

THE STORY SO FAR...

THE WORLD OF NAVESSEA

The Chrysathamere Trilogy takes place primarily in the fictional empire of Navessea and the adjoining, rival kingdom of Tyrace.

In Navessea, the emperor rules over a land comprised of several provinces, each ruled by a governor who serves for five years. The governor and his chosen military commander are in charge of that province's legions. The exception is Svartennos province, an island ruled by a hereditary Prince who serves for life and commands the province's military, and a council of Elders who speaks for the island's gods.

In the empire, knights duel with swords of colored aeder crystal (blue, green, gold, red, and amethyst) and farmers tend herds of giant insects named yoba (whose thick shells are used as armor), as well as smaller, winged insects called chicayas that create sweet music and are used to carry messages. Young ladies learn the art of water-script painting, while young noble-men are trained in sword-play and Sharavayn, a game of strategy played with small figurines, designed to simulate battle.

The capital city of Navessea is Ulvannis, which boasts the Jade Keep (the emperor's castle), the Great Arena (where festivals, tournaments, and executions take place) as well as villas and summer homes owned by most of the empire's far-flung nobles. The city is guarded by the Order of Jade, the emperor's elite fighting force of three thousand men.

The people of Navessea honor a pantheon of gods: Viveos, the gods' leader, who controls the sun and built the world; Almaria,

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goddess of healing and mercy; Zantos, the God of Death; Yalaeda, goddess of mysteries and knowledge; Sothia, the goddess of craftsmanship and creation; Neravos, the god who judges the souls of the dead; Shavennya, the goddess of the Sacred Flame and protection against dark magic; and the Fates, who spin the threads of mortal's lives and determine their character. The people of Navessea fear the ghouls—or, as the nobles call them, dremmakin: deep-sea beasts believed to spread curses and misfortunes upon mankind.

MARILIA, THE WARLORD

Ten-year-old **Marilia**, bastard daughter of a prostitute and a deceased war hero named **Nelos Dartimaos**, fled her mother's pillow house (brothel) in the kingdom of **Tyrace**, along with her twin brother, **Annuweth**, in order to escape a life of sexual slavery. After a brief run-in with a cruel Tyracian nobleman's son, **Castaval**, who badly beat Annuweth with a wooden sword, she made her way to **Karthtag-Kal Sandaros**, Prefect of the **Order of Jade**, the elite knights who serve the Emperor of the neighboring, rival kingdom, **Navessea**.

Due to his love for Marilia's father, Karthtag-Kal adopted the twin children as his own and brought them to his home, where he raised them and trained them. He told them stories of their father Nelos, who once fought alongside Karthtag-Kal to save Navessea from an invading warlord, **Kanadrak**, before being killed by one of Kanadrak's mercenaries, a man named **Sethyron Andreas** (nicknamed **the Graver**), who eventually switched sides and was rewarded by the Navessean emperor with the title of lord.

Under Karthtag-Kal's care, Marilia studied books of history and warfare and impressed her father with her skill at **Sharavayn**, a

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strategy game that young Navessean noblemen play to hone their skills in preparation for war. Karthtag-Kal's growing affection for Marilia and his interest in her uncanny skill at the game created a rift between her and Annuweth, as her brother began to become jealous of her abilities and the fact that she had usurped Karthtag-Kal's affections. Marilia was likewise jealous of Annuweth for his gender and the privileges it carried, frustrated that she was forced to hide her abilities as a tactician and Sharavayn-player and frightened by the prospect of becoming a wife and mother someday. The twins began to drift apart.

After she turned sixteen, Marilia was married to **Kanediell Paetos**, a lord of an island province of Navessea named **Svartennos**; Annuweth, meanwhile, joined the Order of Jade and was awarded a position as Captain of the **Dragonknights**, a small subset of the Order that serve as the royal family's personal bodyguards.

Marilia lived with Kanediell and his sister, **Camilline** (for whom she began to develop strong romantic feelings, though she was afraid to confess them) for over a year.

