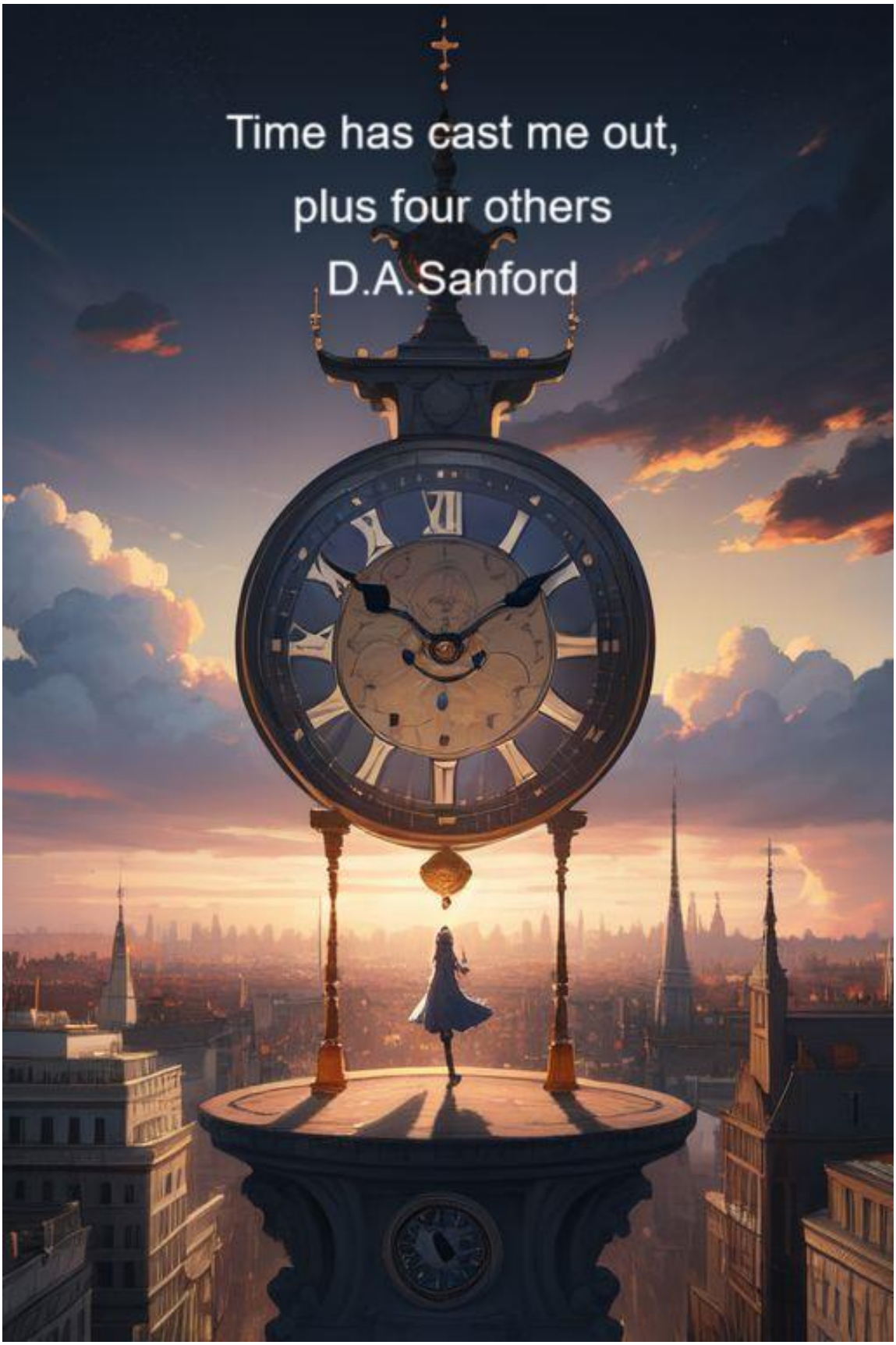
Time has cast me out,
plus four others
D.A.Sanford

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Time Drifters, The Avenger, The rift, I am the king's rock

By D.A.Sanford

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Time has cast me out

I don’t know what happened, did I step on a bug? Said the wrong thing to someone?

