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.*

the day after her reception av was taken by the ear and dressed for a court appearance with her grandmother. she was dragged along in ignorance, at the considered design of her house head. av watches the proceedings with rabid interest until suddenly ja’nae steps out to bid a suit. ja’nae announces that due to the confirmation of her son’s mortal illness she had chosen a new heir. av sits mute with shock as ja’nae asks the court for its ruling on her grandchild whom they were introduced to at the reception. the court confirms her candidate and summons av to the floor. av steels her self to advance to the center of the hall and the assembly erupts into an uproar.

in the absence of her mother, av was a natural choice for heir. av had to be formally recognized by the exotic and imperial courts to bear the rights to the title and inheritance of her house. the board's initial assumption on seeing her during the reception was the same as everyone else's; certainly a boy, by dress and manner. however, the truth comes out rather embarrassingly which throws the hearing into confusion and results in a change of venue. it also causes a stir among av's new friends.

"i don't know what you expected, i am just me, neh?"

the revelation that the heir presented was not male, as the court presumed, forces a recess to silence the commotion. the high court under qumase had no intention of allowing this influential house remain directly under the female line of ara. what the state could—and ultimately chose to—do was force av to ADVERTISE her self for suit and take bids for her marriage or defend her claim under the female inheritance laws from all comers through combat. in the face of the necessary compromise a daughter had to make to inherit, av furiously rebels. standing in court, only just named heir to the house she rejects the issue of a suitor, forcing ja’nae to take a risk on her ability to fight her own fights.

av's uncle, aeph's twin, appears, contesting av's claim to the title of house ARA, promoting his twin daughters by a’nae: kim and kym. because of the contract made between the houses of ARA and avon, kim and kym were considered to be legitimate daughters in the eyes of court law, giving them potential claim equal to a legitimate daughter by house law. through aeth’s action, conflict between house and court politics enters the question of who had claim to the title of house ARA.

naturally the state opposes all three daughters in favor of the legal [by anii law], firstborn and male heir, kev. ironically, kev's claim to his father's titles overrides any claims to his mother's. because the marriage of a’nae to aeph was not formally the union of house ARA to house AVON, the creation of a powerful and influential house was averted. but promoting kev as heir to both houses would unavoidably unite them in his lifetime. recognition of this fact causes much hesitation among the heads of state to continue in their initial position.

as a result, av, as the chosen heir was at once the principal opponent and nuptial prize for any man who could win the title from her.

unless kev chose to enter the contest and take his own sister as a prize to get it, a union of ARA and AVON was forestalled.

aeph creates an upset in the circles of house and court as he formally recognizes the legitimacy of his children. in essence, he tries to curtail further maneuvering around his son and daughter by granting full title to one of the AVON houses to kev, and apportioning part of his dominion to house ara’s domain.

on her return to school following the four days of wend, av was confronted at the gates by her new acquaintances. av’s explanations were curtailed by the added interest in her which comes into focus there at the gates. among the suitors were muses and adepts who had an apprehension of something more than politics afoot in her affairs. of course all of this political maneuvering was but an annoying distraction to av and her peers; who honestly care very little about all this grown up nonsense.

the issue among the teen peer group becomes; who would av love? who's love would win her? compared to all those raging hormones, what else could possibly be important? while it may seem that all the adolescent sense/sex, affection/love insanity of av and her friends was ridiculous or even irrelevant, the fact was that these powerful drives greatly shape the course of even the most sober and serious events. in a sense this was all a conflict between av's generation and the older generation over who's view of reality would prevail.

syn begins to take an interest in av for the same reasons ojen did, now that he realizes she was a girl.

when av's girlfriends encourage her to turn out in style, many of av's male friends twist their necks out of whack. a couple of such nights out cast an allure over av that prompts a number of challenges to her right to title—with their eyes on the prize, the way the contract was traditionally written.

one of the boys new to her acquaintance, caval, had taken a marked interest in her and with tact and honesty begins to win some of her trust. he approaches as a friend.

most of the boys she had gained respect from now only see her as a girl to suit—av couldnot comprehend this change in people she thought of as friends.

the change in attitudes spreads to the families of her friends and allies. av carries on her face the legacy of the ARA bloodline. and she, poor girl, had no idea what could possibly interest them in her. she had no idea who trying to help her, and no idea why so many seem against her. there was no guessing what rumors passed down in families that took part in the purge.