Eventually, the island was invaded by the army of Tyrace, seeking to avenge the long-standing religious oppression of Tyracian expatriates in the Navessean province of **Dane**. Svartennos' leader, **Ben Espeleos**, was taken prisoner in a surprise attack, leaving the island's army under Kanediell's command. After Kanediell was killed in a duel, Marilia convinced Svartennos' **Elders** (a council of lawmakers and priests/priestesses) that she was the answer to an ancient prophecy that stated that the spirit of a long-deceased warrior queen would return in the form of another young woman when the island stood in danger. After some initial resistance, the Elders named Marilia **Lady Chrysathamere Reborn** and put her in command of the defense of Svartennos, and she achieved an incredible victory against

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overwhelming odds, crushing the Tyracian army in the **Battle of Chrysathamere Pass**, defeating the Tyracian commander, **Tyrennis Nomeratsu**.

Marilia and the army of Svartennos joined with the rest of the Navessean army (including her brother, Annuweth) and sailed south to attack **Tyracium**, the capital city of Tyrace, hoping to end the war. While traveling, Marilia befriended and trained in swordsmanship with **Septakim**, a skilled knight in the Svartennan army.

Along the way, the Navessean army suffered a crushing naval defeat (**The Battle of the Bay of Dane**) at the hands of Castaval (now a fully-grown Tyracian lord and cunning commander) during which a company of knights under Annuweth's command were killed, with Annuweth powerless to protect them.

Eventually, with the help of reinforcements from a neighboring friendly city-state, **Daevium**, Marilia was able to reach Tyracium. Though the attack on Tyracium was a success, many soldiers in Marilia's army—encouraged by the Graver—pillaged the city and slaughtered many civilians before Marilia could restrain them, including most of Marilia's childhood friends from her mother's brothel. In order to save one of her surviving friends from murder at the Graver's hands, Marilia and Annuweth engaged the Graver in a duel. Marilia was victorious, leaving the Graver badly wounded, but Annuweth was also maimed in the exchange, losing half of one ear.

With its capital city conquered, **King Damar** of Tyrace surrendered and signed a peace treaty that included burning Tyrace's fleet. Impressed by Marilia's victories and her role in ending the war, Karthag-Kal offered to ask the Emperor of Navessea to name her the new Prefect of the Order of Jade upon his retirement. However, Marilia declined, sick of war and the empire's habit of venerating conquerors

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and warriors above all others. Plagued with guilt for her brother's suffering, she also lied to Karthtag-Kal and to the Imperial **Chronicler** who had come to write the story of the war, telling them both that Annuweth had helped her create the strategy that led to Tyrace's defeat in order to raise Karthtag-Kal's opinion of Annuweth.

EMPIRE OF JACKALS

Despite her fame and her victory over Tyrace, Marilia was left feeling hollow and empty; Annuweth continued to drift away from her despite her efforts to bridge the gap between them, and she continued to suffer guilt about the fact that her victory brought about the deaths of her friends in the pillow house. Furthermore, she was hurt by the revelation that her beloved, Camilline, had become betrothed to a young and handsome lord of Svartennos, **Jariel Valennos**.

Annuweth, meanwhile, learned that Karthtag-Kal had planned to name Marilia prefect instead of him, and was crushed and humiliated by the realization, and the feeling that despite all his best efforts, he had been unable to live up to his father's expectations; during the war, all he managed to do was lead the men under his command to their deaths. He returned home and found comfort in the arms of **Petrea**, the emperor's daughter, with whom he was having a secret affair.

Shortly after the end of the war, **Emperor Moroweth Vergana** of Navessea, seriously ill, made the shocking announcement that his adopted son, **Ilruyn** (a fine fighter and strategist) would inherit the throne instead of his weak and sickly true-born son, **Rufyllys**. The emperor also planned to have his daughter, Petrea, marry Ilruyn so that children of the Vergana bloodline would continue to rule the empire.

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Petrea loved Rufyllys for being there to comfort her during her mother's sickness and death. She hated Ilruyn for upstaging him in their father's eyes. She was appalled by her father's plan, and especially by the thought of marrying Ilruyn. She convinced Annuweth to help her conspire to overthrow Ilruyn. Annuweth had fallen deeply in love with Petrea and grown increasingly isolated from his family after he returned, traumatized, from the war against Tyrace. He agreed to help Petrea, even knowing that Karthtag-Kal—who was close friends with Ilruyn and Emperor Moroweth Vergana—would never approve.