Whatever it was time itself got angry at me. Time has cast me out. I wander between tick and tock. Everyone and everything is frozen in place. It is so weird to be walking around with everyone caught in what they were doing. Well they are not frozen but from my prospective. They are stopped.

I am in perpetual ten am. The sky is clear, weather is late spring. My phone does not work. I tried some cars and they do not work. I can touch food and it is in my time so I will not starve. Most mechanical devices are frozen. I found an auto parts store and was able to make parts move. I need to think about that. For now, I don’t need to.

At least, for me, I don’t have a problem with the usual city crimes. Being frozen, I take great delight to go up to someone robbing another at gun point. I will never get to see what happens but I have clay from an arts store. I stuff it down the barrel. I have removed bullets and belts. Different other things.

Banks are open so I will go in and take money. I don’t need it but I know or knew some families that were barely making it. I have put it in their pockets, laid it on the kitchen table. I feel good.

All these things are just to occupy my time. I explore the city, I am getting board. No way of telling where and when it is, when I get tired, I sleep and hope that this is a dream. I wake up and once again find it still frozen.

Trying to get someone to talk to, I went through a few days of touching people. Nothing. I even went so far as to grope some females. Nothing. My rational is that food that I touch, is now in my realm. Taste, feel and other aspects of the food is in my time. But this did not work for anything but my food.

Right now, I get the feeling that I really need to get on the road. There is a hope that this may be only local but it isn’t.

I do not feel like walking, sue me, I am a product of the time that I am in. I was able to get an electric golf cart working. Hooking up some solar panels, I found I was in luck. Charging in my suspended time put it into my time. With a few trailers that I only had to change the wheels to get them moving.

It took some effort to get the doors working. Now the first will be my bedroom and the second will hold my food. I also found that ammunition will not fire, so I have several knives. I know, it is really not needed but peace of mind.

Once I got through the congestion of the highway leading in and out. I only had to drive around the cars. I could make a goodly pace. With the solar panels and it always is sunny my batteries were always charged.

Any hope that this was localized went down the tubes as soon as I went on a side road into a small town. It is exactly the same. I'm not surprised but I am disappointed. I also am a little pissed. I went through the entire town and now I have all the belts. I also unbuttoned and lowered the fly's.

Because of the time freeze, I don't need to get food until I start to run low. I have cases of water, so I really don't scavenge every time I stop. When I stop the batteries are recharging. I do feel that I may need to get more batteries and motors.

The amount of traveling I will be doing, I may need them. I could just take another if this one breaks down. I always keep my eyes out for golf courses. When I need parts, I want to get them from a cart being used on the course. These things I can only see the results in my mind.

I do find that my mind is teetering. All the time alone is getting to me but there seems to be something that pushes me back. Sanity is delicate and is hanging on by a thread. I do wish I had a goal, a mission but that is not apparent.

The world I am in is silent. There are occasions that I hear something. When I get to the approximate area, I find nothing. Can't even tell what is out of place. Most times, I chalk it up to wishful thinking. My mind is on shaky ground at best

After five sleeps, it is the only way I have to tell any time. I get up and step outside to find there are bunch of small pointed rocks scattered everywhere. I figure that I must have not looked when I stopped. Just kick the stones out of the way. There was laughter.

"I told you that it only works on others not a fellow time outsider." There is now a multitude of laughter.

"You need to come out here and explain yourselves. We need to talk."

The laughter has ceased. There was a big discussion between a few of them. The leader tells me that if I try anything, regardless of what we were told by the woman, We will turn off your food ability and we will run away.

"I will agree to anything. I just want to talk." With that. I sit and cross my legs. There are a couple of dozen of these very small people that appear. The boss comes up to me. They are all the same size, around six inches

"Pixies" I mutter out loud and the leader gets angry.

"Don't ever disrespect us like that. We're imps. Those pixies would never live up to our reputation. We are the correctors of time. From minor mishaps to fatal incidents. We are proud. Pixies are nothing but flirts. Before you even ask, the woman told us of your task

on this world. We told her that we needed a test for our sake. That's why the rocks. If you were hostile, we would have left but you weren't. We have been following you. You must have some of our blood in you. Removing all those belts and undoing the zippers, that really must have been a sight."

