david aes \avon mai \note drafts

av. the dragon, having feasted, having tasted av, and knowing that meat still hid within the estate, would not leave. av watched it from safety. there were about twelve more of the strangers there. counting the five lost, there were seventeen enemies. woud she be justified in killing them to survive? could she incapacitate all of them badly enough to make good her escape? was she feeling sympathy for their position. she still didn’t really know what they were, but they were something very different from what they appeared to be. they considered her death necessary for their survival.

av. her enemies were not powerless. those who had been waiting here for them had greater psi ability than those who had captured her, and they were prepared to fight the dragon. of course, dragons were frighteningly intelligent, and they had powerful psi themselves. the hunting parties came up empty on their forrays, even losing two members in the space of three days.

av. the dragon held them under seige for the remainder of the week, and av’s arm was filling out. on the tenth day, it struck inside the estate, catching them all by surprise in the hall. three more died as they fought their way into tighter quarters.

av. she pointed out that the dragon was outhinking them at every turn. their traps were being circumvented and turned against them. the only way they were going to get it into a trap was with bait it could not resist. her. of course, she was basing this on a legend, and some observations made by a friend. a dragon would risk death to devour a phoenix, and she was a quarter phoenix by blood.

av. fully healed, this gambit was the only way she could think of to keep out of her collar. she still had no doubts abouther fate once the immediate threat was resolved. they would allow her to bait their trap, and they would pretend that her heroics might make a difference, but she knew that hope to be false. she had a chance to save herself, playing prey to lead the dragon into the trap. she would be a predator at the same time.

av. she planed her routes into and out of the trap. as expected, she had a shadow. she confronts her enemy as she prepares to bait the dragon. he admits that her help will not change her fate, even if it is successful. she nods, declaring that she would rather take her chances with the dragon then. taking flight into the open, he pursues. the dragon is quick to pounce, cutting off her false escape. Av, ready for this, turns and flees back into the trap, disabling her shadow. the dragon accepts her gift, conveniently giving her time to build up a good lead. she switches to her alternate route, leading the dragon to her enemies, which she happily delivers to him with crippling attacks. having dealt with the reserve, she returns to the plan, leading the dragon into the gauntlet. her enemies are aware of her betrayal, but with the dragon right on her heels, they are forced to deal with the greater threat. av takes out the two set to block her flight out of the killing quarters, and methodically begins to hunt down the rest, who are engaged with the dragon.

av. her plan goes well, but not perfectly. realizing the extent of her deadly plan, they break from their engagement with the dragon to deal with her. armed now, she confronts them. they had made no bones about the fact that they intended nothing less than her destruction. they had no right to expect anything less from her. the only difference being, she offers them the chance to walk away. she offers to keep the dragon occupied long enough for them to make their escape. to her surprise, three of them take her offer.

av. the four remaining enemies circle av, preparing to feed her to the dragon. av feels the blood rage threatening, but keeps a grip on herself. she can see that these four are adept at working together, and her chances against them are slim. the appearance of the dragon, having finally found a way into the area they had retreated to, creates enough confusion for her to escape. slithering through secret spaces, she eludes them, forcing them to split up. her luck finally runs out. the dragon has figured out what kind of game she is playing and has OUTMANEUVERED her. in plain view of her enemies, the dragon gets her by the legs, and drags her away. sacraficing her legs, she manages to slip into one of the airshafts she has been using and escapes.

av. making her way to the nest she had prepared for herself, she turns her attention to her severed legs. the repair of her arm had been excruciating. by deliberately retarding the process, she had bought herself time to plan and explore. this time she would benefit twice from the true use of her ability. weaving her new legs together, she considered her end game. her remaining enemies either thought her eaten, or they gave her credit for being able to escape. they would expect her to hole up and wait while her body healed, expecting her to be vulnerable for a couple of weeks. they would not expect her to attack that same night.

av. her enemies were more wary of her than she expected. instead of splitting up to hunt her down, they were waiting for her together. the element of surprise would allow her to take one of them out, but that would leave three to retaliate. each was highly trained and powerful, they worked together seamlessly. she had no idea which one was their leader, for they were all leaders, she recalled. she waited until one of them exposed himself to harm, and then struck. good as she was, she was not good enough. to her suprise, the four were vai. they were even better trained than she. though less creative and powerful, they had the advantage in a battle of attrition. finding herself overwhelmed, ruthlessly dismembered and finally decapitated,

av. she is saved by their last attmept to possess her. the last of her programmed restraints shreds and her reawakened power comes to her defense. trapping the demon in her own shadows, she breaks form and embodies herself in thought. av jumped to the body of her attacker, as her own body died. from the body of one enemy, she leaps to the mind of the next, burning it out with her fury before leaping on to the next to last and shoving the demon within into the mind of the last. while the two demons struggled to sort out comand of their body, she struck her final blow. stepping out of the mindless body, she embodies herself in flesh.

