

Queen's Own

***The Official Mercedes Lackey &
Larry Dixon Fan Club***

Series 3, Vol. 23, No. 7

August 2021



Valdemar Crest

By

Larry Dixon

Heyla, Misty fans!

Lots of good stuff in this newsletter! We've had a ton of communication from Misty and Larry, much of which is detailed below.

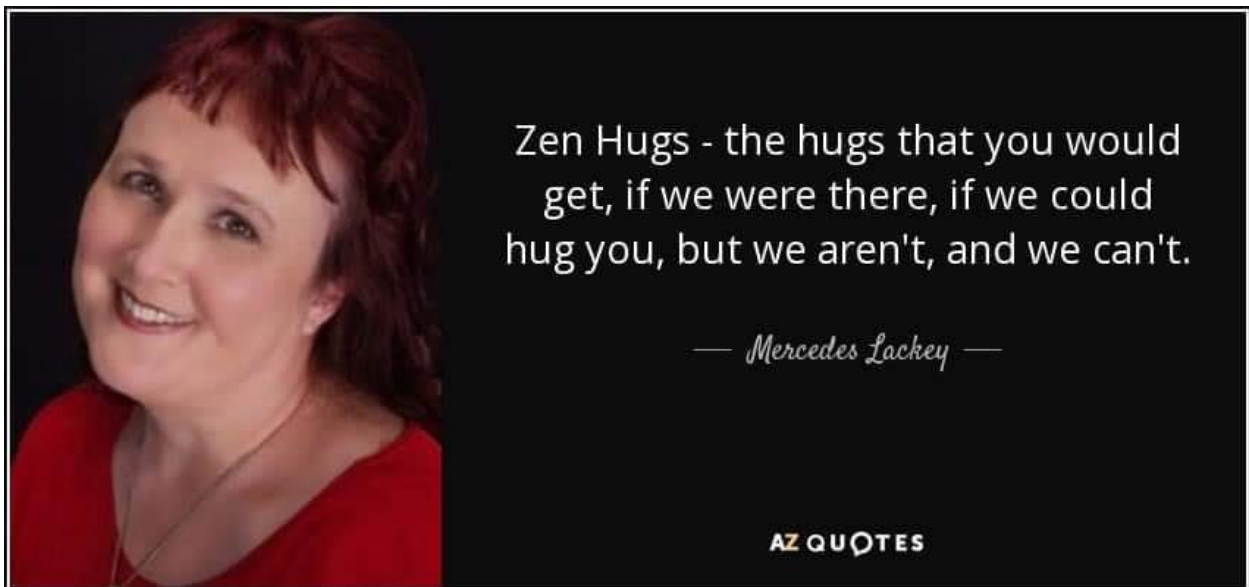
Larry is working on a special logo for Queen's Own, which will be carried on items in their new merchandise line.

The books from the world of Valdemar have been optioned and will be made into a TV series, starting with *The Last Herald Mage!* Keep an eye on our Facebook Lists for updates. (Reminder: In case you didn't already know, we have a Vanyel Fan Club on Facebook. A book study of *Magic's Promise* will be starting soon.)

Stay tuned! More good news is coming our way.

Zhai'helleva,

Herald-Mage Adept Danya Winterborn





Collegium News:

We have individual handouts for aspiring Heralds, Healers, Bards, Blues, Mercenaries, Tayledras, Shin'a'in, and White Winds Sorcerers/Sorceresses and instructions on how to work for Herald-Mage status if you are already a Herald or for a Kal'enedral if you are already a Shin'a'in. You can find these handouts online at <http://www.dragonlordsnet.com/qohandouts.htm>.

All personae materials should be submitted by e-mail to queensownnewsletter@gmail.com

- Welcome **Apprentice Priestess Scarlet** brought to us by *T. Scarlet Jory*. She has written her biography, about her family and friends, she is certified in First Aid and CPR, and a 10-page paper on how Scarlet chose to follow her path.

We have some personae who have not been formally announced yet. Is yours one of them? Let us know!

If you are a returning member who has recently activated your membership in Queen's Own and we have forgotten to list your welcome message, contact Danya at Shashtah@gmail.com and she'll make sure you are greeted in the next newsletter.

Special Perk! If you have a Facebook account, you can join the Secret Room to RP with your persona and to attend the QO RP events. **The QO RPs are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM PST.** (Please note we do NOT meet in November or December due to the holidays). You are cordially invited!