av and her strange androgyny continue to provide a tumultuous focus for the local youth.

av was becoming an unexpected PROTÉGÉ of the muses, anima and anime. it was within their domain to fulfill her anim training in the mnao and the anao. unfortunately, it was a great disadvantage to be a mere exotic ideal in the company of those who patronize the muse.

a virtual body double for the untouchable ana, av might very easily find herself being pressed into use as the surrogate of coupling with the muse. especially as a more sophisticated older crowd takes note of av's unique traits.

as a daughter, av's right to title was widely questioned even though she was still only the heir. though it was unusual for one with heir status to be challenged, it was permitted on the same grounds as right to title. lack of confidence in the daughter's ability to bear the name and mantle of a house was the official basis for issuing a challenge. the other, unofficial reason was an issue of suit. a suit made against a daughter was a bid for the take over of a house and its lineage. of course, this was not the only PURSUIT of av going on either.

the prowess of av's defense of herself and her house draws growing attention and malice. the factors arrayed against her begin to perceive that it might be easier to remove her than it could be to control her. even as the PIECES converge to make a case against her, she unintentionally engineers her own fall.

pinned in a corner, av finally sees through her enemies and discovers their dangerous motives. though they tempt and torture her painfully, she realizes that death was better than helping them begin the destruction of her race.

av's escape was almost worse than death, costing her everything she values and leaving her spiritually and emotionally charred.

the only option for a person who was supposed to be dead was to create a new life. the alternative was to start something too big to control.

*av. everything came apart in a moment. av was ambushed on the beach, and dragged into a cove. av could accept that her body had gone into heat. she accepted the fact that she would conceive of herself, and could give birth to a child that would inherit her mind. she could even deal with the fact that, since the process of self conception made her infertile, this stage in her life traditionally involved studying the art of sex. what she had difficulty accepting was the fact that she was about to be raped.*

*cat. they had been in rapport, and they had taken advantage of her open mind to stun her. the link was cut as av recoiled in shock.*

*av. training dictated that her first priority was survival. she was already withdrawing into herself, as she had been taught, when a horrible intuition seized her. looking into her assailants’ eyes, she saw her death waiting. having no time to verify her suspicion, she acted. calling on her training she tried to break away, but in the struggle something inside her snapped, and she exploded into a blood red rage. when she came to her senses, bathed in blood, she confronted her handiwork in shock. her life, her future, was ruined.*

*vai kume. she returned from the beach, half naked, bathed in blood and still gripping the sword she had wrested from her assailants. he took her swiftly into custody, and sent others on her path to investigate. they arrived to see one of their comerades standing in apparent shock in full view of the massacre. when one of them called out to see to the wounded, he rushed forward to investigate a mortally wounded youth.*

*him. he was dying. he had held on, waiting for someone to check on him. the witness knelt at his side. recognition was instant, and full of relief. holding onto eye contact, he finally let go. the mounted witness looked around at the others who had run to assist. he made no comment at the subtle seizures afflicting several of them. they were healers, he noticed, not fully trained vai. three of them gave a knowing nod in his direction as the bodies they treated died.*

*cat. by the time her mind opened up again to the path, av had been arrested. av relayed brief impressions of the ambush and it’s conclusion. av was just about to path to her mother when she was collared, breaking the link. cat debated for a moment and then broke into the navy com path to alert anathnae of her daughter’s arrest.*

*mother. anathnae was instantly alarmed. the unidentified path crisply related the details of the incident and then broke contact. the path contact revealed only that she was an acquaintance of av’s and was in communication with her when the event unfolded. anathnae contacted her daughter-self, directing her to investigate this claim. a’nae also had to make a decision on whether or not to reveal this penetration of the navy com path.*

*him and his. they regrouped as soon as they could and sought out the girl. av was in custody, being debriefed by the vai kume. his subtle efforts to get custody of av fail, and he is forced to admit that he was a witness to the event. it was close enough to the truth. it also meant that he would not be left alone with her. this would delay their objective, but he still had the advantage. dismissing himself, he considered the status of his mission. he had been fortunate. his mount had shadowed him as always, and had been present when the other witnesses arrived. three of his comerades had been able to break new mounts, but they still suffered from the deaths of their birth mounts, and would never assimilate the identity they has been forced to assume. he would not be able to use him in his immediate plans, but they would be adequate to prepare a trap. it would be up to him to drive her into their trap. fortuitously, he was the star witness.*