av. standing on a balcony, she stares out at the dragon that still waits for the chance to devour her. her fear of the place, and the fear of her bloodlust are finally dispelled, and the implications of her awakened power still stun her. with a last caress, she bids farewell to her broken body, and then lights the pyre. ironically, her new body is just as naked and hungry as the one she lost.

it was hard to go back alone. it was hard to turn her back on the door out of exile that did not promise death. it was hard pretending that nothing had happened, for all who saw her could see, could feel the change that had taken place, even if they could not put their finger on it. saying nothing, she shed the vestments of low culture and arrived naked before the avon’dsai. her friends, her family, all stood by as she presented herself for her absolution. they also told her of her twin’s transformation.

avon influences ···

av and vai as ava \ each descended from strong bloodlines, a quarter pure aelyn, a quarter established aealyn, a quarter pure aeslyn, and a quarter established aesalyn. precisely the sort of geneology that the covenant had most forbidden. the matings in their grandparents generation were perfectly acceptable, but the union of their parents was almost as dangerous and devestating as between aelyn and aeslyn. of course, the parents were at least able to survive the spiritual conception of an ava child. the ava child, while as powerful as an av’va, was a new, unique being, and retained the vulnerability of childhood that no av’va experienced firsthand. for ava, the formation of identity and the impact of sex/gender on that process engendered a unique childhood. the ava embryo trinned, along gender lines, and the individual developed in split perspective isolation until reaching av’yn when the strongest personality would ascend and realize the potential of the ava. vai experienced this process more or less naturally, but av was forced to further subdivisions. worse, the attack on her, where two of her three perspectives were killed, forced a vastly premature ascension. for av, the realization of her potential was complicated by the fact that she had embodied it so young and then, out of trauma, tried to reject it. to heal her, her mother arranged to subject her to the full course of childhood through deep metaprogramming.

av. aftermath \ when av was found in the catacomb airshaft, she had embraced her full potential. her body had shifted to its ideal proportions, and her spirit had unfolded to its full potential. her mind, however was deeply mutilated. it took a year for them to pull the peices together and compell her to regress, programming her mind to subject her to the childhood the slaughter had forced her to bypass. she was bound up by the time her naming came, and returned to the familiar creche environment to re-establish her childhood. the onset of av’yn signaled the completion of her healing, though ghost pains of psychic trauma still haunted her. it was safe to restore her to her heritage, and none to soon, as she had begun commitments that would remove her ever more from that heritage.

Av, dragon phoenix paradigm \ the question being—how, in herself, is she both phoenix and dragon? How did she manage to find equilibrium? in short, she was lucky. av was conceived while her mother was on active duty. as a transplanted embryo, av was a mandatory genetic donor parent. embryonic donation involved forced twinning. one of that initial pair became the draft embryo, which was forced to twin an additional six generations to produce a working sample of sixty-four identical embryos. twenty slips were incubated from that group for ongoing genetic augmentation impact studies. the remaining fourty-four were quartered. eleven of those embryos were cryogenically suspended, while the rest were used in various genetics and augmentation applications. the test group developed in tandem with strong psi capabilities and total rapport until the age of five, when one of them suddenly developed independance and another was found dismembered. number seven was transferred into a creche and the remains of number nine mysteriously disappeared. the remaining eighteen were contracted for select training for the path. the eighteen (collectively adopting variations of the name catherine and the common nickname of cat) are the expression of her dragon nature, or rather, keep her dragon nature occupied. number seven and number nine were taken over by the souls av devoured in separate traumatic experiences

ash—it had intended to devour av’s mind, usurp her body and spirit and displace her soul. it failed. it was devoured instead. this foreign light was repelled into the shadow of av’s light. tearing and swallowing for all it was worth it could not hope to attain its goal, and yet it acheived more than it could ever dream. she awoke from the pain of becoming, patterned on her victim, she emerged a prisoner of herself. she is a dragon in ascendance, in possession of herself. a dark phoenix. an angel of death.

ava \ dragon phoenix detail—they have a capacity for dreaming themselves into being with the multiplicity of a dragon, possessing the presence of self typical to a phoenix in each separate attention. a shift to conscious embodiment. avon possess a degree of this ability in av’yn. aelyn av had the ability to pass awareness down to their genetic heirs. they were not able to pass down their memories, making each life a rebirth. alternatively, aeslyn va could pass down their memories and identity, but they did not have the ability to reproduce. they had to choose an aelyn donor.

take two, combine from the top

Av found herself caught between two worlds. Av placed all her hopes for the future in her aea citizenship, and the promise of academy training followed by career in an aegis serivce. her plans did reach as far as deciding whether to apply for a military contract and serve in the navy, like her mother, or contract for a longer technical or government contract.

