 'worked over' by Surt's minions in a case of mistaken identity. Surt was actually after another immortal blond equine instead.

Many years, a formal education and a stint in the military later, he met Victoria in a grocery store. At the time he had just been promoted to the rank of Detective, working for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Police Department. The tigress at the time was going through a divorce from her first husband, John Conrad Parks, Senior, who is the biological father of John Conrad Svensen, her son. Her son's last name was changed from Parks to Svensen when Victoria married Torvald after her divorce was final. By the way, the young tiger prefers to be called Conrad.

Victoria was born in Hughson, California in 1966. She graduated from Ceres High in the city of Ceres, California, then attended UC Santa Barbara, obtaining a degree in Business Management. She lived briefly in Saugus, California with John Parks but she moved to Irvine, California when they divorced. That was where she met and eventually married Torvald.

The tigress and her stallion enjoyed a very loving relationship with one another and Torvald enjoyed being a surrogate father to Conrad. Eventually there was a series of events that ended with Victoria being pulled into one of Torvald's situations. He was being taken (unwillingly) to Surt's realm repeatedly (see the story "A Voice From The Past" for clarification) and some meddling by a pair of well-meaning(?) angels caused the tigress to be taken to that realm with her hubby.

When this happened, the Gods had no other recourse to save her except to make her immortal. Yeah, that's how it happened. They also stirred her warrior genes a bit, making her very high-strung at times.

Now that she's immortal, Torvald suggested she become a Warrior For The Gods so she could be near

him more often. Victoria agreed, not knowing what she was getting into. A read of stories (chronological) two, three and four would corroborate that information.

Over the years, they have been hunted, marked for murder and forced into alternate realities. The latest romp had them separated for a number of years until they could be reunited. They finally decided they had just had enough which brought about the purchase of a ranch so they could run an At-Risk Teen diversion program. That is where they live at this point in time, the ranch up by Whiting Ranch, Portola Hills, CA.

Their employers On High are a lion named Christopher, once called WhiteChrist by Torvald and his counterpart in Valhalla, Odin the one-eyed wolf. Together, they have assisted the warriors and at times failed them. A read of the stories would reveal the true nature of the accomplishments and failings.

Their earthly employers are more mundane in nature. Torvald works as a reserve officer for the LAPD (he's retired now from his job as a full time counselor) and Victoria works as an assistant manager for Century Real Estate in Irvine, CA.

The other immediate Svensen family members:

Conrad Svensen and his wife Cathy, A femme Cougar. They live in Carmichael, CA. He is a professional football player with the Sacramento 49'ers and she manages the Hunter Auto Parts chain that was started by her family before she was born and is still owned solely by the Hunter clan to this day.

Before I introduce the next three kits, I should bring up the reason they exist. A femme mongoose named Pamela Benelli was tasked with writing a backstory for the Immortal Couple's mission covered in "A Loss Of Rights." A backstory is needed to help put the right memories in certain fur's minds so Tor and Vicki can fit in. That backstory is also used to erase any trace of them after the mission is over.

Pamela 'effed up' royally, writing a very exacting and detailed backstory for that mission. When it came time to implant the memories, Tor, Victoria and the three young furs playing the Svensen's children were given a very heavy dose of memories. So much so, to the point that they were actually convinced the situation was the correct one. Tor and Vicki both decided almost without thinking that they wanted the kits to stay with them when they learned about the backstory screw-up. The three 'assistants' playing the kits were Tor's kits from the tenth century so they didn't need to think about it. They were convinced the situation was right so they agreed to become mortal again, to be Tor and Victoria's children. Now that you're most likely confused, read on.

The 'new' children:

Axel Svensen and his wife Madelyn, a zebra. They own Svensen's Music in Garden Grove, CA. Axel is one of Torvald and Victoria's twins.

Gytha Delancey and her husband Roger, a gray percheron. He's a Sys Admin in the internet field and she works for Hunter Auto Parts, taking care of the books. She's the other Svensen twin. Whereas Axel looks like his father with the exception of some phantom tiger striping on his arms and legs, Gytha has a mixed look. She has an equine build but she has claws on her paws and she has hooves. She also has her mother's ruddy orange coloration, jet black mane and tail and phantom tiger striping too. She also has feline dentition, much to some fur's surprise. She played basketball in college where she went on a scholarship out of high school. She has a degree in Computer Sciences and they live in Lake Forest with their two little kits.

Dana Kashnikov, her hubby Brett and their daughter Sabrina. They own Kashnikov Firearms in Anaheim, CA. She is the youngest Svensen kit that looks like a full feline but her coloration is a very pale buff color. Her hubby is a tiger, Conrad's best friend from High School. Their little Sabrina looks like a tiger but her colors are muted, a buff base with brown stripes instead of ruddy orange and black. The little one is only a month old at the start of this story. They live in Mission Viejo, not far from her parents.

Torvald's Family:

Yes, he has some 'other' family. During World War 1, he worked in Columbus, Ohio. He met and married Maryanne Jensen there and they eventually moved to her hometown of Shuyler, Virginia to ride out the depression. They had two children, a son and a daughter and that son gave him two grandkits. Torvald's wife, son and daughter died from a form of influenza that swept through the area but his grandkits were not stricken by it. Here they are.

Bradley Torvald Svensen, his second wife Janet and his daughter Nancy. Mom and Dad live in Kent, Washington where he retired from Boeing Aircraft Company after twenty-five years as a production manager. Janet still works for Boeing part-time as a staff photographer. Nancy lives with her husband Trenton Corbin and their children in El Cajon, CA.