After discovering that Karthtag-Kal had been having a forbidden gay affair with the emperor's brother-by-marriage, **Livenneth**, Annuweth blackmailed his adopted father, threatening to reveal Karthtag-Kal's homosexuality to Marilia. Afraid of being humiliated, Karthtag-Kal retired from the position of Prefect of the Order of Jade and named Annuweth his successor. As prefect, Annuweth did his best to stock the Order's ranks with men who would be loyal to Rufyllys, rather than Ilruyn, in the event of a coup.

Petrea secured a powerful alliance of nobles and military leaders to ensure that Rufyllys' claim to the throne would be secure (including arranging a marriage between Rufyllys and **Clariline Gorges**, daughter of Navessea's most powerful naval commander). As part of her plan to ensure a peaceful transition of power, she enlisted the help of the Graver, naming him Governor of **Antarenne** province in return for the support of his contacts among the commoners, hoping those contacts could prevent a riot since Ilruyn was popular with many of the common-people. This deal sat poorly with Annuweth, but he was reluctantly convinced to allow the Graver's promotion, with the promise that once Rufyllys was emperor, Rufyllys, Petrea, and

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Annuweth would find some means of disposing of the Graver and avenging all the evils he had done.

Unknown to Annuweth, when the emperor began to recover from his sickness, Petrea and Ruffylys poisoned him—their own father—to clear the way for Ruffylys' rise to power.

Petrea's plan was to confront Ilruyn in the Navessean Senate on the day of his coronation with an overwhelming alliance of Navessea's most powerful men, forcing him to abdicate his claim to the throne in favor of Ruffylys. However, when confronted, Ilruyn became enraged, taunting Ruffylys in front of the assembled senators. Ruffylys, in turn, ordered Ilruyn's execution. When a stunned Annuweth was about to carry out Ruffylys' orders, Karthag-Kal intervened, defending Ilruyn and attempting to turn Annuweth's own men in the Order of Jade against him. Afraid that the conspiracy would be undone and that he would be arrested or executed, Annuweth attacked Karthag-Kal, and, after a duel in the middle of the Senate chamber, killed him. Ilruyn was subsequently executed by knights of the Order of Jade. Incensed by Karthag-Kal's murder, several other knights of the Order of Jade--including sergeant **Vexaryn** and Annuweth's old sword instructor, **Stellos the Steward**—attempted to desert, and Annuweth was forced to execute all but Stellos, who fled the city.

Ilruyn's birth father, **Senecal Ikaryn**, Governor of the Sunset Isles (a province in the far west of Navessea), received word of Ilruyn's death. Enraged, he named himself emperor and declared war on Ruffylys. He was helped by **Nhykara**, a priestess of the Sunset Isles who inflamed the hearts of the native populace and inspired them to join Senecal's cause. Senecal and Nhykara launched a fleet of ships to invade the rest of Navessea.

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When Ben Espeleos, leader of Svartennos, learned of the murders of his friends Karthtag-Kal and Ilruyn, he was furious. He also decided to declare war on Ruffylys. He declared himself emperor through his wife, **Catarina**, eldest daughter of Moroweth Vergana...Ruffylys' half-sister. He believed that if the army of Svartennos marched against Ruffylys, other governors, likewise appalled by Ruffylys' acts of treachery, would bring their legions to support Ben's cause. Ben asked Marilia to join him in his crusade to bring Ilruyn's and Karthtag-Kal's killers to justice.

Despite being furious over Annuweth's role in the conspiracy and Karthtag-Kal's death, Marilia initially refused Ben, appalled and heartbroken by the prospect of plunging Navessea back into another war so soon after she'd ended the last one at such a terrible cost. She felt partially responsible for the civil war because, if she had become prefect instead of Annuweth (as Karthtag-Kal initially wanted), the conspiracy never would have happened.

Afraid that the outnumbered army of Svartennos would lose morale without Marilia, Catarina—Marilia's close friend—begged Marilia to come with them, and Marilia eventually agreed. However, Marilia soon discovered that—for reasons unknown—her previous skill at tactics and strategy had deserted her. She was unable to help Ben come up with a battle-plan.

