

THE ROYAL CHRONICLE

A HISTORY OF THE CANTICLE KINGDOM

Queens, knights, hidden songs, and unfinished pages



Preserved from surviving testimony and the hidden history discovered by Rufus

THE BOOK THAT SHOULD NOT EXIST



the kingdom as reconstructed from known landmarks

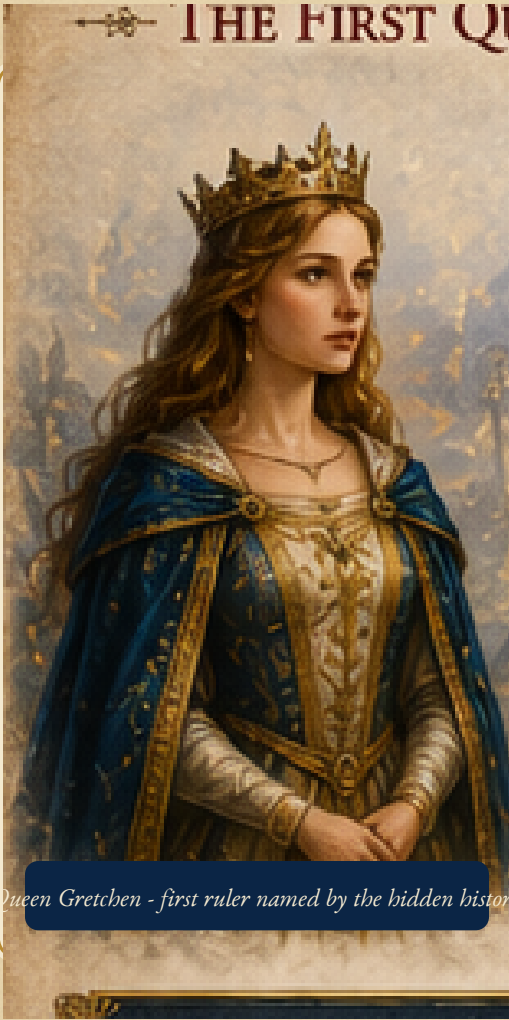
It uncovers an ancient volume titled *A History of the Canticle Kingdom*, its brittle parchment split into two columns, one in a language he cannot read and one in the common tongue. The account contradicts the official histories, continues through the reigns of many queens, and then breaks off suddenly. Blank pages remain after the final entry.

This companion follows that same principle. It gathers what the novel actually reveals, preserves uncertain points as uncertain, and avoids inventing missing queens, dates, or identities. Some statements are direct facts from the surviving record. Others are accusations made by the hidden chronicler and should be read as contested testimony rather than unquestionable truth.

THE REIGN OF GRETCHEN

THE FIRST QUEEN

first queen and the age of founding



Queen Gretchen - first ruler named by the hidden history

The hidden history begins in the reign of Gretchen, the first queen. During her rule, the great palace rose above a sacred structure buried beneath the earth. Below the hill, a town spread through the valley and became a haven for people who had come from many lands.

The founding is remembered not only as an act of construction but as a covenant between crown, people, place, and song. The palace stood above; the sacred edifice waited below; the valley gathered a population; and the noble family carried music among them.

The surviving pages do not supply a calendar date, a list of founding families, or a complete description of Gretchen's reign. Those gaps remain part of the record.

CONFIRMED MARKS OF THE FOUNDING AGE

- Gretchen is named as the first queen.
- The great palace was built above a sacred edifice below the earth.
- The valley town became a haven for inhabitants from many lands.
- Music and the noble family were present from the kingdom's earliest remembered era.

