Prompted by a cryptic message, five polcs secretly leave Teloria to embark on a journey to discover many truths. It is dangerous, in this time of war, and soon our five heroes find themselves travelling to farther lands than they had anticipated, where they discover their Stardust Destinies.

#### Also by Celinka Serre

Healing Through Humour (series of scene-and-image capsules)

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# Stardust Destinies 1

VARIATE FACING

by

CELINKA SERRE

Edited by Marg Gilks

Cover Art by Sophie Brunet

Binky Ink A division of Binky Productions

www.binkyproductions.com/stardustdestinies

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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

Publsihed by Binky Ink
Edited by Marg Gilks
Cover Art by Sophie Brunet

ISBN: 978-0-9919965-2-0

Dedicated to Milu and Seb

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

his book has seen a lot of changes before publication was possible. The journey of these five main characters began when I was only 19. Ideas were fresh, but like our Telorian friends, the journey of writing would soon take me to more places, allowing the story to ripen.

On this journey, there are many people who helped and contributed to making this publication possible.

The first person I'd like to acknowledge is my teacher and mentor from CEGEP, Gary Plaxton at Dawson College, who has sadly since passed away. He read passages of this book, saw a scene become a video in class, and encouraged me to keep writing and to one day publish. Gary was my mentor for several years after I graduated and many of his teachings have inspired me and motivated me throughout the years.

I also need to thank my mother, who was one of my very first test readers. She is the person who has seen me working on this project the most and who has always pushed me when I needed a nudge to pursue this dream and to never give up.

My husband is another person who has seen me work on this, and then talk and talk and talk about it. Simply having someone with whom to bounce ideas around for my publication plans was a great help and motivation when I encountered any challenges along the way.

Next up, when I began searching for an editor, I knew I wanted someone who would be on this journey with me for all my books and who would enjoy editing the story as much as I've enjoyed writing it. Marg Gilks ticked all the boxes and we clicked right away. As my editor, she was able to enhance the story in the way that it needed, and at the same time, preserve its authenticity in the way that I needed.

Someone else who is a part of the team is my cover artist. I've known Sophie Brunet since I was very young, both our mothers being long-time friends. I remember speaking to her about doing my cover art way before I had completed writing the story itself. I've always admired her style of painting and knew that together we would be able to shape the book with creative imagery in a way that would reflect the symbols found within its pages.

Last but not least, I must thank all those who helped with promoting this book, friends and family alike, and everyone who has become a devoted reader over the course of this publication process. Our journey has only begun, and the future of our shared experience is written in the stars and prophecised by the dragons themselves.

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#### **PREFACE**

elcome to the Great Ocean Valley, where magic reigns and the dragons rule the prophecies. I invite you to take a look at *The Stardust Destinies Appendices* that accompany this book to familiarise yourself with this new realm, because the world of Stardust Destinies functions quite differently from many others. You will find them as a free download at:

http://www.binkyproductions.com/ stardustdestinies.

In Appendix 1, *Telorian History*, you will learn how the polcs of Teloria exist, and how they measure time and age.

In Appendix 2, *Kaulchèc History*, you will discover how magic came to be in the lands of the Great Ocean Valley.

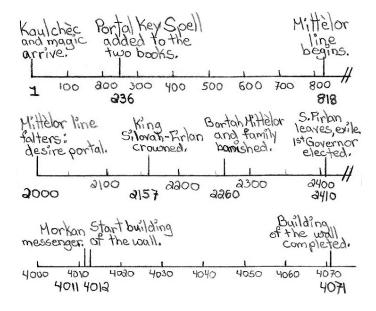
In Appendix 3, *Counting Time*, the seasons and how Telorians keep track of time are explained.

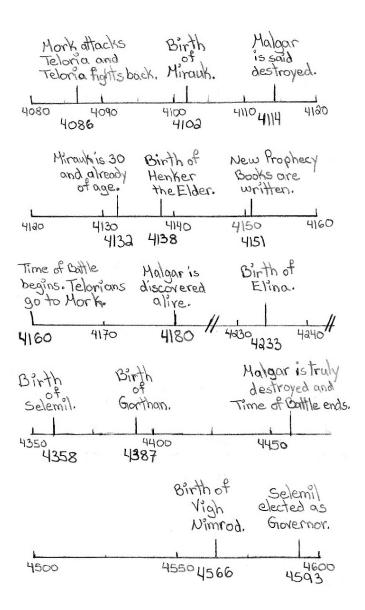
Appendix 4, *Polken Talk*, is a brief summary of speech and spells.

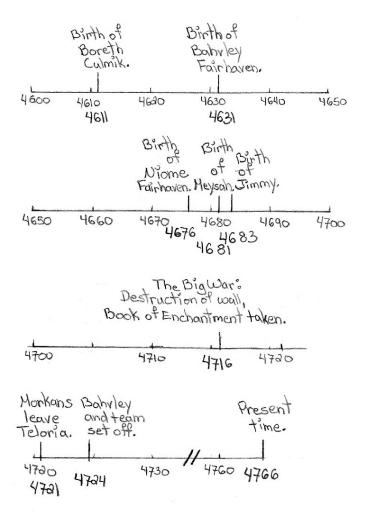
You will also find more complete maps of the Great Ocean Valley and its main countries.

However, it is in Appendix 5, A Dark Force Growing, where you will learn about all the evil that has befallen Teloria and its people, and discover the dark lord behind all the attacks—learn about his power, where he comes from, and what his dark motives might be. The power he wields is unique in Kaulchèc History. Be advised that, although you may look upon these historical texts and study the lore of this world, you should never look into the eyes of the great evil that is Mirauk, for his curse is greater than any magic that has yet been prophesied by any living being, save the dragons.

### TIMELINE OF KAULCHÈC HISTORY







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