Valdemar Merch Announcement

Misty and Larry, in partnership with The Fantasy Network, are soon launching a new line of merch at [High Flight Arts](#).

But first, they want to hear from you!

[This poll](#) is your opportunity to share what YOU want to see created and to vote for your favorite fan submissions. Check it out and [get your votes in!](#)

A Letter from Ben

Hi everyone!

This is Ben writing on behalf of Misty and Larry. It's been quite a year and there's a lot to share.

The big news, of course, is that Beyond is published! Have you had a chance to read it yet?

Of course, this has also been the Year of the Pandemic. Misty and Larry remain safe at home, writing and creating art and not going out.

Nonetheless, the year has taken its toll. A few months ago, they reached out to me to ask about finding new ways to support their creative efforts, especially as they grow older. My background is in community building and crowdfunding, allowing fans to directly support the creators who they love. After a lot of discussion, groundwork, and planning, I'm excited to announce that we're working on campaigns to meet two important needs: providing Misty and Larry's fandom with cool new Valdemar merch and creating more financial security for Misty and Larry. We'd especially like to help them stay on top of medical bills and house repairs.

Over the next few weeks, I'll be connecting with you on social media, launching a Valdemar Discord server ([and joining an active Mercedes Lackey Discord community](#)), sharing some audiobook codes from Misty, and [opening a poll](#) where you'll help choose what merch you most want to see in upcoming fundraising campaigns for Misty and Larry. My belief is that we can accomplish incredible things when we pool knowledge and resources in service of a shared goal. Right now, that goal is security and stability for a couple of amazing creators!

If you want to sign up for Misty and Larry's new email list right away, the link is <https://www.highflightarts.com> (click the "Get Exclusive Updates" button).

If you're wondering who I am, I met Misty and Larry a few years ago when I collaborated on a screenplay with Larry (The Gamers: The Shadow Menace!). We subsequently shared a booth at Gen Con and have built an ongoing friendship. I work as an independent filmmaker at Zombie Orpheus Entertainment and co-founded The Fantasy Network. I strongly believe in supporting the artists who inspire us and have taken on this ongoing project for Misty and Larry as a way of thanking them for decades of incredible stories and art.

Sincerely,
Ben Dobyns



Story Prompt:

As always, if you would like any story published you can submit it to Herald Nalei Rayskeline for Golden Grove: sn.keeper@yahoo.com with Golden Grove in the subject line.

The ninja cat stalked it's prey from behind the door frame. The prey approached unaware down the long dark hall.

[If any other fanzine editors would like to send us story prompts, we'd be happy to publish them!]



Twitter Story from our Gryphon King:

Hello, friends.

It is #GryphonAppreciationDay. I've found myself singled out here and there. If you don't mind, I have some commentary and history to share. Once upon a time, there was a wonderful lady named Andre Norton.

There's much I could share about how kind she was, but many other have said more, and better than I can. As a child I scavenged SFF digests from library discard piles and knew Andre's work from them. "Catseye" by Andre was the first book I bought with my own money. Andre wrote with a clever timelessness, through now, of course, reading her work mindful of the times they were written in makes them even better. I built up my career, after being invited into SFF by Anne McCaffrey and Michael Whelan. Eventually I was introduced to Andre. She was a person that simultaneously made me want to sit up straight because she was a dignified lady, yet also, I felt comfortable with her. We instantly became pals, then friends. Andre was pretty hip, too, though the tyranny of time makes that less obvious now. She wrote "Quag Keep" after trying these "role playing games" I was on about at the time and fan's of @kierongillen's DIE might dig its nostalgic groove. Andre also loved gryphons. It wasn't about rawr, fierce, empire-shredding mayhem and body-stacking. For that, everyone already had dragons. No, like me Andre liked gryphons because they were pretty. Historically, they were ubiquitous, but never quite had a starring role. There was a poem or folk tale here and there, but gryphons were their own thing. Andre thought I drew the best gryphons around. In all candor, there were VERY few fantasy artists at the time, compared to now, and few gryphons illos/covers/etc. but still. I drew them with love and Andre gave me the nickname "The Gryphon King." I loved it. I still do. It's the TGK in my name, here. One day I suggested to Misty, "You know what I bet Andre would like? A book with a gryphon as a viewpoint character."