THE PALACE ABOVE AND THE EDIFICE BELOW

The visible kingdom and its hidden foundation



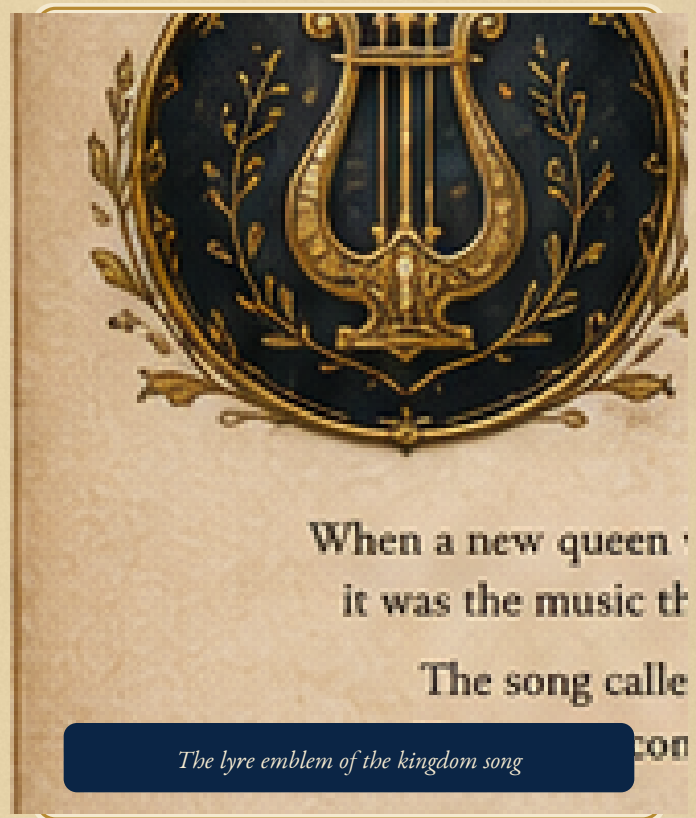
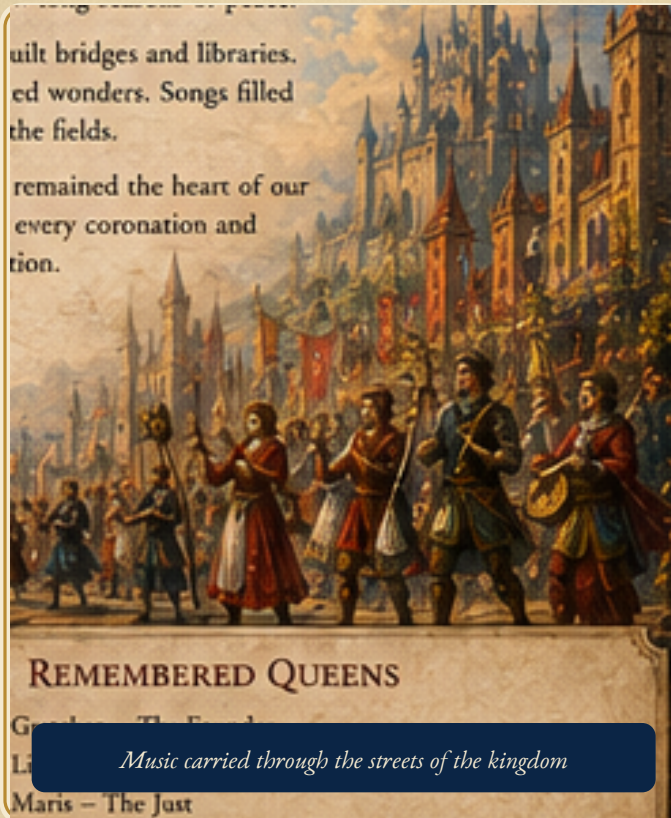
The White Castle, the valley, and the hidden ways beneath

The kingdom's geography mirrors its history. The white palace dominates the hill, while the most important machinery of succession lies far below it. The surface world contains roads, gardens, the chapel, the village, and the dangerous woods. Beneath them run tunnels, chambers, fountains, and passages known only to a few.

Siegfried's reading of the Buchmuller record identifies a chamber deep beneath the castle where a new queen may be called. The process requires the ancient language and a complex mechanism. The sacred edifice named in the founding account may be connected to that chamber, but the surviving first-half manuscript does not state the connection outright.