While Ruffylys' fleet, led by Annuweth, sailed to face Senecal in the west, Ben launched a surprise naval attack on the city of Surennis and managed to capture the city and its governor, **Suryin**, with the help of a grizzled and honorable Svartennan war hero named **Leondos**. From there, he marched towards **Ulvannis**, the capital city of Navessea. However, despite Ben's hopes, no governors came to join him. To make matters worse, almost half of Ben's army was destroyed in a

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surprise attack orchestrated by the Graver, leaving the Svartennans hopelessly outnumbered. They tried to retreat but were cut off by the Graver's forces (aided by reinforcements led by Governor Sury'n's son) and besieged atop a hill. Ben begged Marilia to help him think his way out of their predicament, but Marilia—tormented by a deep-seated feeling of powerlessness at her inability to foresee her brother's betrayal, her fear of losing Camilline to Jariel, and her lingering guilt—still found herself unable to strategize the way she used to.

Meanwhile, in the west, Annuweth (accompanied by his two lieutenants and friends, **Thoryn Cyrdoreth** and **Morgarmir-Hai**) led the imperial fleet against Senecal's navy. Although Annuweth succeeded in weakening Senecal's fleet, forcing Senecal to pull back to the Sunset Isles, Annuweth himself was taken captive during the battle. Senecal and Nhykara locked him in a room filled with blinding sunlight, where, plagued by dehydration, hunger, and heat, Annuweth was left alone to reflect on his sins. Taunted by Senecal, he began to suspect that Petrea's professed love for him was false, and that she had merely seduced and manipulated him into helping her murder Ilruyn for her own gain.

Eventually, Senecal released Annuweth from his prison and engaged him in single combat, hoping to kill him in front of Senecal's army in order to boost their morale. However, Senecal's wife, believing Senecal's cause was doomed, poisoned Senecal just before the duel. Annuweth was able to kill a weakened Senecal. With Senecal dead, his men turned on each other, and Annuweth was able to defeat the remnants of his supporters, capture Nhykara, and return, victorious, to Ulvannis.

Meanwhile, on the hill where the Svartennan army was trapped, Camilline finally confessed her love for Marilia, explaining that despite

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her desire to marry Jariel in order to carry on her family—as was her duty as the last surviving heir of her house—she deeply cared for Marilia and always would. Camilline’s declaration of love provided Marilia with the spur she needed to finally free herself from the crippling doubt that had prevented her from strategizing. With Marilia’s help, the Svartennans were able to defeat the Graver’s army of Antarenne during the **Battle on the Hill**. During the fighting, Marilia killed the Graver’s top lieutenant, **Dorokim**, and overpowered the Graver himself, sending him tumbling down a hill; she lost consciousness shortly thereafter, leaving the Graver’s final whereabouts unknown.

Humbled by the close call they’d had, Ben promised Catarina that he would retreat to Svartennos and call off the war. But just as soon as he’d written a letter to Ruffylys asking for peace, letters of support from some of the governors of Navessea began to arrive, including from **Governor Ephrayenne of Neravenne**, brother of the Chronicler, and **Governor Victarian Ildoran of Dane** (nicknamed Victarian the Cautious), who had once been married to one of Ben’s cousins before she passed away. The letters stated that the governors were inspired by Marilia’s seemingly impossible victory over the Graver’s army and wished to join Ben’s uprising.

Annuweth returned to Ulvannis depressed and full of guilt over his role in starting the war. Learning that Ruffylys intended to kill Ben and his closest allies to ensure peace, and believing that his sister had no chance against Ruffylys’ schemes and would soon die, he planned to commit suicide by throwing himself off the **Jade Keep** (the royal castle at the heart of Navessea). Before he could, Petrea found him and told him that she was pregnant with his child. Convinced that his duty was to stay and help create a better, more peaceful world for his child to live

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in and to atone for his mistakes, Annuweth allowed Petrea to talk him down from jumping. The two decided to marry.

Ben, Catarina, and Marilia held council together to discuss an offer by Victarian Ildoran of Dane to join his army to Ben's in exchange for a betrothal between Victarian's son and Ben and Catarina's eight-year-old daughter, **Claria...**

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

AEDER – a crystal-like substance used to craft swords. Comes in several colors—amethyst, red, blue, green, gold.

AERAEI DARTIMAOS – cousin of Marilia and Annuweth, one of the strategoi of Svartennos. Suffered a humiliating defeat at the Graver’s hands in Book II, which resulted in the deaths of approximately five thousand Svartennan soldiers.

