

HISTORY AND MEMORY – THE TERRIBLE QUEEN

Thorn must continue her journey to Kingseat, and leaving the squire she heads north. After several weeks with the weather beginning to change, she reaches a well-known Promontory which overlooks the sea. Here her attention is drawn more to the deep pulse of the Earth, the Moon and the tides. She follows the shoreline east, eventually must turn further inland to follow the road that leads to the final leg of her journey.

The narrowing of the path she takes draws her mind to the passing of time and the greater cycles and segmenting of human history. With fondness she recalls, as a child, and later as an adult, celebrations which followed the passing of a King and the ascension of his Successor to the throne of Kingseat. By custom this entailed an entire week of celebration, where the deeds of the deceased King and those who preceded him are recounted in detail, beginning with the most recent, and going back further in time.

The middle of the week marked an unusual event in this succession, a time when one of the Queens, upon the death of her lord, refused to take her own life according to custom. Instead, she ruled in his place, exiling the Successor to further serve the Kingdom in the field of command.

By tradition this day was set aside for revelry and farce. The noblemen would mock the legacy of the Terrible Queen, the scribes who shared Thorn's ancestry would extol her. And all of it took meaning because meticulous records were kept by the scribes of the deeds of the rulers of the Kingdom and of the deliberate mixing of their blood with the conquered peoples of the realm. Just as importantly, the valor and the accomplishments of those who served outside the throne were recorded, for the vitality of the greater organism.