as an exotic growing up in a human world, she had faced serious obstacles to creating a future for herself. the first obstacle, of course, was herself. when she had been forced by biology to confront her avon heritage, she had found herself way out of her depth among her own people and learning who and what she was had become her only hope for survival.

unable to find a sponser to the academy, Av was forced to trade on her status as an exotic noble. *her true mother had been born female.* ideally, her sex did not diminish her promise, but realistically, it placed her at a disadvantage. in spite of the fact that all individuals had the same opportunities in avon society, a female had almost no chance to attain the ranks of ideals and uniques. *it was this fear that drove anathnae to pursue her naval career.*

*anathnae was an outstanding cadet at the academy. almost as soon as she had conceived and given birth to herself, she left, leaving her daughter-self to fulfill the obligations of her heritage and sex. her plans were hastened by the events contributing to av’s conception and transplantation.*

anathnae was an ensign in the aean (the association of the establishment aegis navy) on active duty, when she confronted an unexpected third pregnancy. the event occured on venus, the seat of the aegis government. SHe had received a weekend pass, and indulged herself. anathnae had made an honest mistake. unless certain measures were taken, avon normally were not fertile with humans. unfortunately, her new lover was not human, but an avon representative visiting the senate. each of them had made the same assumption, that they had coupled with a human, so neither had thought of the covenant, nor of contraception.

anathnae was transferred from her post without comment, when she revealed her condition. her lover. the father of her twins proposed to her, and resigned his seat to be with her while she waited out the pregnancy. *he was appraised of her relationship with the avon’dao, but not to the cause of it—the peculiar bond between av and va forged amnai—nor was he ever enlightened of the fruits of their labor. he could not be told. what they had done was a capital crime among their people, and ignorance was the only protection she could offer him.*

avon politics were responsible for her fourth and final pregnancy. sued for conception by a rival house, to forge ties of alliance, she was forced to mate under contract. however, the contract only stipulated conception. anathnae took advantage of embryo-stasis to delay the birth of the triplets, delaying the birth until a point in her career when she could expect reserve status. she proceeded when her status allowed enough time for the pregnancy itself plus time for her body to recover. the triplets were born male, andgyn and female. they were raised as single parent navy brats. they spent part of their time in a creche school with visitations by their mother when she was on leave, and they shared vacations. they were born when av was seven years old, their mother had returned to her native home for her daughter-self’ naming. as soon as she was able, she returned to her career while her children were raised in a navy creche. (part boarding school part foster home)

david aes \avon’mnao & avon’mnai

early hints of avn’mnao ... Avonlea carries, in her face and form, the legacy of the avara bloodline. The body of the story takes place during a period when she is a guest of a school—run by an extended family of martial artists. This is in a major metropolis (for saendria) and an excellent place to hide (due to the masses of humanity and the depth of the intrigue). Ironically, her (brother and other siblings) are also there under his apprentice ship but the two never quite cross each other's paths. His story continues after this passage in hers. After the catastrophe that ends her stay in the city, av returns to the country to escape from the clutches of her remaining antagonists. A strange run of luck turns bizarre as she inherits the title to an abandoned land holding. The mystery of her lineage is unraveled as she is astonished to be awarded official claim to the title. All she has to do is physically claim the manor itself to cinch it.

sex and death ... a kind of innocence ... the glimpses of life ... a memorable day ... oblivious to the doom of the circus ... recalled political undercurrents ... the breadth of saendria ... the withering of the circus family ... kept oblivious to the death of ... her brother, her childhood champion ... parental advice ... an infamous day ... the shock of life on the road ... alone for the first time ... a place like any other ... money by chance ... a hand of cards ... mistress of triel manor ... rumors abundant ...

and then ... shades of mnai ... In spite of her exile status, she draws much interest from a wide range of benevolent and violent individuals and elite ... In the long year of wandering and struggling to survive she was unwittingly combatting their will to possess her ... And she, poor girl, had no idea what could possibly interest them in her ... She has no idea who was trying to help her, and no idea why so many seem against her ... All she knows is that she is supposed to be dead before she can relate any of the things she was learning to the official world ... and she is interested only in preserving that illusion.

david aes \avon’mnao & avon’mnai

early hints of avon’mnai ... *After the catastrophe that ends her stay in the city, av returns to the country to escape from the clutches of her remaining antagonists. A strange run of luck turns bizarre as she inherits the title to an abandoned land holding. The mystery of her lineage is unraveled as she is astonished to be awarded official claim to the title. All she has to do is physically claim the manor itself to cinch it.* That is when she learns about the catch to it all. she discovers that the curse of the land and manor is expected to do away with her after all. In spite of the malice and capriciousness of this back handed restitution, she is determined to succeed in this gamble to be Absolved of her crimes as well as the dishonor she had brought on her mother—in short to reclaim her family honor. Naturally tegal manor is more interested in destroying her for the unprejudicial delight of destruction for its own sake.