Ronald Arend Svensen, his wife Brenda and their daughter Alicia. They all live in West Seattle where Ronald and Brenda own West Seattle Photography & Accessories. Alicia and her husband Lawrence James 'LJ' Hood manage the shop for her parents.

I guess I should point out the fact that Bradley, Ronald and Nancy are all immortal, just like Torvald. He passed that 'gift' (or curse) along to them.

Victoria's family:

Her younger sister Valerie Connell. Valerie lives in Mission Viejo in the home formerly owned by Torvald and Victoria. She's an architect by trade, co-owner of Connell & Caine Architects.

Walter and Harriet Connell. Her parents that still live in Ceres, CA.

Walter Lee Junior and Michelle Connell. Victoria's older brother and his wife. Michelle is a tigress, a normal looking Siberian. Walter Jr. however is a white Bengal tiger. They live in Hughson, CA with their three kits, all white tigers like their father. They own Tiger Electric, an electrical contracting company.

Barbara Caine, Valerie's long-term love. She shares the home with Valerie and she is the other owner of Connell & Caine Architects. Barbara is an ocelot, by the way.

Elizabeth and Ronald Sands, a cougar. She is Barbara Caine's little sister. They live in Bakersfield, CA with their five little ocelot/cougar mix kits. Robert is a General Contractor, part owner of Central Valley Contractors, Inc.

Torvald and Victoria's adopted family:

Wilhelmine Marie 'Willi Marie' and Richard Delancey. Wilhelmine is a palomino equine femme with a few feline traits who is also a Grand Mistress Sorceress. She was 'adopted' by the Immortal Couple after her parents were lost on a mission for the Gods. Her gray percheron husband is Roger Delancey's younger brother and a software engineer. They live in Lake Forest near Gytha and Roger. She is currently pregnant

with twins.

James William and Nancy Kurzweil. He's a feline/equine mix and Willi's twin brother. He looks like his father, a lion, but has a very short mane, most likely due to being a mix. Nancy is a bobcat and she works with her hubby at an internet search engine company in Santa Clara, CA. He is a sorcerer, by the way but nowhere near as powerful as his sister.

I should point out the fact that even though Willi Marie and her brother James both live in the USA, they are both technically still citizens of Germany. Will and James have both served their compulsory two year commitment in the German Army, Willi as a Demolition Expert(!) and James as a Computer and Communications technician. They are working towards getting US citizenship as soon as possible.

Erich Martin and Ivanova Marie 'Iva Marie' Kurzweil. Willi Marie and James William's Parents. Shes's a palomino equine, born in Germany and he's a lion from South Africa. They were brought back from their imminent demise by Willi after her magical powers developed and she made a very emotionally charged wish for her parents to be nearby.

Two of Willi's mentors, Jason and Natasha 'Tasha' Cummerow. He's a minor mage rottweiler and she's a mid-level lioness sorceress. She's trying to help Willi Marie to control her magic.

Mala, another mentor to Willi Marie. She's a huge blue and white canid/wolf of sorts. She's a high level sorceress that's helping Willi with her duties to the Sorcerer's Consortium.

Torvald and Victoria's friends and sometimes work partners:

Aslaug "Angelbreaker" Larsdatter, a blond equine femme. She came to their world in much the same way as Torvald. Definitely one filly to steer clear of. Also immortal, in case you're wondering. She is fairly tall for an equine, about six foot nine or so. This filly is as tough as nails and she's very no-nonsense. She also speaks her mind and won't mince words. Just the femme you want watching your six in a fight. As of late, she's been off to herself, just trying to relax, we think. Something about too many missions for WhiteChrist.

Jose Ortiz 'Joe' and Annie Latrans. He's a Coyote mix and she's a vixen. They live near the Svensens in Orange county and Joe seems to end up helping out a lot. They're both good furs. There is a 'critter/beast of burden' that Joe uses on some missions and he is very fond of it. It's called a "Bowtie Beast", supposedly because of some marking on its hide. It's smelly, it dribbles black, dark red/brown and lime green fluids and it's very noisy. Let's face it; it's cool. Joe is very protective of the Beast, always trying to keep it happy.

Hrist, a leopard appaloosa equine femme. She's a Valkyrie, for your information.

Elin, A femme lioness Valkyrie.

Denise Berger, a femme skunk. She's a technician from Christopher's realm that helps out quite often with the needs of the Immortal Warriors. Denise is not quite an angel but she's no longer mortal, either. She's kind of stuck in between, I guess.

Just so you are up to speed, the Sorcerer's Consortium is a vast network of mages and witches that have pulled together for the good of all magic bearers on the known parallel worlds. They teach those bearers to use their magic wisely, they prosecute those that use it unwisely and they imprison those who deserve it.

And it wouldn't be done without mentioning the Celestial Police. They are charged with upholding the laws of the universe and bring those that break the laws to justice. For the record, the Celestial Courts have always felt the Gods and the Consortium should have never been given so much power and latitude.

One last item to bring up. Lisa (nee Simmons) Gallegos may look like a tigress but she's actually a chimera. She is a genetically engineered Mark 12B Tigress from Golemtech Industries, a sentient being that was originally designed to be a soldier. Her genetic makeup is both human and felid/tiger so she has the outward appearance of being a normal tigress fur. The giveaway is her eyes, copper in color but human in appearance. Her bone and muscle mass are both denser than that of a human or fur, giving her the strength of several beings. She was also created with implants to allow her to interface with computer and communications systems wirelessly. She has a processor that interfaces with her brain but she can function normally even with all of her implants down.

Now that you have been enlightened (and your head hurts), please continue on to “End Game”.