AKELEOS – a knight of Svartennos and loyal follower of Marilia. Member of her Flower Company. Also the name of Queen Svartana’s son, a historical figure.

ALMARENNE – a small town on the northern border of Dane.

ALMARIA – a goddess of Navessea. Goddess of healing and mercy.

ANDREAS, SETHYRON (AKA THE GRAVER) – a wealthy lord of Navessea and currently Governor of Antarenne. Master swordsman. Marilia and Annuweth’s nemesis after he murdered their childhood friends. Was once a Tyracian noble before he accidentally blinded King Damar’s right eye in a duel with wooden swords as a child. Exiled to the northlands, he became a mercenary and fought against Navessea before switching sides in exchange for a pardon and the title of Navessean lord.

ANNUWETH SANDAROS – current Prefect of the Order of Jade and one of the two protagonists of the series.

ANTARENNE – a province on the north-eastern coast of Navessea, also the capital city of that province.

ANTIRIEL – one of the strategoi of Svartennos. Hates the Tyracians for killing his sons in a battle. Blinded in battle.

ARAM – a Tyracian knight in the service of Castaval.

ARYN – the historical first emperor of Navessea.

B

BEN (BENIEL) ESPELEOS – current claimant to the throne of Navessea through his wife. A skilled but brash swordsman. Prince (military leader) of Svartennos.

C

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CAMILLINE PAETIA – the sister of Marilia’s late husband, Marilia’s close friend and romantic interest. Lady of Svartennos, a skilled rider.

CASTAVAL – a Tyracian nobleman cunning and skilled in battle. Responsible for Tyrace’s greatest victory over Navessea in the Battle of the Bay of Dane.

CATARINA ESPELEA (NEE VERGANA) – eldest daughter of the late emperor Moroweth Vergana, wife of Ben Espeleos. According to Ben and the people of Svartennos, the rightful Empress of Navessea. Rufyllys and Petrea’s half-sister, Marilia’s close friend.

CHICAYA – a winged insect used for its soothing song and to carry messages (like a carrier pigeon).

CHRONICLER – a position on the royal council, the individual responsible for writing down the history of Navessea’s important events. The post is currently held by Chronicler Ephrayenne, brother of the Governor of Neravenne.

CHRYSATHAMERE – a blue-colored flower; also the nickname of Queen Svartana, a famous Svartennan war hero; also the nickname given to Marilia, who is believed by the Svartennans to be the spirit of Svartana reborn.

CLARIA ESPELEA – the eight-to-nine-year-old daughter of Ben and Catarina, heir to Svartennos.

CLARILINE VERGANA (NEE GURGES) – Rufyllys Vergana’s ambitious wife. She married him as part of an arranged marriage to ensure that the powerful Gurses family would be loyal to Rufyllys.

COSSOTOS – a famously evil and paranoid usurper in Navessea’s history.

CRESCENS – Master of Ceremonies, responsible for putting on games and festivals. Also former captain of the emperor’s favorite chariot-racing team (the Reds), with a network of thugs and enforcers (called the Red Hand) used to collect debts on behalf of the team and to spy for Rufyllys.

CYRDORETH – a wealthy and powerful Navessean noble family. The head of the family serves as the Master of the Treasury on the royal/imperial council. His son, Thoryn, is one of the lieutenants in the Order of Jade.

D

DAEVIUM – a city state to the north of Navessea. Frequent military ally to Svartennos. The Duchess (leader of the city-state) is a friend of Camilline’s and Marilia’s.

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DAMAR – the current one-eyed king of Tyrace. Defeated in war by the Navesseans about a year ago.

DANE – the southern-most province of Navessea. It used to belong to Tyrace, and many followers of the Tyracian religion still dwell there (and are sometimes oppressed by the Navessean governors). Tyrace wants it back.

DOROKIM – a huge and strong warrior, formerly the Graver’s second-in-command. Killed by Marilia in Book II.

DRAGONKNIGHTS – the personal bodyguards of the emperors of Navessea and the royal family. A subset of the Order of Jade.

DREMAKIN – called ghouls by commoners. A race in the Navessean religion that once dominated the earth before it was cast down by their human slaves after angering the gods. Believed to torment the souls of the damned. Supposedly, they live at the bottom of the sea.

