david aes \ av \source notes

*events detailed here in are possible influences in av’s life. as they appear here, they have no say on actual events. these are just ideas. those that merit real attention will be drawn out and realized elsewhere. where an idea is confirmed in actual events, it is highlighted, but otherwise unaltered. apparent order, in terms of presentation of ideas here, are only faintly suggestive of causal relaitonships. as far as av is concerned what lies herein is the stuff of dreams.*

*assets within the aea intelligence community came in to possession of certain facts regarding av’s pecularity. consideration of this intelligence led to a long range program to subborn the avon leadership. av was selected as the pawn who would become queen. the initial move, causing av to be recognized as the heir apparent to the avon’dai, provokes a religious controversy that threatens some of the most powerful houses on ajea. indirectly, av’s very life is shattered by the persecution brought on by disclosure of her forbidden conception.*

*av was unwittingly prepared for the role assigned to her by the hidden conspiritors. the immense terran influence of her upbringing was initially seen as an assurance that in the long run, when she became avon’dai, she would transmit her terran ideals throughout her native culture. but in order to maneouver her into that future role, she had to be carefully indoctrinated in avon culture. by the time her biology forced their hand, she believed herself to share the beliefs of her people, not even realizing what a perfect forgery of an avon’ai she was.*

*avon vea, or av, was born to an avon bereft of a name, while avon was a loving parent, she was also very private about her history.*

*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. 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. she was an outstanding cadet at the academy.*

*anathnae was an ensign in the aean (the aegis of the establishments’ association navy) on active duty, when she confronted an unexpected pregnancy. 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. her second pregnancy threatened to destroy her dreams of independance, but what she learned about the father forced her to accept the consequences. he was va aesalyn. 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. and if the covenant had been right, they would have destroyed each other. the life she had conceived should never have existed. understanding what she had conceived, it became the most important thing in her life.*

*anathnae was transferred from her post without comment, when she revealed her condition. her lover, the father of her triplets, remained behind, and would advance in his career while she waited out the pregnancy in limbo. he was never enlightened to the cause of his love’s transfer, nor 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.*

*Anathnae made a deal with the aea to prevent the children’s paternity from being discovered, offering the aea access to avon embroys for the first time in history. the procedure involved removing the embryos from her body, to be force-twinned. as a result of this procedure the three embryos each became registered citizens and genetic donor parents. anathnae took advantage of embryo-stasis to stagger the births of the triplets, delaying the birth of each one in turn just enough for her body to recover. the aea acceeded to her request to obscure the mechanics of these transactions, as part of their original agreement to get access to the embryos. 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)*

*the triplets were born male, androgynous female 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. when av was five years old, they went to their mother’s native home for her brother’s naming. during their stay, they were caught up in a massacre, and of the three only av survived. she suffered devestating multiple-traumas—witnessing the massacre, her mind was in full rapport with her siblings during their deaths. her sister was hacked to peices before her eyes, and her brother paralyzed protecting her from a fall down a catacomb airshaft as they fled the slaughter. they were trapped for days, and he died in her arms. before she was rescued one of the slayers tracked her down and assaulted her. power she did not know she possessed came to her defense, but memories of that moment of terror ended up repressed to depths reached only by her darkest nightmares. the dead bodies of her brother and her attacker were both entangled in hers when they found her. av spent more than a year in autistic shock, followed by traumatic flashbacks and nightmares plaguing her recovery even after her return to her creche environment after her naming two years after the tragedy.*

*av refused to accompany her mother on later visits to ajea and grew up understanding very little of her native culture, essentially, only what filtered through her jen schooling. her ambition to follow her mother in a military career, lead her into academy prep school where she showed exceptional promise. the only catch was, before her mother would allow her to enter the academy, she had to return with her to ao’ajea for a rite of passage. her understanding of the rite was limited, but she knew that the ordeal was sexual in nature, why else would it have earned the pseudonym “mating season”?*

*the consequences of her childhood tragedy that were overlooked endured as the substance of av’s personal mystery. the truth of her conception, her mother’s secret, was not revelaed to av, though it was presented to the reader bare of its full implications. the truth of her exact relationship to her dead brother and sister remained locked in the death experiences of each, deep within her nightmares. these aspects of her identity would wait for the future to unfold. those doors were guarded by oblivion, shrouded in nightmares and traumatic flashbacks—and also obscuring memories crucial to her perceivable self.*