*arraignment. av was publically stripped and suspended of title pending the outcome of her hearings. she could tell she was being treated as a suspect, not a victim, and the implications of that frightened her. her instincts told here she had done only what she had to, but clearly no one else saw that. honesty was her only defense, but it suddenly occurred to her that with her ignorance of the avon covenant, honesty would only serve to convict her.*

*court. things developed in the following days. the houses of kathet yng, representing their slain sons made the suit. their surviving sons were surrendered for inquisition and trial, under the assurance that av would be made to account for the untimely deaths. av and the kathet yng sons were all in av’yn. they were all titled heirs, but av was the most disciplined, the closest in ability to an ideal, making her more responsible for the outcome. a case was made that av could just as easily have crippled or incapacitated her assailants, and the question posed to the court was WHETHER she had been justified to kill in her defense.*

*cat and av. consulting through the path, av learned that her aea citenship offered no immunity or escape from the situation she was in. after a mild reprimand for shuttinng her mother out, cat gave advice and moral support to strengthen av’s morale. whatever might happen, cat believed her justified in her actions, and agreed to keep her options in the aea open. visitations by the son of the avon dai, who made her mnao, and his friend who had accepted her choice to be her mnai mentor, were tense and bewildering. keavon assured her of his support, but caval seemed hurt and fearful.*

*him. he had signalled his men when he had been called on to identify them and their part in the event. as their sire, he had their full, silent cooperation going into trial. he stood before the court and testified on av’s behalf. he provided sufficient expert testimony to establish that their motives were hostile. he also allowed himself to grudgingly admit that she had used unrestrained lethal force once she had taken an offensive stance.*

*av. for the final time, av was brought out of her cell to stand naked before the court. the weeks of inquisition had humiliated her. before her assembled friends and family she had been stripped of mantle, voice and name. she stood accused of charges ranging from murder to breach of discipline. the conclusion of the court was that the seven whom she had killed had given her justification to defend herself, with clear intentions of rape, assault, and murder. the capital charges against her, seven counts of murder, mutated into other charges. before court and house, she was convicted of provoked manslaughter, a breach of discipline. her sentence, prove her discipline, or be formally stripped and exiled.*

*him. however she chose, there would be a second chance to resolve this mission. if she chose trial by combat, he would be ready, among the vai who would test her. that would be the least fortuitous choice, since his only option would be to kill her. but, he had judged her carefully.*

*mother. a’nae, in conference with her superiors, received permission to delegate her picket command to another officer and proceed to ajea. her official instructions were to investigate the com infiltration she reported. telepathic data links made the aegis a viable prospect, but path operators were still people. they were employed for their ability, they were paid for their discretion, but occasionally they took advantage of their positions. anathnae’s, and her superiors’ suspicions were that it was an internal indescretion. most likely, a navy path had initiated and cultivated a personal link to her daughter, and had merely violated protocol in using the military path network to relay a sensative peice of private intelligence. proceeding on that theory, anathnae was to identify the inside contact for navy security to deal with. the alternatives were that av had indeed infiltrated the military paths, or one of her personal acquaintances had. even the possability of that gave anathnae’s reassignment a high priority.*

*av. she was left to contemplate her sentence. if she could prove herslef in the arena, if she could demonstrate proper discipline in the face of a similar or worse threat, she would absolve herself of the crime. it was a test of her self control. she would be able to fight, but not kill, to defend herself in a sexual or murderous assault by contracted vai. unfortunately, she didn’t trust herself not to go berzerk and kill, even if she deliberately submitted. she didnt understand it, but she knew the bloodlust she had felt had something to do with the scars in her mind, and there was nothing she could do to control it until she had dealt with the damage to her mind. harsh as the wild promised to be, she felt her decision to accept exile was better than the alternative. knowing that, if she lost control, her trial by combat would become her execution, she stepped through the exile’s gate. her personal ties to her past, her title, and her place in civilization were all stripped away, locked inside her mind.*

*mother. it had taken too long to arrive after she heard the bad news, confirmed it through her daughter-self, and received permission to return to ajea. her mind kept gong over her daughter, av’s, fears about her av’yn and the necessary return to ajea for her rite of passage, and with guilt a’nae recalled her assurances that all would be well. arriving to learn that she had gone into exile, a’nae dispairs. by accepting exile, av had placed herself out of a’nae’s power to protect her. an unnamed child was a ward of the avon’dai. her claim and rights were proscribed.*