E

ELDERS OF SVARTENNOS - the council of twelve men and women responsible for passing Svartennos’ laws and interpreting the will of the island’s gods. Marilia considered joining them in Book II.

EPHRAYENNE – a noble house of Navessea. One member of the house serves as the Governor of Neravenne. Another is the Imperial Chronicler.

F

THE FATES – goddesses of Navessea that play a role in determining the character/nature of men and women when they are born.

G

GARRYN – a Dragonknight in the Order of Jade, who beheaded Ilruyn at Annuweth and Rufyllys’ orders.

GRAVER– a nickname for Andreas, Sethyron, above. Also a term that refers to those who tend the bodies of the dead before they are burned.

GUARDIANS – a group of militia peacekeepers responsible for policing the capital of Navessea when the Order of Jade is off fighting with the emperor.

GURGES – one of the noble families of Navessea. The head of the family is a prominent naval commander in Rufyllys’ service. His daughter is married to Rufyllys.

H

– essentially, a Navessean version of heaven.

I

ILDORAN – a noble house of Navessea. Its head, Victarian, is the Governor of Dane.

ILDORYS LIVENNETH – currently the head of House Livenneth, cousin to Rufyllys Vergana. A secret supporter of Marilia's.

ILRUYN IKARYN-VERGANA – born to Prefect Senecal Ikaryn, he was adopted as a son/hostage by Moroweth Vergana when Moroweth became emperor so that his father would not challenge Moroweth's rule. Eventually, Moroweth fell in love with the boy and named him his heir over his true-born son, Rufyllys. He was executed on Rufyllys' orders as part of a conspiracy to take the throne in Book II, an event that started off Navessea's civil war.

ISARA GURGES – the wife of the Gurges paterfamilias, empress Clariline's mother. An ambitious woman who puts family above all else.

J

JARIEL VALENNOS – Camilline's childhood friend, a strategos of Svartennos, and Marilia's rival for Camilline's affections. At the end of Book II, Marilia and Jariel struck up a grudging friendship.

K

KANADRAK – an infamous warlord who tried to conquer Navessea about two decades ago. He was killed in a duel against Karthtag-Kal.

KANEDIEL PAETOS – Marilia's late husband. He was killed in a duel in Book I.

KARTHTAG-KAL SANDAROS – former Prefect of the Order of Jade, war hero. Adopted Marilia and Annuweth and raised them as his children. Honorable to a fault, but partially responsible for the sibling rivalry between Annuweth and Marilia. He was killed by a reluctant Annuweth when he tried to turn Annuweth's own men against him in order to protect Ilruyn from Rufyllys' conspiracy.

KONOS – an elderly and wise strategos of Svartennos. Taken captive and later executed by the Graver in Book II.

KORENNIS – an island province to the north of Navessea, and the capitol city of that province. Governor Gurges is currently in charge.

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L

LAEKOS – strategos of Svartennos.

LEONDOS – a quiet, honorable and fierce warrior. Strategos of Svartennos. Carried Marilia from the fight during the Battle on the Hill in Book II after she passed out from exhaustion.

LIVENNETH – a noble house of Navessea; also, the surname of the emperor’s brother-by-marriage, Karthtag-Kal’s secret gay lover who was killed in battle against the Tyracians in Book I.

M

MAGARENNE – a province of Navessea, and the capitol city of that province.

MARILIA SANDARA – one of the two main protagonists of the series. Called Lady Chrysathamere by the Svartennans.

MOLLAGORA – the king of the dremmakin/ghouls in the Navessean religion.

MORGARMIR-HAI – a lieutenant of the Order of Jade hailing from the northlands. Annuweth’s friend. Worships Zantos, the God of Death, and cut off his own ear as an offering in return for strength in battle. Slightly insane but good-natured.

MOROWETH VERGANA – the former Emperor of Navessea. A skilled and fair ruler, but a poor father. Unknown to the rest of the world, he did not die of a sickness, but was poisoned by his son, Ruffylys, and his daughter, Petrea, after he planned to marry Petrea off to Ilruyn and disinherit Ruffylys.

N

NARINIA – the leader of the Elders of Svartennos. She briefly tutored Marilia when Marilia considered joining the Elders in Book II.