*av had retreated from the world in the long hours after her final trauma before her eventual rescue. much of her recovery was spent observing events from a new perspective outside of herself. as the healing process progressed, she gradually reseated her mind in her body. av never questioned the origin of this second attention. eventually, she took it for granted. she joked about her “imaginary” friend, well aware that however convincing, it was her will behind the words of her intimate companion. cat, of course, played along. when av was in danger of being raped, both physically and mentally, cat was no longer playing. while cat defended her mind, av found herself standing outside of herself, a witness to her own rape. that was how av discovered that she had a guardian angel.*

*when her enemies upped the stakes, av was driven in defeat from an external threat to her identity, into the arms of an internal threat to her identity. she learned that her her identity, her mind and soul, were shared by ninteen identical twins derived from the same embryo, her embryo. in the company of angels, she mused, av learned where her guardian angel came from. there once had been twenty of these other selves, but one of them had been driven out of her body by a demon that av had swallowed that dark night in the catacombs. as an expression of av’s will, the freed spirit had been drawn to av, and when av had withdrawnn from herself in traumatic shock, it had taken residence in her body both to preserve that body, and to preserve the injured mind of av. by the time av had healed enough to return to herself, it had become an intimate part of herself, a second attention, and a bridge between her embodies selves. these other selves, living and growing together in rapport, realized that they were all the same person, and that one of them lived apart from them, the one from whom they all derived.*

*av’s second attention, the retreat that allowed her to stand outside of herself when her own body was stolen, was also a means for her slip twins to visit and observe her in the common personna of cat. her childhood invisible friend. until necessity forced her into this position, and av confronted the fact that cat was not just an imaginary friend, she could not begin to realize who and what she truly was. accepting the revelation of her many selves, would only be the beginning. two important parts of her died in the massacre, and those deaths barred her from the recognizing the extension of herself into the bodies and minds of male and androgyne female selves. it is a wall of oblivion that scars her soul. but those selves are known to her female selves, as time would show.*

av's entry into the school community was the first wave started by her appearance on the scene. during the period when ja’nae considered naming the girl her heir, av was already being pressed to acquire the qualifications to bear a house title. her status as an artist of the anim REQUIRED only one discipline to complete for ideal. that, and a name in the schools of anin and anii were all that stood in her way.

an unusual creature, a young girl who makes a convincing boy ARRIVED at taelnihayr, and if certain mixed messages were to be believed, POSSESSED the answer to ja’nae's present predicament. av unwittingly brings everything necessary for establishing herself in society. but first the question of what to do with this strange girl had to be considered.

a few months had passed since ja’nae dispatched a letter to her recalcitrant daughter. unknown to her, however, certain events had unfolded forcing a’nae to send her daughter to her mother days before she even received the message. av, dismissed from the realm of her childhood, had a few days lead on her mother, who DEPARTED in the wake of the dissolution of the jentempas. the most significant factor in the life of this girl was a family secret. a legacy. unknown to her, she was the living fulfillment of her bloodlines ancient obligation; a fact which could cause her destruction simply in its revelation.

the newfound daughter of the house was indeed a daughter, though her cousin could hardly believe it 'til av bared all. curious, nume probed av's past while assisting in bathing her. oddly, though av had certain masculine traits, nume DISCOVERED that av wasn't really much of a tom-boy. there was a reason behind the girl's peculiar androgyny, but nume found the area too sensitive to pry into.

av had come into the sophisticated heart of society, where exquisite craft predominated literal technological advancement. household life was full of subtle amenities, such as bathing. washing was simply cleaning the body, bathing was relaxing and promoting healing and humor in the body. a bathed body was wrapped in house robes—never did one put on previously worn clothes after bathing.

nume's probing caused a sudden flashback for av. in spite of her youth, av was naomna for a very short period and the result was catastrophic. aeth thought she could deal with it, but the very idea that the discipline required her to give herself to strangers disturbed her deeply.