Much as we'd like to, we SFF creators do age, and with age comes stress and strain and fatigue. Gryphons always seemed to cheer Andre up, though. So I cam up with some characters – Skandranon, Amberdrake, Xhaneel, Aubri, Kechara and so forth—and did some sketches. I'd found a SINGLE reference to "gryphons" in Misty's work up 'til then, but it was enough to build a mythology around. Of course, it was the open-shirt, wistful-eyed Amberdrake pic that sold the series; Betsy Wollheim pointed and said, "I want a book series with HIM in it."

I think Skan is still secretly jealous. And also, we built the Mage Wars books: Black/White/Silver; Person/Place/Thing. Misty & I crafted The Black Gryphon with loving care, making it an “everything” book – a war story, intrigue, romance, coming-of-age, high magic, and more. To my great honor, Donald Wollheim wanted it as the 1st illustrated DAW book they had done in several decades. Skan is certain it’s because of him. Some of you may have seen this picture; the frontispiece of Black Gryphon (ink and brush, techliner, sponge, frisket). The Black Gryphon hit with a profoundly unexpected reception. Something in it reached people on levels we’d only hoped it might reach a few people at best. And, on it goes. So now on Gryphon Appreciation Day the thing I’d like you all to take along with you about my tale is this: Many of you look to these books as your balm, your awakening, your thrill and even your comfort, and I am honored beyond words by that. I adore the support and love you show me as a creator and being your Gryphon King is a title I proudly bear. But the main thing, THE MAIN THING, my friends, is that it all started by me wanting to give a smile to a friend. In this case, by breathing life into some particular gryphons (themselves inspired by Urtho’s love of gryphons myths), pouring in love.

Like Marvel’s Longshot, the power to do remarkable things, however improbable, can be there if you keep your motives pure. Misty and I do the best we can, with the skills we have, in the time we’ve got, towards making life better for the lost, lonely, sad, and hopeful. Sometimes, when you feel adrift about what to do, pursuing the simple thought of “Hey, I bet ___ would like this” can give you full sail and strong rudder, and from those legacies can be born. Happy Gryphon Appreciation Day, everyone. We hope you like what’s coming.





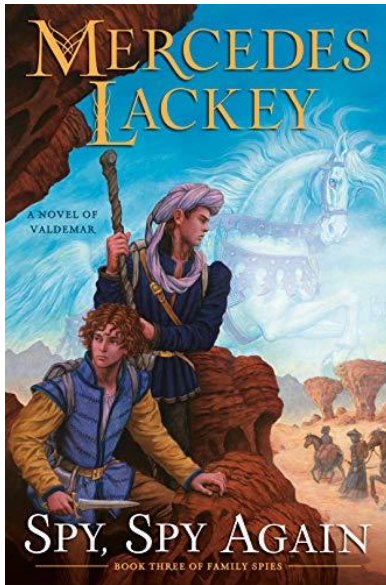
Bardic Sunset

By

Angela K. Scott



Contest Announcements



Book Review Contest: Please send along book reviews for any of the Valdemar books, old or new. Please keep the reviews spoiler free. All entrants will be featured within our new book review section of the newsletter, unless requested otherwise. The winner will be announced once we have received at least 3 entries and prize which is a Hard Cover book copy of Spy, Spy Again (Family Spies Book 3). This contest has been extended because we have not had any submissions. Please send in your submissions via email (queensownnewsletter@gmail.com).



Book Review

Beyond by Mercedes Lackey

Length: 377 pages

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

Rating: 8 out of 10

Summary:

Duke Valdemar is following the plan handed down to him by multiple generations. We learn who he trusts and why, and just how extensive the plan is. Just as it seems this will be the main plot line, he is summoned to the capitol, and into the great game of houses. We know he will be over his head in this. Thankfully due to some unexpected allies, he has help maneuvering this mine field. His sense of duty fills him with the compulsion to add most

everyone he comes across to his grand plan, making it much more dangerous by leaps and bounds.

My Thoughts:

I had several favorite parts of this book. First the book starts with the Duke in a stable, with a farting horse...well okay, a farting horse in labor. Definitely not where you expect to find nobility. Another favorite part of the book is when the Duke names his allies, I found it sweet. And finally, without giving spoilers his return from the empire is epic. Let me know what do you think of the book? How did you like my favorite parts? Did you have different favorite parts? I would recommend this book as it felt a fun adventurous return to Valdemar before there was a Valdemar.

