Princess Nikhet Seltarir is the fifth daughter of the Rajah in Chavyondat. A product with his third wife, Vashatiri, Nikhet was not considered an heir for the throne. She has too many siblings in front of her for that to be a real possibility.

Smart and quick, Nikhet was always a handful for her mother and the tutors. The Rajah rarely visited, but she had every comfort that she could ask. Nikhet gravitated toward magic at an early age. She was never the best, but she was adequate.

However, Nikhet always chafed at the rules and traditions imposed on her by her status. She could play the dutiful princess, but she hated being cooped up in a cage under protective guard. There was no chance to bond and make friends outside of her private tutors and her siblings, who looked down at her since she was the youngest.

Being low on the royal totem pole, Nikhet was considered more of an asset for trade and politics. After a dispute, it was thought best to ally the ruling class closer to the royal house. To do this, it was suggested that Nikhet would marry the head of the house of Saqarastan, who was almost 50 years her elder.

This ended up being the last straw. She first went to her father and nearly got a lashing for speaking out of turn. After this, Nikhet decided that since her voice was not heard here, that she would leave to find her freedom elsewhere.

Her first escape lasted half of a day. When she returned, the court thought that this was the last inkling of rebellion. Nikhet merely decided to change tactics. It took three days to pull off. Careful planning, a bit of illusion magic, some pillows, and makeup from the royal bath house and she managed to walk right out of the front door. It was only after she passes through the gates of the city did the first calls of her escape reach the guards. By then, she had slipped into the lands beyond.

The only problem is that she didn't quite plan what to do when she got free. (What use did royalty have for gold coins?) Nikhet had to learn the hard way how to sneak around to steal enough to eat. Pretending to be an orphan, she came up with Riula as a cover name. With her freedom constantly under threat, the princess is on the run. The life of adventure calls, as an escape of the court life she once knew.