They all had a good laugh about that. I start to talk.

"How long have you been here? The way you make it sound, you have been here forever."

"We have been here forever. The lady told us that there is almost no need for us anymore on this world. You, on the other hand need our guidance. She has told us that we will travel to other worlds to right other wrongs but that will be after we right a horrendous wrong here on this world. She would not tell us what you are to be. We will all know."

"Now as far as your question on how long we have been doing our job. We have been doing this for millennia. We are out of time, our aging has stopped, Yours too. Even if we return back into time, we will not die of old age."

That statement needs time for me to digest that information. "You're telling me that all of us here are immortal?"

"Yes, you will have one thing that we have right now. We have lived so long that we no longer have names. After a short time you will forget yours."

Now that he has mentioned it, I haven't had anyone to talk to in what could be years.

He looks at me, "Forgotten it already?"

I am just so happy to be able to talk to anyone. These imps are characters. I have made them seats on the roof of the car. The strange thing is, they all are male and they all are wonderful talkers. There is now a stairway to the inside. They like my sleeper. When we stop, I do here them making something in the supply trailer but they tell me that I have to wait until they are done.

They finally showed me. They have walkways between the rows of hammocks. The looks on their faces said it all. I look inside an have to tell them that I have never seen anything so well constructed. "You boys should get a reward."

They all had a now sheepish look on their faces. It could only mean one thing.

"Just point my nose in the right direction."

"Women do not like to travel anymore. They welcome us but when they are tired of us, they chase us out. None have been able to conceive but the lore is that once the very tall imp comes and we escape this world, children will abound."

I look at him and smile. "I guess I am tall. Am I accepted as an imp?"

”Just before this next corner we have to stop. There is a very bad player that is making money off of the unaccompanied children coming over the boarder”

I stop and we sneak up. There moving around is a being that is hard to describe but it has two arms and two legs so I just say it is humanoid. My fellows point out that it is picking up a frozen girl around ten and is putting her on a cart.

Looking at it, I see a glowing something tied on it’s belt. I ask if they can snatch it. I get such a look and two walk up to the thing grab it off him and immediately it freezes. I come out and look at it. The object is very advanced. I do notice that there is a pointer. No matter where I turn, the pointer does stay in the same area. I set that girl back next to what I perceive is her parent. We load the thing onto the wagon and tow it behind. We find a park and see a very large space ship sitting there. Going in, there, crammed in every space are children. All frozen in time.

Even my fellows are disgusted. They start to chant for the woman. She appears and is sick at the sight. Now all of them disappear. She looks at me and my fellows.

“I see that you were the correct one. Time chose well. Those children cannot be returned. They have been placed with needy families throughout the universe. This ship is yours. You and your fellow imps need to gather their women and I charge you with a mission. This will be a test for you. I ask you to track down those who have purchased the children this race has abducted. We will do the same thing for them. You and your fellow imps will be justice itself. You will finally find the planet responsible for this and then you will decide what to do with it.”

She is gone and my friends are happy. We see that she has taken the thing with her.

“Let’s go and get the women. They probably know what has happened and that you have arrived. The only thing is that we want your cart and our trailers. We should find one for the women and an extra cart. We now have the room.”

First things first, we go to the area where their women are only to find them waiting with all their things packed. Apparently, the female leader comes forward and scolds me. “Do you know how long we have been waiting?” and she is looking angry.

My fellows have actually ruined me already. I can’t help myself.

“I bet no time has gone by, so, you cannot say you have been waiting. Not a second has passed.”

She tries but loses her battle. She and all the others burst out laughing.

“Yes ladies, the big imp is here. Leader, take us with you to our ship.” They then move into the trailer that the men set up. I look at them and tell them that we will get a few more carts and trailers. We will raid the lumber yards and told them that there is a high end doll house shop in the town. We’ll clear it out of the furniture. It is so well made that even the drawers and doors are real. You’ll get your home back.

We take the women back to the ship and then raid those items. My men now make one of the trailers into the women's domain. They install the hammocks but also bolt beds to the floor. The furniture was placed so that the women could place it where they wanted.