THE NOBLE FAMILY AND THE SONG

Music as memory, calling, and coronation



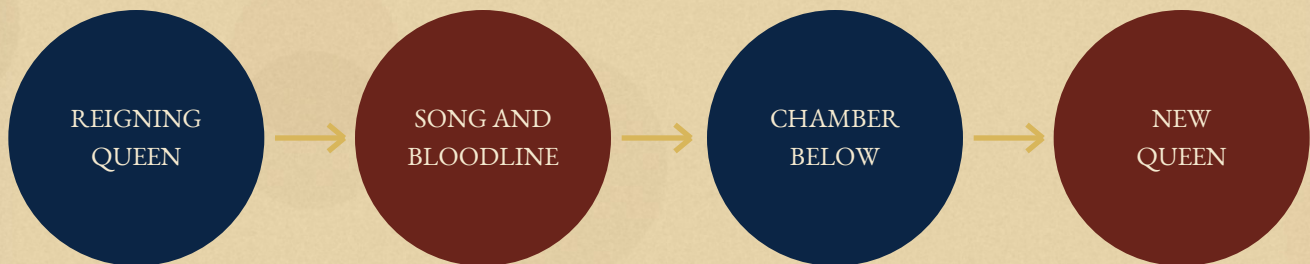
The hidden history gives the noble musical family a role omitted from the official account. Their melodies and words moved among the people, and their music became integral to finding and coronating each new queen.

The Buchmuller family record preserves practical instructions for that responsibility. A member of the bloodline must reach the chamber beneath the castle, speak the necessary words in the ancient language, and activate the mechanism that calls the next queen. The workshop diagram bears the title *Ein Lied des Herzens - A Song of the Heart*.

The novel does not yet give a complete technical explanation of the machine. It does establish that song, language, bloodline, and succession are inseparable parts of the kingdom's survival.

THE QUEEN AND THE LIFE OF THE REALM

Why succession cannot be delayed



Siegfried's translation states that the fate of the Canticle Kingdom is unalterably linked to the life of its queen. A successor must therefore be found before the reigning queen dies. Delay is not merely a political problem; it threatens the condition of the realm itself.

This principle helps explain the unnatural weather, disappearances, physical decay, and growing instability that accompany the present crisis. The precise boundaries of the bond are not fully explained, but the story repeatedly treats the queen's health and the kingdom's health as reflections of one another.

Succession is consequently a sacred duty, a technical process, and a race against time.

THE SURVIVING RULE

A new queen must be called before the old queen dies.

THE MANY-NAMED ONE

The returning darkness in every age



The history describes the return of an evil wizard during the reign of each queen. The enemy is not confined to one face or title; Siegfried calls him the Many-Named One.

The old accounts are filled with events that sound impossible: a giant face appearing when the sky seemed to break apart, a gale covering the kingdom with dust and debris, and unnatural disturbances that accompany the enemy's approach. In the present story, living statues, magical interference, strange weather, and disappearing people echo those earlier warnings.

The record supports recurrence, not a complete list of forms. Any catalog of exact identities would go beyond the surviving manuscript.

every age, when peace seemed secure, the Many-Named
ne returned. He came as shadow, storm, or deceiver,
eking to steal the crown and silence the song.

ut he was
or the five knights always answered the call.

A darkness remembered under many names

PATTERN OF RETURN

- Peace encourages the kingdom to forget.
- The enemy returns in a new guise.
- The Five Knights rise in defense.
- Victory is temporary unless the kingdom remains united.

THE FIVE KNIGHTS

A covenant from the kingdom's earliest age

Siegfried says the five knights were born when the kingdom was first formed. All became powerful mages. After the first great attack, they swore to live in seclusion and emerge whenever the Many-Named One threatened the realm. Their combined strength repeatedly drove him away.

The surviving manuscript confirms three names: Siegfried, Brutus, and Wilhelm. It does not name the remaining two. One later withdrew from service; another betrayed the group and disappeared. Their identities should remain sealed until the story itself reveals them.



ARCHIVE INTEGRITY

Three identities confirmed. Two records unresolved. No replacement names have been invented.