NAXOS – a province of Navessea known for its horses. The ancestral home of House Vergana is located in this province. Also, the capital city of that province.

NELOS DARTIMAOS – Marilia and Annuweth’s birth father, a famous war hero and skilled knight. Killed by the Graver in a duel.

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NERAVENNE – an island province in the north of Navessea, and the capital city of that province. Currently controlled by Governor Ephrayenne.

NERAVOS – the god of Navessea responsible for passing judgment on the souls of the dead.

NERONYN – a skilled smith, responsible for forging Marilia’s sword. Friend of Karthag-Kal.

NHYKARA – priestess of the Sunset Isles, advisor to Senecal Ikaryn during his fight for the throne. She was arrested by Annuweth after Senecal’s death and brought back in chains to Ulvannis.

NOMERATSU – a tyrennis (lord) of Tyrace. His right hand was cut off when his army was defeated in battle by Marilia’s in Book I.

Q

OBA’AL – a pimp who ran the brothel where Marilia’s mother worked, and where Marilia and Annuweth spent their first ten years. Planned to sell Marilia into a life of sexual slavery. Killed by the Graver’s soldiers in Book I.

OBAI – a tyrennis (lord) of Tyrace, one of the potential claimants to the Tyracian throne if Castaval were to die.

OLEGAI – a tyrennis (lord) of Tyrace, one of the potential claimants to the Tyracian throne if Castaval were to die.

ONE-EYE – a client of the brothel Marilia’s mother worked in. He taught Marilia to play strategy games as a young girl. He displayed pedophilic tendencies, attempting to purchase Marilia as his “servant” and bring her to live with him. Eventually, he was overcome with guilt and changed his mind. He was killed when Tyracium was conquered by the Navessean army at the end of Book I.

OPTAKIM – Senecal-Ikaryn’s second-in-command (formerly). A knight in command of the imperial legions in the Sunset Isles.

ORDER OF JADE – the emperor’s personal army of three thousand elite soldiers, stationed in Ulvannis, the capital.

OSURRIS – a city in Navessea near the capital, where much of the imperial fleet is located.

P

PETREA VERGANA – wife of Annuweth, sister of Ruffylys, daughter of late emperor Moroweth Vergana. Cunning and beautiful. Responsible for orchestrating the conspiracy that allowed Ruffylys to take the throne. Currently pregnant with Annuweth’s child.

CHILDREN OF JADE

PREFECT – the leader of the Order of Jade. Title currently held by Annuweth Sandaros.

PYLENNIS – a province of Navessea, and the capital city of that province.

R

RUFYLLYS VERGANA – the current emperor of Navessea. Called the usurper by Marilia and her allies because of the way he took the throne after killing his adopted brother, Ilruyn, despite his father’s wishes that Ilruyn inherit the throne.

S

SCALIAN PRIFERNETH – knight from a disgraced noble family. Once engaged to marry Petrea. The marriage was cancelled due to his family’s involvement in several scandals. Now he fights alongside the Graver.

SENATE – a body of nobles in Navessea that passes laws for the emperor to sign and observes the crowning of a new emperor.

SENECAL IKARYN – former Prefect of the Order of Jade, and Ilruyn’s birth father. After Ilruyn was killed, he declared himself emperor and waged war against Ruffylys for control of the empire. He captured and tortured Annuweth by locking him in a cave full of hot, blinding sunlight for weeks on end. He was poisoned by his own wife at the end of Book II.

SEPTAKIM – a Dragonknight with a dry sense of humor assigned to protect Catarina. Marilia’s friend; he trained her in sword-fighting in Book I and fought beside her in both prior books.

SHARAVAYN – a game designed to simulate war that is played by young Navessea noblemen. Marilia proved herself a prodigy at the game, defeating several of the empire’s best players as a child.

SHAVENNYA – a goddess of Navessea. Supposedly, as long as the Sacred Flame in Shavennya’s temple is lit, Navessea will never fall.

SILVAKIM – a large sandworm species that lives in Tyrace.

SOTHIA – a goddess of Navessea. Also called the Artificer.

STRATEGOS/STRATEGOI – a term used to describe the military leaders/most powerful lords of Svartennos. They are commanded in battle by the Prince of Svartennos and make up his war council.

