

THE H PPENING

An Annual Easter Publication - "The Village Years"

By Todd Osterei, E.B.



The Kessie-Klan;

I've been busier this year than a one-toothed rabbit in a carrot-eating contest, however I did manage to think back through Arrow & Sawyer's lives and find some good stories to share. The best place to start is at the beginning, I suspect.

Once upon a time, in a land far away, a young lady brushes away a tear, as she explains what happened. Not everyone is perfect that works in The Village, and Trixie Muddleup is no exception! North of town, where the winds can blow cold, as it makes its way down from the mountain peaks, is the large mega station, where V-Track, Gazelle Motorcraft and Stork Airlines all unload the new citizens. It was early in the year 1998, snow had just fallen, and Christmas decorations were being taken down on every street corner. Cold fronts were an expected presence, and that made it a little uncomfortable for the new arrivals. Arrow had just gotten off the train, put the hood up on his coat and got in line. It's chaos to say the least! People don't even know their names yet, and their language hasn't been assigned to them, so you can imagine what might happen. Trixie grabbed her paperwork and tapped a dozen people, six men and six women for their temporary duties. These twelve men and women were given jobs in the far north, working for a busy toy distributor, and enjoying winter sports in their off-work hours. Their camp was just east of Noel Crossroads, where

Tinsel Hwy ends. They worked hard & they played hard. Their small group had no interaction with other burrows; so needless to say, they developed close friendships with each other. 14 months later, when they returned to the main Village, they discovered, their names were never registered with the TBS (*Twenty-Born Services*).

I was called in, and with the help of Drake, tried to work through the misfortune. I explained, that children would not get any younger until they are registered properly. All twelve of them are the same age as they were when they arrived. It will be 20 years before they are processed to go to Earth. It's like being held back in school, but not really. Arrow was the one that asked the question, which no doubt was on everyone's minds, "*Aren't our parents expecting us in less than 19 years?*" "*Well yes and no*" I said. "*In reality, they haven't even met yet and your dad is in pre-k, but yes there will come a day when they will wonder why you aren't on your way to meet them.*" I could see him holding back tears, but the girls weren't as strong. It was a snot-fest and there was nothing that could be done about it.

Arrow is compassionate and comforted the rest. He's also a born leader. His love for reading drew him to the Library and with his skills he built it into a state-of-the-art mega Library. He & Gretchen downloaded video libraries going back a couple generations, so we could better place children with their *God-chosen* families. We are now able to research prayers that were asked in secret, and fulfill those dreams. Of course we know we are only able to do this, along with everything else we do here in The Village, through God's ability! Arrow is one of our better ones, and we knew just what family to place him in! Since he had access into the *PPF Library*¹, it was inevitable, that he would discover who his future family would be. He kept it a secret, until late one day, when they were closing down the library, Theo came out of the video booth and, with tears in his eyes, hugged Arrow for a long time. They were cousins, and now they both knew it. From then on, there weren't too many places you saw Arrow without Theo close by. Cousins they were, and a cousin will generally like the same

¹ Past, present, future

things...coffee was one such indulgence. Their favorite hangout was Messy Curls Espresso down on 7th & Main.

Many mornings Theo and Arrow would drink coffee, as daylight peaked over the dreamweaver factory. Watching the green grass glistening, with its dew sparkling in the sunlight, was like watching a fire that you never get tired of. Arrow noticed a pattern of Sawyer window shopping at the watch store, *around the corner*, called *"Nothin' but Time."*²

Sawyer was hired from a pool of over 300,000 applicants to create software that blocked last names from being accessed within the future files. His program scrambles the letters and creates digits that do not match the code of siblings. Now, even those with special clearance, cannot discover who they are related to. Sawyer worked for *Twenty-Born* until he graduated from K-5.

The 7:05 Cross-town Express was Sawyer's daily ride to work. As Sawyer held his Chai Latte in hand, he always boarded after any ladies waiting at the stop. One morning, Theo & Arrow step in line behind Sawyer, and ask to sit next to him. During the commute, Theo is asked, *"Is that a real Walter Falken watch on your wrist?"* Theo replied, *"Yes it is. A man I admire most always wore one on special occasions. My name is Theodore and this is Arrow, what is your name?"* *"My name is Sawyer, very pleased to meet you both!"* That day was the beginning, when Theo poured from himself into a young man about 1 year his senior. The vision for *T.H.E.O. Lake* began on those morning bus rides.

Sawyer was never told he and Theo were brothers, and those three lead many to know Christ as a team. Arrow chatted with me one afternoon, after leaving *"The Lucky Foot"*, a place where my wife gets her nails done, and told me they were all three in *Messy Curls* one

² Rumor has it; the watch shop manager and the coffee shop owner were an item in the day. They originally met online, as they worked together to keep FoxCoffee from moving their mega-café to this part of town. Trevor sold controlling interest in his stores to raise the funds needed to block the real estate transaction. Messy Curls Espresso exists to this day! Nobody ever knew he did this but me.

morning before work, when Sawyer looked up at the plaque of the founder on the wall and said, *“man, is she beautiful! I’ll bet she will make somebody and great wife and mother some day!”* Arrow watched as Theo placed his arm around Sawyer’s shoulder, and after taking a sip of his espresso, said *“true beauty is on the inside pal, but I happen to know you are correct. Let’s catch our bus, boys.”*

Just a few years back, *well it was the day the town shut down to pray for Canaan*, the three boys were heading back to their classrooms. I stopped by the pre-school to explain why the kids were late, when I overheard a substitute ask Sawyer who the boys were he just dropped off? I turned to say something, but before I could Sawyer said, *“the one in blue is my little brother Theodore!”* I am continually amazed at the revelations of God to His children. The fact that they knew Canaan needed prayer that day, and Sawyer was able to enjoy time with his brother all these years makes my heart happy! God is good!

Another Easter is here and this is a time to remember what Jesus did for you on the cross. He comes into The Village several times per year to play with the kids and hold the babies. He loves you all, you know!

Your friend & Easter Bunny,

Todd



P.S.

The Mother’s Womb nursery is always busy, and I want to tell you that we audited Trixie’s files right after Arrow’s team was discovered. I apologize for any delays you are experiencing. I can promise you, we worked very hard to make sure things got corrected. All your babies

are more than worth the wait, and to be honest, I enjoy the extra time with them.

Also, I am in the process of relocating my office and came across several photos you might like. Interesting to see how your children live on my side of the rainbow. Love them!

The Village