While that was going on I have gone over the controls. It seems that now I have the knowledge on how to fly it. I can tell that my men have also been given the knowledge on how it works. They have been going over all the systems and have been putting them in good working order.

I have found the log and have seen the locations of where all the "deliveries" have been dropped off.

I gather all, "Are we ready to get off this rock and fly to the rescue of children? Everyone knows what to do. Let's do this."

They shut and seal the door. All get in their seats and are buckled in as I start the engine. I lift off. We were expecting shaking and other things but I found that I had to look out the window to see if we were moving. We were in space before we knew it.

No floating around, much to the disappointment of my guys. We have gravity. I have set course to the last visited world. They were right, time does not exist for us. Even the ships chronometer shows that no time has passed since we left my world.

By the way. It no longer feels like my world and I don't care. They told me that she said that we would be no longer needed. I now only want to shut down this trafficking. I am now sure that this really is what I was born for. I am a tall imp.

I get the proximity alert. We have reached the first world. I know that as soon as I touched the controls, the system has my DNA. It was a simple thing to have the ship scan for similar DNA. It finds seven hits, all in the same location. We start to land.

We exist out of time. Where ever we are, that time is frozen. It is a simple task to land in the park across from the mansion that the hit is. I tell my people that we need to find the seven and the owners.

It was almost like we thought it was. The seven are treated as exotic pets. The owners are throwing a party and they were just ready to have a show. One young girl is strapped down to a table and the wife was in the process of cutting off the child's clothes.

We take all the children back to the ship. The men are chanting again. This time everyone that is in this room vanishes. We do not question and go back to the ship. Only to find that our women told us that the woman took the children. We never question.

This goes on until we reach the final destination. We land and time again freezes there. When we exit the ship, there are dozens of people looking at us. The woman steps forward.

“My children, welcome to the final stop on this quest. Leader step forward.”

I do.

“We have removed all the stolen children.” She points to a woman who steps forward.

“This is the god of mercy. She has been the one who has found homes for all the children. She has wiped out all memories and replaced them with warm loving memories.”

Now she points to another woman. “This is the god of fate. She is the one who has taken care of all those who have been involved with this crime.”

She does go through all the rest of them and their role in this.

“We are pleased at all your dedication but you now face your last test. This does not effect your fellow imps. They are our favorites for correcting situations. This is a leader decision only.”

The god of knowledge steps forward and addresses me in a very formal tone.

“This world is a time manipulating race. They started looking for only the truth. On their travels they found that they had a weakness. A lust for the children of other worlds. They took them as pets and then as toys. Their leaders have fallen into this debauchery. Now all the time travelers are back here with the exception of two. We have found that they are truly good people free of the perversion that the others have. That is why they have not returned here.”

She steps back.

The original woman steps back in front of me.

“Now what is your decision. What would you do to this world?”

“Is there any on this world that are innocent?”

“All know about this.”

“Do they condone this?”

“None have raised a hand to stop this.”

“The two, you say that they are innocent. Are they a threat?”

“No.”

“If it is my decision and mine alone, death is too kind. I would keep them in this frozen time but leave their minds alive. I would remove any knowledge, written or otherwise, from this planet and their minds on time travel. Put up a permanent barrier around this planet and a warning not to go down their path. If you do You will be placed here.”

“What would you do to the two?”

“Give them the knowledge of what is happening with the warning. Recommend that they do not interfere with any time events. If they abide, we will leave them alone. Violate and they will be placed here.”

She now turns her back to me and addresses the gods.

“You have heard his decision. God of wisdom, what do you say?”

“He is fair and just.”

“God of Fate”

“He has given the universe a gift in the form of a warning. If this turns someone from evil, it is worth it.”

She goes through the rest and all tell her that I have spoken true.

Now the god of all comes forward.

“You have been judged by your now peers. It is our decision that you are now the god of time. These are now and forever your clan, your aides, your companions. That ship is now dimensionless. Build your community. Grow your clan. You will find that the female imp leader has now grown to your size. She is now and forever your mate. We will be giving you assignments across the universe where your clan is needed to steer people to their correct destination.”

