

C. L. WILSON

LORD *of The*
FADING LANDS



AVON

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously and are not to be construed as real. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, organizations, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

AVON BOOKS

An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

10 East 53rd Street

New York, New York 10022-5299

Copyright © 2007 by C. L. Wilson

Map by C. L. Wilson

ISBN 978-0-06-202302-5

www.avonromance.com

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information address Avon Books, an Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

First Avon Books paperback printing: October 2010

Avon Trademark Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. and in Other Countries, Marca Registrada, Hecho en U.S.A.

HarperCollins® is a registered trademark of HarperCollins Publishers.

Printed in the U.S.A.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as “unsold and destroyed” to the publisher, and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this “stripped book.”



Key Celierian Terms

Bell: hour

Chime: minute

Dorn: Furry, round, somnolent rodent. Eaten in stews. “Soggy dorn” is an idiom for someone who is spoiling someone else’s fun. A party pooper.

Keflee: A warm beverage that can act as a stimulant or aphrodisiac.

Lord Adelis: God of light. While Celierians worship a pantheon of gods and goddesses (thirteen in all), the Church of Light worships Adelis, Lord of Light, above all others. He is considered the supreme god, with dominion over the other twelve.

Rultshart: A vile, smelly, boar like animal.

Key Elden Terms

Azrahn: The soul magic forbidden by the Fey for its corrupting influence but used and mastered by the mages.

Primage: master mage

Sulimage: journeyman mage

Umagi: a mage-claimed individual, subordinate to the will of his/her master

Key Fey Terms

Beylah vo: thank you (literally, thanks to you)

Cha Baruk: Dance of Knives

Cha'kor: Literal translation is “five knives.” Fey word for “quintet.”

Chatokkai: First General. Leader of all Fey armies, second in command to the Tairen Soul. Belliard vel Jelani is the chatokkai of the Fading Lands.

Chervil: Fey expletive similar to bastard, as in “you smug chervil.”

Dahl'reisen: Literally, “lost soul.” Dahl'reisen are unmated Fey warriors who have been banished from the Fading Lands either for breaking Fey taboos or for choosing to walk the Shadowed Path rather than committing sheisan'dahlein, the honor death, when the weight of all the lives they have taken in defense of the Fey becomes too great for their own souls to bear. Dahl'reisen receive a physical scar when they make the kill that tips their souls into darkness.

E'tan: beloved/husband/mate (of the heart, not the truemate of the soul)

E'tani: beloved/wife/mate (of the heart, not the truemate of the soul)

E'tanitsa: a chosen bond of the heart, not a truemate bond

Felah Baruk: Dance of Joy

Fey'cha: Fey throwing dagger. Fey'cha have either black handles or red handles. Red Fey'cha are deadly poison. Fey

warriors carry dozens of each kind of Fey'cha in leather straps crisscrossed across their chest.

Feyreisa: Tairen Soul's mate; Queen

Feyreisen: Tairen Soul; King

Ke vo'san: I love you.

Kem'falla: my lady

Kem'san: My love/My heart

Krekk: Fey expletive

Ku'shalah aiyah to nei: Bid me yes or no.

Las: peace, hush, calm

Maresk, mareska, mareskia: friend (masculine, feminine, plural)

Mei felani. Bei santi. Nehtah, bas desrali: Live well, love deep. Tomorrow, we (will) die.

Meicha: A curving, scimitar-like blade. Each fey warrior carries two meicha, one at each hip.

Miora felah ti'Feyreisa: Joy to the Feyreisa

Pacheeta: A silly bird; not very smart.

Sel'dor: Literally "black pain." A rare black metal found only in Eld that disrupts Fey magic.

Selkahr: Black crystals used by Mages. Made from Azrahn-corrupted Tairen's Eye crystal.

Sheisan'dahlein: Fey honor death. Ceremonial suicide for the good of the Fey. All Fey warriors who do not truemate will either commit sheisan'dahlein or become dahl'reisen.

Shei'tan: beloved/husband/truemate

Shei'tani: beloved/wife/truemate

Shei'tanitsa: the truemate bond, a mating of souls

Sieks'ta: I have shame. (I'm sorry; I beg your pardon)

Tairen: Flying catlike creatures that live in the Fading Lands. The Fey are the Tairenfolk, magical because of their close kinship with the Tairen.

Tairen Soul: Rare Fey who can transform into tairen. Masters of all five Fey magics, they are feared and revered for their power. The oldest Tairen Soul becomes the Feyreisen, the Fey King.

Teska: Please

Ver reisa ku'chae. Kem surah, shei'tani: Your soul calls out. Mine answers, beloved.