Werehunter by Mercedes Lackey

Length: 288 pages

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

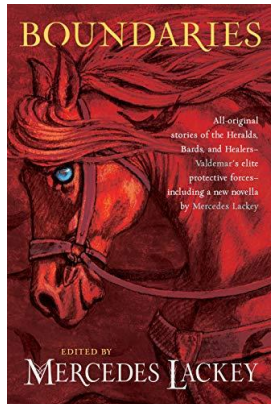
Summary & Thoughts:

Recently I was looking for something new to read and I came across an ebook called **Werehunter** by Misty, which turned out to be a collection of Misty's short stories from quite a while ago. How do I know these are old? She prefaces each of the stories with a bit about where they were originally published. The preface for the one Valdemar short story says it's the only Valdemar short story she's ever written. There are several stories she did for Andre Norton anthologies and magazines, along with some other anthologies and magazines. Two of the stories feature Sarah and Nan, including the story of how they met. Because the stories are so short, I don't want to say much about them, but I've been really enjoying this book, and now I have a few new authors and universes to explore.

There are two stories that need warnings, 'The Last of the Season' which is written from the perspective of a child molester and 'Desert Fox' is not set during WWII but does heavily feature Rommel and his tactics during that time.



Publication News:



Boundaries, is available for pre-release orders at this link <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B091KF866S>

The paperback and Kindle versions will be available on December 7th .

Note from Amazon: This fifteenth anthology of short stories set in the beloved Valdemar universe features tales by debut and established authors and a brand-new story from Lackey herself.

Please send us reviews of any of Misty's works, old or new. We love to hear from you!

We have found a link to buy used copies of Misty's books for reasonable costs:

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/>

We have found a link for purchasing Misty's books:

https://www.bookbub.com/authors/mercedes-lackey?list=author_books

This link can buy all Misty's books in any format you would like. When I selected one of her books, I was given the link to several online shops: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Google, Apple and Kobo. I like that I have the option regardless of my personal preference of tablet, paperback, hardback, new, used, audiobook. Check it out and let us know what you get, we are always looking for more reviews!



FINALLY, TELEVISION NEWS!

From: <https://deadline.com/2021/08/valdemar-universe-fantasy-book-tv-series-1234807994/>

‘Valdemar Universe’ Fantasy Book Series In The Works For TV From Kit Williamson, Brittany Cavallaro & Radar Pictures

By Peter White, August 3, 2021



EXCLUSIVE: *Jumanji* producer Radar Pictures is adapting Mercedes Lackey's Valdemar literary universe for television.

The company, founded by Interscope Records co-founder Ted Field, who is an exec producer on Amazon's *The Wheel of Time* series, has acquired the small screen rights to the books, which number 58 over more than 30 years.

Kit Williamson, who created Netflix's LGBTQ comedy series *EastSiders*, is adapting with author Brittany Cavallaro, who wrote the *Charlotte Holmes* series of books. The pair bonded over the books in school and will now write and produce the TV adaptation.

The series will be executive produced by Field, who has produced films including the *Jumanji* franchise, the *Riddick* franchise, *Amityville*

Horror and *The Last Samurai*. Anthony Tringali, Maria Frisk and Michael Napoliello will produce for Radar.

The first season will be adapted from the *Last Herald-Mage* trilogy, comprising of *Magic's Pawn*, which was first published in 1989, *Magic's Price* and *Magic's Promise*.

The series centers around openly gay heroic protagonist Vanyel, the persecuted and abused son of a Valdemaran noble, who finds acceptance at Haven when he is Chosen by the Companion Yfandes. Companions like Yfandes are magical horse-like beings with the power to bond with their Chosen and trigger the potential for psychic abilities—and magic.

But Vanyel discovers other things about himself at Haven as well. He discovers love in an unexpected place, and loses it, and nearly his own life. With Yfandes and his aunt, Herald Savil, he will travel to the home of the mysterious Hawkbrothers in search of healing and training and will grow from a troubled and heartbroken Trainee to become the most powerful Herald-Mage in the history of Valdemar—and the one hope for Valdemar against an implacable foe bent on eradicating magic from the Kingdom entirely.

Lackey said, “I have hoped for decades that *The Last Herald-Mage* would be adapted for television. Now that Radar has optioned the trilogy, I am nearly breathless with excitement. I could not have chosen a better organization to take my work in hand, and Kit and Bri, the producers, absolutely know both their stuff and the material. I love the fact that this is going to be a longform series: episodic TV gives the story all the room it needs. I hope our fans will be as thrilled to see their favorite characters come to life as I am.”