THE MIDDLESPLACE AND THE HEIRS

Seclusion, training, and the cost of waiting



Hidden paths connect places that appear far apart

The Five trained and waited in a hidden realm Siegfried left the Middlespace. Their seclusion allowed them to prepare across generations and return when danger arose.

Driving the dark wizard away during Queen Siegfried's reign, the knights believed the threat might be averted. They decided each should establish a legacy to pass the responsibility to an heir. To watch, they left the Middlespace one at a

time. Siegfried first, had a child, and returned as the other four later left - but did not. His absence became the beginning of the end. He left Siegfried isolated with the threat that lasted for years.

WHY THE HEIRS MATTER

- The covenant was meant to survive beyond one generation.
- Family lines preserved knowledge, tools, language, and responsibility.
- Johann inherits Brutus's record only after the older generation has already failed to reunite.

LADY ELLIS AND THE RISE OF BALTHAZAR



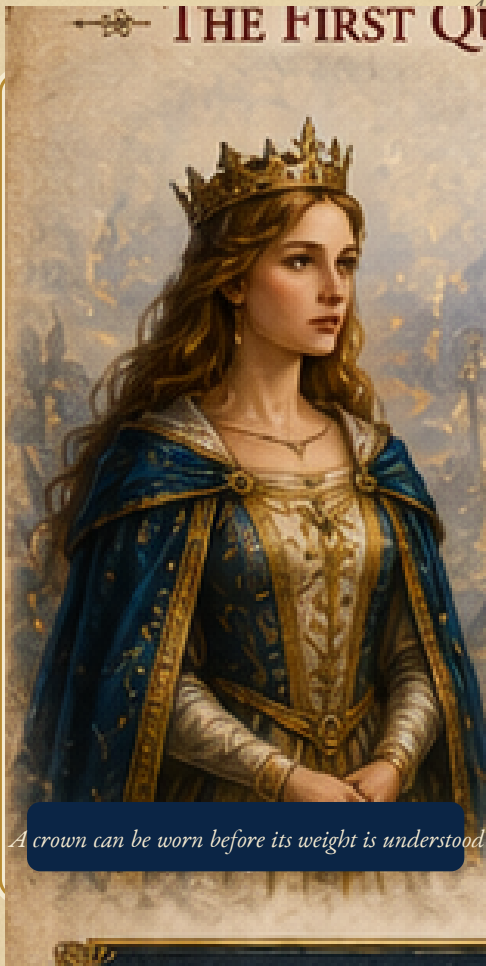
before the fracture

Lady Ellis is the last queen named before the kingdom's great political rupture. Johann's grandfather remembers a fierce storm from the time when Lady Ellis was queen and Lord Balthazar came to power.

The hidden history says Lady Ellis 'abruptly fell from life.' It does not provide a full account of her death, Balthazar's exact office, or the steps by which power changed hands. Those missing details matter because later generations are forbidden even to discuss that period openly.

What survives is a boundary in memory: before Ellis, the old order still held; after Ellis, a child queen, corrupt counselors, revolt, and the division of the Five reshaped the kingdom.