*the shock of life on the road ... alone for the first time ... a place like any other ... money by chance ... a hand of cards ... mistress of triel manor ... rumors abundant ...* a course of action ... willing bodies ... In spite of her exile status, she drew much interest from a wide range of benevolent and violent individuals and elite ... professional companions ... intimacy withheld ... In the long year of wandering and struggling to survive she was unwittingly combatting their will to possess her ... And she, poor girl, had no idea what could possibly interest them in her ... She has no idea who was trying to help her, and no idea why so many seem against her ... All she knows is that she is supposed to be dead before she can relate any of the things she was learning to the official world ... and she is interested only in preserving that illusion ... the manor house ... getting to the manor ... getting in ... the grand foyer ... what we were prepared for ... what we weren't prepared for ... the butler ... other images ... playing with the very fabric of being ... playthings of power, all of us ... the learning of absolute vulnerablity ... where you feel the changes they wrought ... what i intuited in the changes ... the sheer size of it all ... where to begin ... more about triel manor, among other things ... moving through the depths ... obstacles ... conflicts ... oddities ... being toyed with again ... my shadows drawn out, a twisted but true image ... the trap fall ... isolate ... skeletal companion ... talking with the dead ... willing to fight ... giving way to curiosity ... unexpected good conversation ... echoes of humanity ... temptations of the fleshless ... first occurrence of her predicament ... her choice then ... regrets? ... in triel manor, irregular access ... entrenched inhabitants ... armed confrontation ... allies of a type ... av and the deck of fate: ... seizing knowledge, the threads of meaning, intent and manifestation ... reflection on the effect its use has had ... its discovery ... one card ... like the images, only more binding ... on the reading and use of the tarot ... a full spread, playing with destiny as well as being ... whisper ... the mime-mute ... fool ... blade ... the assassin ... death ... akashi ... the warrioress ... war ... vaugh ‘lon’ ... the mage ... justice ... avonlea ... herself ... enigma ... arriving on nexus

Beauty. A picture in the manor of a woman who has torn herself apart rather vividly. The sensitive beholds this and faces a puzzle in themselves, externalized. The picture is a mirror of the soul and spirit. Av can see the picture as beautiful in spite of its gore and morbidity and wonders at the story behind it. Perhaps the woman did not understand her own beauty and maimed herself over it. She says silently to the picture, "you knew where the real beauty was, didn't you? Underneath the skin; the flesh. Beyond the body itself. The beauty is inside and you tore your way inward to get to it. I understand you. I can understand why you did this... We all want to show the world our inner beauty but it never shows where people are looking for it." Then she understands the auanatneh of the picture. She understands that the point of it is to know how to let the inner beauty show through the mask one hides behind, or holds up just in order to be seen. When she turns away from the picture, her beauty astonishes her companions.

that is how the paintings work. They draw parts of you out. When she touches her divinity the lesson she learned here is amplified and her appearance become more than attractive; it becomes divine.

telling the story one time

there are repetitive themes in the notes. the best way to deal with the whole thing is to unify thematic elements within individual plot developments allowing the development of a single story line and a single character pool. take the potential and come up with one actual. there are a few general plot sequences which carry through the permutations of the notes. many passages and threads that treat av as an established divinity can be revised to portray elements of her transformation. the basic elements are there: a divine patron (with a dark complement) as a patron, av as the focus of a bitter dispute between them and a catalyst for their transformation, from which she emerges refined and autonomous. even the development stages are similar, the querant, av, is delivered into the patronage of the divinity by that divinity’s dark complement, and is devoured by it for the consummation of it’s love of the divinity. which sets the stage for the final act, the provocation of the divinity’s rage and the retaliation that results in the deadly consummation, the forbidden embrace, in which the mantle of divinity passes to av, who takes in upon herself to ward the two from the consequences of their act.

all the basic elements of the master plot are set to key tolerances, leaving the question of supporting, reinforcing and bracing plots throughout the rest of the story structure. various characters and institutions meld, or have already melded into principle dynamic roles. elements outside the scope of the active story structure can remain general in detail. simple statements of fact suffice for the influence of the past on the present. exotics and humans have been in exile, and it is coming to an end (just a bit quicker than was anticipated), dragon and phoenix avatars have been at war since the severing (the beginning of exile), dragon and phoenix once cooperated in the creation and maintenance of the threshold (caoi yn), the passion contributed to the severing, resulting in the birth of (gods) and inspiring the conception of the avon race (the careful mating of dragon to phoenix through the medium of a fusing race). av still remains a test of that experiment, being a some what rich mix of avon, dragon and phoenix. (not better, just more volitile. av is special because she manages to temper the intense conflict within her. the story exists because she succeeds in spite of the presure placed on her.)