“Vanyel in *The Last Herald Mage* series was one of the first gay characters I encountered, and as a recently out 16-year-old I can’t stress enough the impact that these books had on me. The Valdemar series was far ahead of its time in the portrayal of LGBTQ characters, and Lackey’s writing afforded them a level of depth and complexity that is still very rare, especially in genre storytelling,” said Williamson.

“It’s an absolute dream to be adapting the Valdemar books alongside Radar Pictures and Kit Williamson. Twenty years ago, Kit and I became friends at boarding school, and bonded over our love for Mercedes Lackey’s work, and we’re so excited to begin the process of bringing it to the screen,” Cavallaro added.

Radar partner Michael Napoliello said, “Radar is honored to bring this series to life for its many fans.”

Radar Pictures is repped by United Talent Agency. Kit Williamson and Brittany Cavallaro are repped by Buchwald, and Mercedes Lackey is repped by Russell Galen at Scovil Galen Ghosh Literary Agency.



From Herald-Mage Adept Danya Winterborn:

Well, I moved and cleverly fell, breaking my shoulder in three places, the first night I was in my new apartment. I'd really give a lot to have a real Valdemaran Healer around about now. The hospital sent me home with a sling and a few Motrin, which absolutely do not cut it when you have three breaks clean through the bone. Living alone isn't a great plan, either. Fortunately, dearest Moonstar has been performing heroic feats to get me (mostly) out of boxes. My desk broke beyond repair in the move, and in a spectacular feat of bad timing Amazon delivered the new one two days after I had someone here who could put it together.

I'm working with the screenwriter/showrunner for the Dragonlords of Dumnonia TV series. All's going well so far.

The Roman King Arthur (or whatever we're calling it this week) is in press. One more plate from the British Museum, and the MS is finished!

Zhai'helleva,

Danya



E-Resources:

Misty's official page: <http://www.mercedeslackey.com/>

The Queen's Own website is at <http://www.dragonlordsnet.com/qo.htm> (I do need to update it, but a lot of good information is available there and some is actually current!)

The Queen's Own Facebook page is here:
<https://www.facebook.com/queensownfanclub/>

The Queen's Own Facebook group is here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1607409292715707/>

Misty's Facebook page is here: <https://www.facebook.com/MercedesLackey/>

The Mercedes Lackey Fanclub group on Facebook is here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2205058863/>

The Queen's Own (Valdemar Fan Club) Facebook group is here:
<https://www.facebook.com/queensownfanclub/>

Mercedes Lackey Discord Server (over 5k followers)
<https://discord.gg/bookclub>

Amazon has a Mercedes Lackey page: http://www.amazon.com/Mercedes-Lackey/e/B000APZNR0/ref=sr_tc_2_0?qid=1459664793&sr=8-2-ent

Barnes and Noble has a page for Misty here:
https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/contributor/mercedes-lackey/_/N-2khg

If you know of any other e-resources, please let us know!



Chapters & Zines:

Fanfiction can now be published long as you designate that you are doing so under a Creative Commons license. You may not make any money off your fiction and you may NOT write a Valdemar novel.

- **Children of Velgarth:** Editor: Kendra Hosseini, aka Healer Adept Moonstar; E-mail: Queensownnewsletter@gmail.com. I publish new and old personae, even previously published persona if asked by members in this new, official QO zine. I will only accept what was sent in for your persona to Queen's Own to be recognized. Any fan fiction written later should be sent to one of the other zines who need it to keep their zines going. This fanzine will be published periodically when it reaches 80 pages or so. Zines will be available online only, and completely free. The zines will be in PDF format, which use adobe reader available for free from the Adobe website. We have the first 6 vols. available!
- **Golden Grove** is now being published on a quarterly basis. For new subscriptions and to submit stories, poetry, personae requirements or other works-based Misty's stories please e-mail them to sn.keeper@yahoo.com with Golden Grove in the subject line. I am more than happy to help with any editing or beta reading. If anyone has old issues of Golden Grove and can get them to me, you can contact me at the email above. If you can scan them and get me digital copies that would be great, if not and you are willing to part with your copies, I'm willing to pay postage.
- **Queen's Own (Valdemar Fan Club):** Here's the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2202088363/> (This is one of our more active chapters at the moment. Let us know if you see any posts from Misty. "Like" Misty's Facebook page while you're at it!)
- **The Vanyel Fan Club:** Contact: Herald Bastian. Website: <http://www.dragonlordsnet.com/vfcindex.htm>. E-mail: Herald_Bastian@hotmail.com. The *Vanyel Fan Club* is a chapter of QO that started out as an independent fan organization. The chapter is devoted to fans of Herald-Mage Vanyel Ashkevron from *The Last Herald-Mage Trilogy* by Mercedes Lackey.