The original woman comes up to me and takes my hand. She whispers something in my ear and I cannot help but laugh.

They leave and we go back to the ship. I find that the woman’s leader has moved her things into my trailer. She comes over and hangs on me. It results in a lot of cat calls and whistles. Some from the men. She sits in what is the copilot seat and we lift off.

We see a visible cube engulf the planet. There is a broadcast warning on all channels.

I start to fly and we are now in a infinite room. We know that this is the home they told us about. There are numerous homes, one very large. All have lawns and each have a cart in the driveway.

I tell them that all this ship is now is our gateway. It allows us to land in frozen time. I do tell them that I have been tasked with my first assignment. I need to return to my original planet for two tasks that all of us need to witness.

We go. The first stop is in the Midwest to an area that is called cursed and no one goes. We land and find two people waiting for us. They both take to the knee. I tell them to rise.

“I feel that you know why we are here but I will say this anyways. We are the guardians of time. We only interfere to correct. We have frozen that world that you came from. There is no way for you to return. Don’t even try. As long as you abide with the morals

we have found you have, we will leave you alone. Violate and you both will be back on that planet. So you know. They are frozen in time but their minds still are active. Unable even to blink. No need for food or water but trapped in their own bodies. Do not forget.

We will, if you allow it, visit you from time to time. That will reinforce the curse so you will not be bothered."

They invite all of us to come anytime. They tell us that it is the reason they set up a home here. They did not want to be polluted by those in charge.

We part as friends.

I tell them one last stop here and then we will all go home.

"You'll love this."

We land in the same park as the ship was in. I walk up to a man frozen. My people are laughing as I push that one over and we become invisible to that man.

We can see his confusion as he sees everyone else frozen.

Back at home, I sit with my mate. Most of my fellow imps are here as I tell them of my first thoughts about being taken out of time. I thought that time hated me. I now know that it was just the opposite.

Time Drifters

It’s funny, sitting here on our porch in this valley that we own. No one bothers us. You see, this valley is cursed, haunted. strange lights, rumbling noise, even the air seems to shimmer. Ones who have tried to investigate these strange phenomena’s have walked or have been carried away sick. Some have had their minds broken. Now, even the government has cordoned off this valley as too dangerous.

They have cameras that alert them when anyone tries to gain access. You see, any form of aircraft that flies over this valley, crashes due to total electronic failure. Time distortion will cause that. This is how we like it. They have never seen our real home or us.

My mate and I are time travelers. The area we live in is concealed in a time bubble. We are immortals from a race of time wanderers. We are the last of our kind. The reason for that will be explained later.

We were from a planet of what this world would call, anal retentive. Our society could not stand any untruths. To that end they figured out how to check the truth. That research led to the genetic development of a portion of our race to be able to step along the ribbon of time.

Time is a linear structure. Past, present and future are all accessible and we can interact. We are not to change it but we are able to access the knowledge of that particular time. To our world, rumors and conspiracy theories are abhorrent. They needed to know the truth in its entirety.

We always have the ability to produce exact copied the currency. That way we could stay for as long as needed

Everything was fine until some team, while we were on a mission, found something that perverted the minds of the elite. Once it was found to be a delight to them, they lost interest in the truth and sought out their perversions.

On our last visit, we protested what happened. In no uncertain terms we were told to leave and never come back, if we did we would be fair game for entertainment. We left all behind, even our possessions and a home. We left with only what we had with us.

After wandering for a long time. But to us, what is time. We went to a lot of worlds that had no life on them. We were able to gather minerals and gems. You see, we had found an area that we wanted to settle.

It was decided that we liked the western portion of a warm world. There is a very large area that even the natives of the area will not enter. Cursed, haunted

and other legends. Just right for someone that does not want to be bothered.

We have been squirrelling away those minerals and gems in a cavern protected with an illusionary barrier covering the opening. More trips mean more riches. Now there is enough. We found that there is a ranch that also has that valley as part of its property.

It was a strange negotiation with the owner but instead of just a bill of sale, we had a contract that the property was ours and our family in perpetuity. It was a generous cash amount so the sale went through. We made sure that this was also registered with the state land office. With a very large donation, it was recorded that our family owned it forever.

