



FROM THE KOI POND

LOVE ~ LONGEVITY ~ PROSPERITY ~ LUCK ~ PERSISTENCE ~ INDIVIDUALITY

FEBRUARY 2014

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

"Ignoring our passions is never for the best, no matter what we may tell ourselves."

I thought about actually starting this newsletter last week, but I snagged on the fact I was not quite sure what to say. After all, a newsletter is somewhat intimidating when you've never written one before in your life!

Still, it's not healthy for me to hold back because I don't know the outcome. If I did that, I would never be able to submit a single thing or send a single message!

Dear friend:

KEEP YOUR FACE
always
»————» TOWARD THE
sunshine
AND SHADOWS WILL FALL
BEHIND YOU. *walt whitman*

I recently started a new "real job". It was new and strange to me, because I've never had this sort of job before, and I did let it intimidate me quite a bit. And it more it intimidated me, the more stressed out I became. It took me a while to realize it, but I had been ignoring everything that makes me happy and lifts the clouds away -well, all but my cat, but that's because he doesn't let that happen.

And pushing all of my projects aside wasn't a *wrong* decision, per say, but it was definitely a poor one for me. I am my very happiest when I'm writing or reading or creating in any form, so to abandon it so abruptly left me in a rather foul mood. Once I got back to those things, my mood improved drastically and nothing seemed quite as stressful anymore... Even some of the most unpleasant tasks at work look up when I've just spent my break with pen and paper.

Ignoring our passions is *never* for the best, no matter what we may tell ourselves. Once I stopped ignoring them, it was funny how much progress I made in those areas that give me the most happiness!

Included in this edition:

1. Updates for "Bibliophile" and a little bit of a spoiler
2. Updates on the Edana stories & Samplings; some hints at what is intended
3. Updates for "Dream Guy" and the photos of my planning

"Bibliophile"

My novella, honestly, has been the thing to see the most work. Of course, I'm not sure if all authors *must* decided what tattoos one of their characters has before they can finish writing the first scene with that character in it, but it made since for this.

For one thing, Reid changes the conversation drastically by noting the quote that circles Saxon's wrist. After all, what proper bibliophile would not recognize a Tolkien quote! And, of course, the fact that Saxon doesn't hide his tattoos (well, not the ones on his forearms!) certainly says something about him, as well.

In one of my blog posts, I mentioned that I find that first meeting to be one of the most important and revealing scenes in the entire story. I'm still not sure I communicated all I wanted to say about them in that single scene, but I'm not even done with the first draft yet and I'm currently quite happy with the scene!

In the excerpt, you get to see the reasons that my character, Reid, loves books. These are the top five things I love about books:

1. Each book is an adventure unto itself.
2. Books don't care who reads them.
3. Books love the lonely souls.
4. Reading books that depict different circumstances helps promote empathy in the reader.
5. When your favorite character dies, the adventure ends, the quest is fulfilled, or the hero has saved the day, the book is still there to be enjoyed again and again.

I can be found

- On my [website](#)
- On [Twitter](#)
- On [Pinterest](#)
- On [Facebook](#)

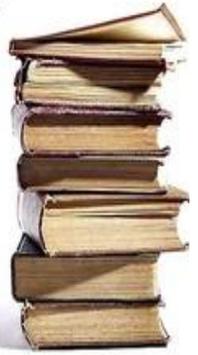
Or, you could just [email me](#).

And you know me: I love taking about what I'm working on, so I'm constantly teasing you with things -things you haven't gotten to read yet! So, because I'm cool that way, I'm going to give you all a chance to read the opening to this story -and the first paragraph I wrote for it. Are we ready for this?

No matter how brilliant the book, it never judges the reader. It never withdraws from the heat of an earnest hand and it never pulls away from the lonely heart. That was why I preferred their companionship over that of my eccentric roommate and his strangely more conventional friends on a Saturday morning.

My fingertips danced along the spines of my treasured books, as if in the midst of some sort of slow sweet waltz across piano keys. A smile curled the corners of my lips and I drew out the thickest volume with a tentative hand. Though it was certainly the newest book (in terms of relative age) in my collection, it was far from the least loved. The bonded leather cover felt smooth under my fingertips, the raised ridges on the spine were reminiscent of other books much richer in age, the silvery gilt-edged pages sparkled in the lamp light, and its weight felt solid in my hands, in much the same fashion as the hand of an old friend resting in mine. Opening the volume, I allowed my hand to caress the endpaper illustrations, entranced by the intricate detail of the images for a moment before moving on to the table of contents.

“Reading is one of the joys of life and once you begin you can't stop and you've got so many stories to look forward to.” -Benedict Cumberbatch



I really want to know how you feel about this little spoiler! Good, bad, strange, confusing... did it make you feel something or remind you of something... Please shoot me an email at lucretia.aleron@hotmail.com and let me know!

The Edana Stories

I hate to admit, but the only real things that have seen development with this set of stories is the characters of Ellery, Algernon, and Fei. These men have become so much more real to me during these months that we've become acquainted. They're like the quarrelsome sorts of friends I always enjoyed having, if for nothing more than the fact their drama entertained me. Of course, all of these men are hiding some sweet sides -and you guys will get to see more of them as these stories go on!