Personals:

- **Cookbook Project!** Danya is helping to organize a cookbook project, first portion of this project is to sign up with Danya to which books you would like to look through, since this will help minimize duplication of effort. The information requested after you have signed up for a book is (book name, page #, name of food and description of scene). This project is open to all whom would like to join in, and we are hoping to add more details for this project in our next newsletter. Please send inquiries to Herald Mage Danya (shashtah@gmail.com).
- **Waystation Network announcement!** Traveling abroad and looking for a bunk to sleep on without having to fumigate your waystation first...? I have a fold-out couch on offer as well as floor space with extra (air) mattresses, available for wandering bards, heralds on circuit or hawkbrothers in search of an *ekele* (6th floor apartment 😊). So, if you're in the neighborhood (Leeuwarden area, The Netherlands, ± 2 hours north of Amsterdam by train – less by car) just contact me. Hanna B. Email: hannab@online.nl, Phone: +31(0)58 2665915 / +31(0)6 25422809. And wouldn't it be nice to have a whole network of Waystations? If more of you are willing to offer spare beds and couches, I'm willing to set up a list to be available through QO.
- **Ellen Million Graphics** is releasing a new collection of fantasy coloring books for (so-called) grown-ups: Mermaids, dragons, angels, and fantasy horses, oh my! Find these and more at <http://www.ellenmilliongraphics.com/coloringbooks.php>
- **Northwest Visions Studio**--Art by Laura Cameron. Mixed Media Paintings & Drawings, Fine Art Prints, Commissions, Illustration. Visit her website at: <http://www.lauracameron.net/>
- **Dragon Visions** by Linda A. Malcor is out in paperback and eBook! Art by Laura Cameron. You can find it on Amazon and Barnes and Noble

as well as at other online outlets. Get updates on the series at <https://www.facebook.com/malcor.dragonlords/>

- **From Angela K. Scott/** Herald Alora Vadel (Angela Rip Scott-Cox-as formatted on Facebook): I continue to sell off everything I own & make, many misc. items (including Misty related) on eBay, as I am in crisis & this is my only source of any inadequate income & truly in desperate need!

http://www.ebay.com/usr/affliktedangel?_trksid=p2047675.12559

Things under my business name "AKS Creations" -card packs, stationery, bookmarks, art prints, jewelry & etc.! Also, I'm still available for commission work. You can contact me at UnicornAlora@gmail.com.

- **From Marianne D-B:** My sister, who died a few years ago, was a huge Mercedes Lackey fan. I used to read the books with her, and we loved discussing them. She has a number of prints of Larry Dixon's that I imagine some fan would like to have. I'm happy to sell them reasonably. They are all framed prints, each about 9 1/4" x 12" (framed size). Here's what I have:

- Darkwind & Vree, 1991
- Firesong, 1991
- Darkwind & Elspeth, 1991
- Starblade & Hyllar, 1991
- Tre'valen & Dawnfire, 1991
- Silverfox & The Returned Tribe, 1991
- Elspeth & Gwena, 1991
- Iceshadow, 1991

You can contact me at duddyburkem@aol.com.



Queen's Own is the official Mercedes Lackey Appreciation Society. Our purpose is to share our enjoyment of Misty's worlds. We are a fan-run not-for-profit organization, not a business. Our address of publication is no longer physical. We are online at <http://www.dragonlordsnet.com/qo.htm>. We also have a Facebook page and Group chat list.

This newsletter is published solely to inform and entertain the club's membership; no infringement of anyone's copyrights is intended.

Newsletters are published on (or near) the first of each month.

Editor/co-President: Herald-Mage Adept Danya Winterborn (L.A. Malcor Shashtah@gmail.com) Author of **Dragonlords of Dumnonia**:
<http://www.dragonlordsnet.com>

Co-President: Healer Adept Moonstar k'Vala k'Sheyne, (Kendra Hosseini, healermoon@gmail.com)

The featured artists for this newsletter are Larry Dixon, Kendra Hosseini & Angela K Scott and cannot be used or downloaded without their permission. If you would like your art to be featured in the QO newsletter, send .jpgs to queensownnewsletter@gmail.com.

The newsletter will be available online after approximately one week at:
<http://www.dragonlordsnet.com/qonews.htm>