The ranch house is always kept in good repair. We make sure that we have workers from the town come and do that. The only thing is that we have made our actual home in the valley. No one ever comes there.

Being able to return to a planet to check on their progress, we have the ability to change our appearance. We age with the town until the ones that were there have died. Then our children appear saying that we had died. Of course, it is us but a slight change. Sometimes I am the heir and others she is the heir.

We love being able to travel but also we love our home. Over time we have been tempted to return to our home world to see if they have changed but we decide each time that it just is not worth it. We have effectively divorced them.

That turns out to be the right decision. One day, we both felt a world scream in horror. We know it could only be our home world. Then silence. It was then that we picked up the warning being broadcast over space frequencies.

“This planet has been frozen in time by the god of time. Do not attempt to enter. These people are an abomination. Do their evil and suffer the consequences. The gods are watching. This is your only warning.”

Moments later we were visited by the god of time. He was with his clan. He was formal at first. Telling us that we were judged to be guiltless and would not suffer the punishment. They described what could be only described as absolute horror. Trapped in your own mind forever. We were warned that we would be watched.

After that, before they asked if they could visit from time to time, friendly of course. We felt no malice and told them that they were welcome. In passing he did say that they would cause some disturbance to reinforce the curse.

They have come from time to time. His clan is absolutely enjoyable. They love to mess with anyone that tries to enter the valley, they aren’t called imps for nothing.

The avenger

Just leave me alone

I have a past life that ended in a great pain in the ass. I rose from a nobody, saved some lives, defended the realm. I even deposed a corrupt king. I was made king and lived that life. I had many wives and many children. We raised them to be good citizens of the kingdom. One of the youngest poisoned me in my sleep.

His mother was one of the last in my harem. She was among the few that did not die in their sleep. We were all at that elder age and she was younger.

Waking up in the morning. Yes, it is a cliché, I do not recognize the ceiling. It looks like a cabin. I look around and notice my hands. They show absolutely no sign of the arthritic joints. Nothing really hurts. I get up and find a bowl of water on a simple wash stand.

I do not recognize the young man in the water's reflection. Shit. I sit back down on the bed. I did have that nagging feeling that something was going on. I went to bed feeling good. I was having a peaceful week. Now, here I am. I died in my other life. That is the only thing that this could be.

Then it hit me like a board across the back of my head. I'm free. I need to go outside and spy my surroundings. I almost sprint out the door.

Where I am, it is late spring. All the nature sound floods my ears. Birds singing claiming their territory. Bugs and the smell of fresh. The area is a small cleared area. There is a modest garden started. I am surrounded by woods. But I am also almost at the top of the area. I can see into the valley. There is no indication of anyone around.

It hit me. I'm back to being a nobody. I loved my wives but now, I'm free. I have all my memories from that life. This time I can avoid those pitfalls. Avoid everybody, stay in the background. Be that nobody that can just live his life.

Someday I will find a wife but that is not a concern right now. I have to see just what I have and what I need. First, I need to turn the cabin.

Whoever put me here knew what they were doing. I have everything to preserve food, from simple drying meat to canning. I notice that there are root vegetables still good buried in sand under a trap door in the floor. There is all the traps and weapons needed to get meat.

I have a collection of books and maps. There is a journal that has every aspect of where every resource is. Evidently, I also have the blacksmith skills. One thing that throws me. The journal mentions a door under the bed. This has me curious so I move the bed. There was nothing that I could see other than an odd knot hole in a board.

Looking at it, I see a nail in it that looks like it was driven into the knot but the knot itself has long since vanished. I stick my finger in it and a chunk of the floor hinged up. There was a stair way. I see a candle on a shelf near the top and a flint. I lite the candle and descend into a very large room. The first thing that sticks out is a large array of fighting weapons and what looks like a costume that includes a facial mask. There is a desk and chair. On that desk is a piece of paper. I sit and read the letter.