With a fantasy setting like this one -with so many intricate, interlocking parts in a world that no one has ever truly seen before- it really is impossible to work out all of the kinks at once. There is so much to play with, after all. I have nine different nations with all sorts of different cultures. Actually, it's more than that, because I do have separate races. Not to mention the fact I have to make these cultures meet and not spend most of their time trying to kill each other. And I have to make this world appealing, cohesive, and fit together like a jigsaw puzzle.

One of the things I am working on is deciding the baseline of this setting (ignoring the fact that it is much more like fifteen or so separate settings). For these sorts of epic stories, there is unfortunately for me a lot of long-term planning. There are many principles and things I cannot simply make up as I go along. In a setting like Edana, consistency is always important. This method always works to slay the dragon, that person always mettles but only this much, this person can only work that kind of magick.

The devil is always in the details when it comes to settings that are so different and stories that are interlinking.

So wish me luck, my darlings: I am going to need it!

"Dream Guy"

I've been promising that I would show you all some of my (insane) planning methods for this story!

Fun fact about me:

*I love sticky-notes.
Like, if it were legal, I
would marry a case of
them.*

*I use them
everywhere, for
everything I can, and
they always make me
smile.*

*In that way, I'm easy,
haha.*



It's not the best picture, but it's the best of the few I snapped in a hurry.

This is the wall beside my bed. You can see the natural divisions provided by the wooden paneling. Well, I simply used them to help plan parallel facts and things.

The first column is for questions and explanations. The second column is for Gypsy. The fourth is for Abel, so the third is for shared traits. The fifth and final column is for my other main character, Gyles.

So, yeah, it's a little crazy looking, but it's pretty systematically organized! I finally had time this week to copy down all of the details on my wall so I could take them with me in my notebook and work on the story anywhere.

It might be interesting to note that "Dream Guy" and "Bibliophile" are connected very loosely by Bookends, the store Saxon owns. Just a little spoiler for you.

The other reason for this month's obsession was that I desperately wanted a "Sherlock" fix -and the Hobbit movie was as close as I could get.

Obsession of the Month

To be perfectly honest, I tend to drift from obsession to obsession in a fairly rapid pattern. I even find my way back to past obsessions from time to time. But whatever the current obsession happens to be, it tends to find its way into whatever I'm working on at the time.

This month's obsession was actually the Lord of the Rings films (including the first Hobbit movie) and "The Fellowship of the Ring" by J.R.R. Tolkien!

The major reason? The master of fantasy world building is none other than Tolkien. As I am currently building my own fantasy setting, it seemed appropriate to visit the master's work and take my cues from him!



I look through tons and tons of art when I'm in writer's block mode.

But, nothing gets me writing again as well as a nice specimen of masculinity.

I wonder what that says about me, haha.

Art Appreciation

No one appreciates art quite like an artist whose muse has stopped whispering. Since mine flips me the bird more often than not, I have a lot of appreciation for all of the talented artists out there!

To introduce my art appreciation section, I chose an old favorite of mine. I tend to hunt down this piece when I'm sketching or when I'm losing inspiration. Personally, I adore this piece and have for a few years –probably because it's a photo that conveys both motion and emotion. Well, not to mention, the model is quite eye-catching, himself.

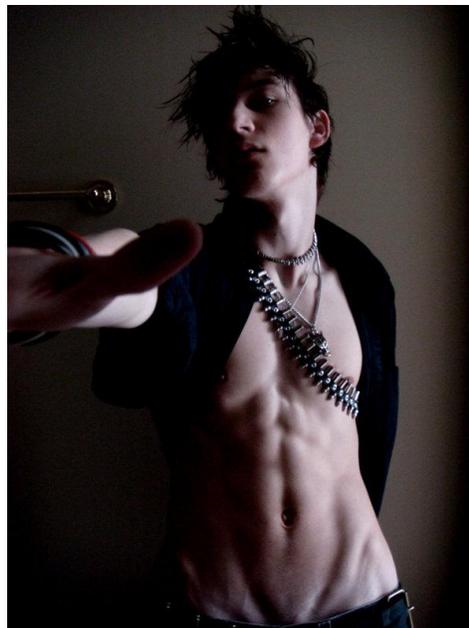
Title: Desperation

Artist: [Suishuyiku](#) (dA profile)

Source: DeviantART

Click on the image to visit the original page!

If you have a piece of art or have seen a piece of art you wish to see featured, feel free to shoot me an email and a link so I can have a look!



Other Things Worth Mentioning



Happy Valentine's Day, Single's Awareness Day, or whatever you like to call it!

I hope you get to celebrate it as you wish, whether that is curled up on the couch with a chick-flick and chocolates or out on a date.

I spent my evening in, watching "V for Vendetta" with my sister, so to each their own!

That's all for now, my darling koi fish. But just remember: this newsletter is just the beginning! After all, I have made my commitment to a monthly production, so you'll get more of this spoiler-tastic content for March, as well!

Also, keep in mind that I hope this newsletter can be more of a conversation than a dialogue. Feel free to send me an email to ask me questions, send me things you'd like to see featured here, or just to talk. My email is lucretia.aleron@hotmail.com and I always welcome new friends! ((:

**With much love,
Lulu**