alter to fit—though she refrained from advertising her status she was approached by a gang of spoiled house sons in a town the g passed through. irritated by her refusal, they tried to force her, scaring her into a panic. during the ensuing fight, she lost control of herself and SUCCUMBED to bloodlust, slaughtering seven of them before she managed to get away. aeth caught her when she arrived at camp covered in blood and learned what happened. av begged him to let her skip the discipline, over which they argued violently. aeth refused to grant her request, to which answer av rejected the discipline altogether. furious, aeth expelled her from the jentempas, refusing also to protect her from the wrath of the houses her victims belonged to. if not for a’nae, av might well have been caught and executed by the mob that came to the camp.

av was received into the household and honored with the traditional feast. before the meal, the issue of what to do with av was raised. ja’nae had something in mind but said nothing on these thoughts, instead referring to the request made by a’nae for hospitality for her daughter in exchange for her obedience. av was required to take up duties in the house and enroll in school. not an anim, as she had always been, but to begin in first, anin, and as soon as possible, anii. av's reception was private, among the household only; introducing many of them to each other.

av's androgyny lends to her the quality of a blank sheet. she takes on the character of the ACCOUTERMENTS she wears. on one hand this could be a rare elegance of form, on the other it could be the epitome of plainness. in house robes, she seems the most formal of daughters. in a more formal interview with ja’nae, av was a quietly considered for a more useful purpose, given her presence in her mother's place. these considerations mold the direction ja’nae takes with the conversation.

av was a witness as a’nae steals in during the night to appeal to her mother for a favor in spite of having forsaken her house name. in the hope that her legitimate children would fulfill the bloodline's legacy, a’nae had committed herself to the most dangerous path. ja’nae agrees to make a place in her home for three of her daughter's illegitimate children in the hope that she would be able to regain a place in her daughter's heart.

av does not know how to sleep in the comfort of her house. she was not sure about the wisdom of going night stalking according to her habit. she reflects on part of the conspiracy she was born into. in order to learn how great the difference between what she seemed to be and what her kind really was, she had passed through the affirmation. she slips through the sleeping house and overhears the exchange between her mother and grandmother.

a’nae's visit significantly changes ja’nae's plans for answering teyn's challenge. the purpose of requiring av to study in the schools of anin and anii now must involve preparations necessary for her to bear the mantle of house head. what was at first a notion had been strengthened by a’nae's rejection of her right to title. sensing that there was no time to waste...

the secret—house ara descends from anjael—a child, ara, conceived to carry the seed taken from the wreckage of nineveh’s body. a’nae knew because was the last to carry the seed of av/kev. jil knew because he had to be the conduit of the message to awaken the seed and gave legitimacy to their births. aeth knew because he had to train av and kev. between them av and or kev hold the key to reopening the seal of anth, which makes either of them priceless to dragons. ja’nae was made aware of the situation as a’nae confides in her. beyond that what each knew was less than certain and questionably accurate. av was only confused by what little of the conversation she overhears.

av was in for a rude awakening. with no hesitation, av was thrust into the thick of the local school community. almost out of habit, she was determined to enter the company of her peers as an enigma. in spite of nume's protests, she defends her right to innocent misdirection; maintaining that it was not misdirection but part of her character—and what others interpret was their business, not hers. but what she hints disturbs nume even more.

av was counseled by ja’nae on the requirements she would have to meet in her education. due to some important family business, she must begin at jutaicho without escort and introduction from her cousins, for whom she was to carry a message excusing them from their classes.

av acquires an escort to school. entering the local school was actually the more difficult process of entering a new, closed community. a bit shy and oversensitive, she nearly got herself barred from the school before she could join. though uncertain about this newcomer, most of the students of av's age find it natural to assume her a boy with delicate features rather than a tom boy, as she had intended.

when she first lays eyes on av, ojen falls for her. to a dragon, the light of a phoenix was like a candle to a moth. to ojen—a dragonchild—av's light was totally irresistible. naturally, av remains almost blind to this deep affection.

av does not enter classes her first day due to placement and orientation procedures. in her absence, some of her new acquaintances get into a heated stir over her introduction. this friction would continue to build and hamper what might have been a smooth entry into her peers' social circles.