“To my next,

I now know that my time is up. My role is complete and I go to the final life full of pride. You who are reading this, you are now a silent avenger. You are just waking to this life. I congratulate you. Like I was, when I woke, your past life was a life of justice but you made the same mistake I did. You did not retreat into anonymity. You fell into the fame life and were betrayed by someone close. You now know that you are in a self sufficient life. In a short time, you will find that you will sense danger. You have the ability to jump to that area. The costume will adjust to you. It will protect your identity. Never go as you are. It will lead you to your old mistake. These weapons will not fail you. Only your lack of remaining in the background will. I wish you the best. It will be one week before your abilities fully take effect. In this desk is a bottomless bag. It has a never ending amount of coin. When your jump ability manifests itself, there is a village miles to the north. There is an isolated area short of it. Just think and that area will appear. Step to it and go to the village. They are friends that will recognize you as me. You will know them. You are just a good man that wanders their area. You help out and they like you.

Live, rescue then disappear.”

This is a lot to digest. Out of curiosity, I put on the costume and it did adjust to me. It really is very nondescript. There is nothing that would cause someone to say, that’s the person. The mask finishes the look. The weapons are very lethal, very sharp. The strange thing is that when I hold them, I feel where they fit on the costume. I attach them and they disappear. I try something.

I hold out my hand and think sword. It is now in my hand. I touch it back to where it goes and it vanishes. This works for the daggers and other things. I just have to think. Now I wonder what of the vast collection do I take. I tell myself that it will come to me. I return the weapons to their position on the display and take off the costume.

Now the door is back in place, the bed is returned. The thing I realized just now was that the bed looks very heavy but I picked it up like it was paper. I go back outside and spot a very large rock. I walked over and, with little effort, I was able to pick it up and move it. I set it down then notice there is something that is carved into it.

“I did the same thing. Put the rock back with this message down for the time when your replacement lifts it. Yes, you are that strong”

Damn. I put the rock back. Time to explore my area. It’s funny but it is not. Added memories. The stream is this way. I need to clean up in the hot spring area. I give up, I

no longer will try to figure out how I know. I walk and there it is. A nicely finished spring. There is the small shed that I know has the soap and towels. There is also a change of clothes.

I need to pull the basket from the stream, take the wash out and hang it to dry in the shed. I feel the magic emanating from it. I take out the dry clothes and set them on an all too convenient flat rock. I hang up the clean but wet clothes, then take my current clothes, put them in the basket then returned it to the stream. Quite a system. I soap up in the stream and wash off. It is cold water but that immediately goes away when I sit in the spring pools warmth. It is just the right temperature.

Sitting there, I remember that I forgot the water container, but, there in the shed is an empty. I will just need to make another trip here with the cabin empty. I soak for what feels like hours. Over the past decades of my previous life, I cannot remember when I was this stress free. I just want to stay here and dissolve.

I get out, dry off and fill the water container. As I am returning, there is a sight that appears in my mind. The letter said that this week would be learning my new powers. I get back to the cabin. Grabbing what I would think that a wanderer would carry, I pick up the back pack and a sword. I also take that empty water container to the shed.

As I close the door, the area resurfaces in my mind and I see it before me. The letter said just walk through it so I do and find myself there. I now can hear the sounds of humans. Walking in the direction of the village, I start to see people and they are going out of their way to greet me. I am able to call them by name and have memories of them.

I ask general questions on how things are going? How are the children? Specific but generic. The village itself comes into view and I get a warm feeling. I see someone trying to set a large box onto their wagon. I run over and pick it up for them and set it on their wagon.

“Tom, you have a good habit of showing up at the right time. I know you do not accept any reward so I will give you your usual.” He holds out his hand and we shake.

“George, I always say this but you make sure that those young men of yours help you unload or I will come and show them what good hard work can do.”

We both laugh. I love this. No bowing, no titles, no people sucking up to me. Just genuine happiness to have me around. This is why that letter said for me to retreat to the background. I have the strength and knowledge to become a leader but I don’t want that. This friendship is ultimately what is what I want to protect.

I go through the village and everyone wants to talk. The biggest thing is the news that a kingdom, countries away, is crumbling since its old king passed away a year ago. The youngest took the throne and is a tyrant. All who were his relatives, including his own mother have all died due to a curse that hit the palace.