CHILDREN OF JADE

STELLOS – former Steward of the Order of Jade. He tutored Annuweth in swordsmanship when Annuweth was a boy. He resigned from the Order in protest after Karthtag-Kal was killed and went to live with Marilia and her friends on Svartennos.

STOICS – a group of philosophers Karthtag-Kal admires that preach that emptying yourself of desire and making peace with your duty is the way to be happy.

SUNSET ISLES – an island province in the far west of Navessea. Formerly controlled by Senecal Ikaryn. The natives of the island practice a different, monotheistic sun-based religion from the rest of Navessea.

SURENNIS – a province on the eastern coast of Navessea, and the capital city of that province. Conquered by Ben Espeleos and the Svartennans during the beginning of Ben’s war against Rufyllys Vergana in Book II.

SURYN – a noble family of Navessea. The head of the family was Governor of Surennis. He was taken captive by the Svartennan army during Ben’s uprising against Rufyllys. Another member of the family was killed by Ben and Marilia’s soldiers at the end of Book II. The family seeks revenge against Ben and Marilia.

SVARTANA – also known as the Lady Chrysathamere. A historical warrior-queen of Svartennos. Many Svartennans believe Marilia contains the reborn spirit of this legendary hero.

SVARTENNOS – an island province in the far east of Navessea. While the Svartennans worship the same gods as the rest of Navessea, they also hold to some of their own traditions and worship a few of their own gods, as well. Marilia lives on this island since she was married to one of its lords. Currently, the island is in rebellion against the rest of Navessea, believing its leader, Ben Espeleos, to be the true emperor through his wife, Catarina.

T

THORYN CYRDORETH – Lieutenant of the Order of Jade. Son of the Master of the Treasury. Annuweth’s witty friend. A skilled swordsman.

THYRE – a city-state to the far west of Navessea.

TYRACE – a mostly desert kingdom to the south of Navessea. Navessea’s greatest rival. The two countries recently fought a war, which Navessea won thanks to Marilia’s efforts.

TYRACIUM – the capital city of Tyrace. Conquered and looted (over Marilia’s objections) by Marilia’s army at the end of Book I. Marilia and Annuweth spent the first ten years of their lives in this city.

CHILDREN OF JADE

TYRENNIS – a title for a Tyracian nobleman, equivalent to a lord or baron. Prominent tyrenni include Castaval (before he becomes king), Nomeratsu, Obai, and Olegai.

U

ULVANNIS – the capital city of Navessea.

URIAN – a famous emperor who was a philosopher, poet, and skilled strategist; responsible for writing many of Navessea’s most well-read books on strategy and tactics.

V

VAERENNIS – a province in the south of Navessea, and the capital city of that province.

VALENNOS, PREFECT (AKA THE MORNING STAR) – famous hero in Navessean history who heroically died fighting a usurper.

VERGIRIEL – Harbormaster of Svartennos. One of the island’s strategoi. Cousin to Ben Espeleos.

VEXARYN – a knight of the Order of Jade who was executed by Annuweth after he tried to desert rather than fight for Ruffylys. His father is a knight in the service of Governor Victarian Ildoran of Dane.

VICTARIAN ILDORAN – Governor of Dane. At the end of Book II, he offered to join Ben’s uprising against Ruffylys.

VICTARYN LIVENNETH – current Captain of the Dragonknights in the Order of Jade. Annuweth’s childhood friend, cousin to Ruffylys and Petrea.

VISITHEA-HAI – cocky and quick-witted female mercenary captain in the Tiger Company, a mercenary army in the northlands.

VIVEOS – most powerful of the gods of Navessea. The sun god. Often depicted holding a lantern. The High Priest of Viveos helps crown the new emperor.

Y

YALAEDA – Navessean goddess of mysteries.

YLEXOS – a province of Navessea, and the capital city of that province.

CHILDREN OF JADE

Yوبا – large, insect-like creatures harvested for their meat and for their thick shells, which is used to fashion armor.

Z

ZANTOS – the Navessean God of Death.

ZEV (ZEVIEL) ESPELEOS – Ben’s younger brother. A poor military leader. Killed Marilia’s husband in a duel when they disagreed over military strategy and was later killed by Tyracian soldiers during the Battle of Chrysathamere Pass. Killed Camilline’s mentally handicapped sister when they were children.

CHILDREN OF JADE