the latter third of av's siblings await av at taelnihyar, sent by a’nae from the dissolved jentempas. ja’nae, av, her siblings and their cousins all sit down to a second reception feast. the gathering turns into something of a house meeting, where they were all brought up to date on the situation facing ja’nae and thus the house. for many of these youngsters, it was the first time they had had to deal with the full weight of the masquerade of their species. some rules were established to ease the integration of the four children of a’nae with the complications of society.

av, sensing that letting on what she overheard the night before might not be wise, pretends to total surprise and ignorance of anything unusual going on. the somber lecture she sits through with her siblings brings back to mind the TERRIBLE lesson of her confirmation in the ritual of promise. she was RIVETED to the discovery of the reasons for the cruel and painful leash that held her during childhood.

av all but immediately sorts herself out in the local school community. ja’nae had outlined to her the priorities for her anin paths. most particularly, she attached to a mentor to save her from the disgrace of her illiteracy. by her third day in attendance, she had some idea of how things would proceed for a pace. ja’nae takes her measure and decides that av had all the qualifications necessary for a first sword, but as an heir she lacks the preparation for authority and leadership.

among her new peers a growing crowd of friends, allies, competitors and such had begun to gather. attention comes gradually but steadily around av—from muses and mentors, other heirs and nobles, suitors and seducers, artists of name, and even her own siblings as they catch up to her and events move on.

some of boys—av's new classmates—take exception to her enigmatic character and background and so begin to push and test her. she was going to have to take her shirt off and trade licks with several of them to earn their respect. given this cause, she reveals her hidden talent to more than a few witnesses. in her mind this was not pushing it too far. like many people she had the aptitude to learn some of the more exotic disciplines of the body, but in this instance she allows peer pressure and her own unresolved feelings about her near rape to gravely compromise her JUDGMENT.

ana comes down out of xanadau caoi to investigate the rumor of the new kid in town who bears such a strong resemblance to her. like aoun, ana got the strong feeling she knew av from somewhere. ana sees more than anyone else, and yet she mistakes av for a being like ane who ana drags av to meet. while figuring out each other's secrets, the three become fast friends. this was the first time av had ever met a lyn and DISCOVERED what the difference really was.

av breaks stride in the middle of a fight, her attention drawn to a commotion among the observers.

av turns and finds herself confronting her own image, a shock of recognition passes through her—different from the shockwave that passes through the crowd.

av and ana draw close... "you’re not a boy... unae, come with me... there’s someone you must meet..." ana whispers.

a small commotion ensues as the muse leaves with av.

av returns home late from xanadau caoi and catches up with the news. her father and her older brother and sisters had arrived in her mother’s wake and taken up residence with her father’s house. av also discovers that a’nae, shin and shen were staying at jukaeyo with aet’idiamas.

av's mother and grandmother still barely speak to one another and av's grandmother would not abide the presence of av's father—who she feels failed her daughter. aeph didn't fail his daughter, however. her childhood and youth prepared her to meet far greater damands than attaining the status of her noble heritage. aeph provided her with some of his own formidable martial skills encouraged her to develop far more of her native ability than her devotions could account for.

av's introduction into the court—for recognition of her right to title—starts a second ripple, expanding the sphere of disturbances and provoking a wider circle of interest and intrigue.

ja’nae finally stages a full formal reception for her grand children at the end of av’s first week. to ja’nae’s dismay, av turns up outfitted for her devotion, an unsheathed sword, which so strongly projects the illusion of boyishness. av, unnerved by the prospect of house formality could only fall back on the manners she knew from her disciplines—again not deliberately being misleading. the impressions on which she would soon be judged were formed this long evening among the official guests.

av’s father, AEPH, had inherited his family's house and estate during his absence. kev was thus near, under his father's tutelage. aeph intends to name kev his heir at the assembly the first day of the wend. ja’nae was appraised of these shifts by teyn. teyn reluctantly nods to her plans to name av before ennjeara was claimed by his illness.

av was informed by ja’nae to be on her best behavior just as her grandmother’s peers and the members of her court were introduced to her and her siblings. she was shocked to overhear the news of her uncle’s rapid collapse of health. she had never even met the man who was the current champion of her house. she was so distracted by the thoughts this spurs that she fails to notice the degree of interest and appraisal that was focused on her throughout the evening.