*mother, friends, family and av. the ruthless reprogramming of her mind made her unable to even speak to her family, friends and acquaintances. those whom she could speak to, she found she could not speak to of her identity. a’nae is twice frustrated, since av’s condition makes it impossible to pursue her mission objective of identifying av’s path contacts. not only can av not speak to her mother, she cannot address or identify any individuals associated with her past. because ajea was not a full member of the aea, the situation was diplomatically sensitive. while av was a citizen of the aea, established precedent dictated that the aea had to respect the covenant under which av had been convicetd and exiled, the aea could not exert pressure to remove the block that inhibited their investigation. nor was extradition possible, even if charges could be brought against av to justify such an attempt.*

*av. nothing she tried would allow her to admit that she had a past beyond emerging from the exile’s gate. the reality of her punishment finally hit her. she was no one, and she had done it to herself. she had voluntary ceased to be a person. she had become an animal. without a name, she legally did not possess herself, and therefor she could be possessed. her only status within society was as a slave or a pet, and her only identification a pet name. even with an owner, the covenant governing the unnamed offered her only a shadow of her lost “humanity”. she had to earn the right to wear even a sheet, and her new peers were far more strict about modesty. her nakedness marked her as unpossessed, and unprotected. a target for sexual predation, a pressure valve within her society she had never known existed. if she got raped now, no one would do a thing to help her, and if she resisted, if she defended herself as lethally as before, she would be put down or hunted. with the loss of her past, she found she had no future. to go back and face her absolution would be death. to go forward she had to let go of herself, accept the loss and start over. if she did not, then she would live her life out like an animal. struggling on the fringes of civilization. she needed a patron to rebuild her life.*

*them. the three survivors of av’s onslaught faced their sentencing and chose exile. with that bit of interference out of they way, they set out in search of their prey. they had a mission to complete.*

*av. her choice was made for her when the survivors of the gang that had trapped her before began stalking her. when she told a member of the court who sentenced her, she was reminded of what she had already learned. legally, she was an animal now, and the law offered her, and them, no protection. the law ignored what animals did to each other. if they caught her, they could do whatever they wanted to her, and suffer only mild punishment, if any. likewise, if she crippled, maimed or killed another animal, for her own survival, the law would take no interest. he made a point of reminding her that if the families of her victims chose to hunt her down, there were loopholes which would give them a legal right to do so. av had not considered that when she had made the choice that made her a defenseless target to any who wished to do her harm. if she did not find a patron soon, she would have to flee. only, where was she supposed to go?*

*an and mother. word of av’s predicament reached an who told a’nae. a’nae spoke to her mother, arranging for protection if her daughter could make it to tael yng. an sought out av and advised her to flee to their grandmother’s province where she would be offered patronage and protection from the three exiles.*

*av. days intothe rainforest, she had lost her pursuit and evaluated her situation. the promise of patronage gave her a goal, but it would be a long journey afoot to tael danh. she wished that she had the skill to make such a long fight under her own power. the circumstances of her new life were doing their best to drive her into the wild, but the fact remained that she was not trained to survive in the wild. she could learn to hunt, or experiment and identify what other wild things she could eat, and if she was lucky, she would be able to survive the winter if it caught her short of her goal. if she didn’t end up prey herself. she was not alone out side of civilization. she was still in heat, and that would draw attention. her somnolence, and constant arousal would not work in her favor.*

*them. having driven their prey into the wild, they rushed to rendezvous with their leader. they were startled by the appearance of the vai who had witnessed in the court against them. he reprimands them for being late and calls out their reinforcements.*

*av. a lot of food grew wild on the road sides, and foraging from that reliable source made her progress predictable. the pursuit she had thought lost had merely jumped ahead to wait for her. she stumbled into their trap unexpectedly, and struggled desperately to escape. as they baited her and tightened their net, she realized that what had happend to her before had been impersonal. her actions had made it personal, she guessed, by the way they treated her this time. her fear turned to terror when she recognized in one of the new people the characteristics of the leader—the one she had killed first. as before, they attempt to penetrate her mind, she could not use her own abilities without leaving herself open to their attack. with her psi effectively leashed, and her body quickly and ruthlessly restrained, her bloodlust could not be satisfied.*