It hurts to hear that all was gone but that was my foolishness of my last life. I will tell them that I am sorry when it is my time to leave that letter. For now, all I say is that is the reason I like this area. We are so out of the way as to be of no concern.

Pete jokes, “They do take notice of us only when the tax man shows up for the yearly tax.”

“How is that going?” I ask, knowing that this is a poor village. I also know that they know I lie. “It should be anytime now.”

They all look concerned. “We are short and will not be able to raise it before he comes. That should be some time soon.” I reach in my bag and pull out ten gold.

“I found this on my rounds. It was in an old shack I stayed in overnight. It was under a rotted floorboard that I stepped through. Almost broke my ankle. I don’t want it. I only brought it to give to this town for whatever you needed.”

Charles looks at me and shakes his head. “You told us that last year. You are such a terrible liar.”

“You caught me. What do I really need money for. I do find more than you would think. I believe that the gods have seen what I do with it and put these where I can find it. I will ask them to make me a better liar.”

We all laugh. I am treated to a home cooked meal that is better than any royal banquet I had. Simple but with love as the flavoring. Full day, full belly, I am offered a place to stay for the night but I tell them that I just need to roam. “We’ll see you again. Soon”

I go out the other end of the village like I always do. Out of sight I think and see the cabin. I step through and sit down in my cabin. It really is a good life that I now will protect. I know that I will have to answer the calls but now I will just be the silent avenger.

During the next couple of days, I find that I do now have magic, basic but the most useful is conceal. I can conceal my presence from any and all who have the skill of detect. That is needed for those who I go against and those who want to thank me.

I also have an unbeatable hand to hand combat skill that allows me to see their attack movements. Even behind me is not out of my sight. There are others that I can call on. I now can see that I will pass on only to old age, not poison.

The day happened, I was at the table eating when I got a very rotten feeling and a location vision. I went to the room and donned the costume. I did not try to think. I just reached to the weapons board and took a few items. They were stowed and were out of sight. I put on the mask.

Putting my room in order again, I step out of the cabin and into the scene of the robbery.

There were quite a few armed men and surprisingly two women robbing a coach. They had killed one man and were going after another while one of the men were in the coach trying to rape the woman. Conceal worked. I killed the man in the coach and came out to start to kill the others. The two women tried to plead that they were innocent but that did not matter. They died like the others. The man that was battling held up his sword to defend against me. He was badly hurt.

I found that I was not speaking, I instantly knew that it could give me away. I put my weapons away and showed him my open palms. look at the robbers and slash my thumb across my throat then pointed to his injury. I swept my hand down my arm as if I am brushing the injury away.

He gets it and lowers his sword. I touch the injury and it heals then I raise my palm towards the woman and she feels a weight lift off her.

“Who are you?” he asks, “I need to properly thank you.”

I wave him off and point to him that he needs to drive away. Then I again activate conceal. I see them look around and then he drives the coach away. I walk away a little and when they are out of sight, I loot the bodies for their possessions. More gold to find under a rotten floor board.

Back at my cabin, I put away all my things and put the bed back.

I am startled when a woman appears and tells me that she was correct to select me.

“You will never come in contact with anyone from your old life but when the time comes to move on, all but one of your wives will be waiting for you in the forever life. That last one is on a devastated planet where she will live for eternity. Your assassin son will be executed in a few days and he also will be on a different torched world. Your oldest escaped with his family and will rebuild your kingdom in the good way you taught him. Be well, stay out of the fame. “

She just faded out. I figure that she was the god that placed me here so I said thank you to the air.

I fell into a relaxing routine but saw the opening towards the village in my mind. I now know the god must be directing me. Pack and sword in hand I step through and go to the village. It’s not the usual layback feeling.

Charles comes over and is excited. “The tax man is here and he has a marvelous tale to tell.” He drags me over to where I see the same coach that I helped a few days ago. I act normal. I listen to the tale of ow they were almost killed when a mysterious stranger just appeared out of nowhere, killed all the robbers and just as quickly disappeared.

I caught myself almost asking about the injury but stopped myself. I was silent and then spotted someone and went to talk to her. “Thank you again. This time for stopping from asking a dumb question.”

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