THE CHILD QUEEN AND THE COUNSELORS



A disputed account of rule by influence

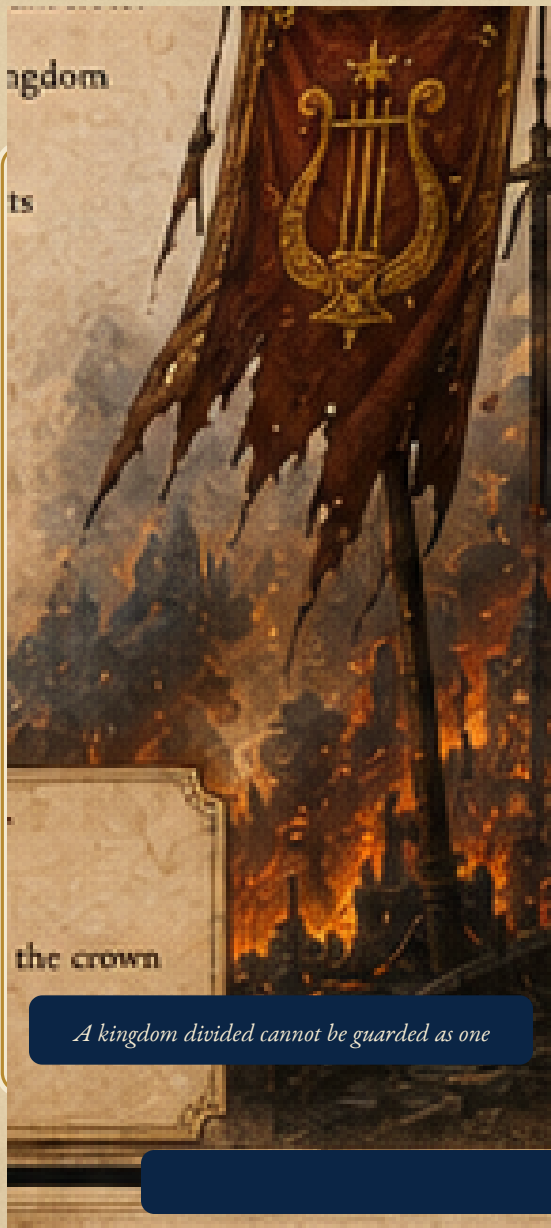
The hidden chronicle claims that after Lady Ellis fell, a new queen rose while still a child. Counselors who had served under the former queen took control in her name. According to the chronicler, they used violence, imprisonment, and fear to preserve their rule and shaped the young queen as she grew.

The manuscript names Artus the Cruel, Cornelius the Devious, and Rufus the Heartless as the feared three. Rufus is horrified to find himself in the account, which means the page functions as accusation, prophecy, distorted memory, or some combination of the three.

A responsible reader should preserve both facts: the history makes the charge, and Rufus's lived character complicates it.

CHRONICLER'S CLAIM

The crown remained visible, but power moved through those who stood nearest to it.



ON AND THE FRACTURE

the defenders chose opposing sides

The people revolted against rule by the counselors, and royal forces crushed the uprising. During this crisis, the Five Knights divided for the first time.

Siegfried's testimony places himself, Johann's father, and the order's captain on the side of the people. Johann's uncle and another knight fought for the new queen. The conflict became bloody. Siegfried's wife was murdered, his child captured, and Siegfried himself severely wounded. The queen's forces prevailed.

The surviving evidence does not reduce the conflict to a simple list of heroes and villains. Each knight appears to have understood loyalty differently - to the people, the crown, the covenant, or family. What is certain is that their division left the kingdom exposed.

THE COST OF DIVISION

- The original brotherhood never recovered.
- Families carried incomplete pieces of the old mission.
- The Many-Named One faced a kingdom without its united guardians.
- The next generation inherited both the duty and the unresolved wounds.

THE MUSIC BOX BEYOND THE KINGDOM

A bridge through Germany, Britain, and America



In 1939, two brothers in Idar-Oberstein complete an extraordinary carved music box and mark it J und K Müller - Frankfurt, Deutschland. Before they can test it, a shadowed figure steals the object.

The box passes through Germany during the war, into a bank vault, through Dachau, London, and finally St. Louis. Those who touch or open it under the right conditions vanish from the ordinary world and awaken within the Canticle Kingdom.

The first-half manuscript establishes the box as a portal-like artifact but does not yet fully explain who enchanted it, how the mechanism relates to the royal succession machinery, or why specific figures and people are drawn across worlds. Its history is therefore both documented and unfinished.

MAKER'S MARK

J und K Müller
Frankfurt, Deutschland

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE SURVIVING RECORD

Sequence preserved; exact dates mostly unknown

1

FOUNDING AGE

Gretchen becomes the first queen. Palace, sacred edifice, valley settlement, and musical tradition are established.

2

FIRST DARK RETURN

The Five Knights unite, swear a covenant, and begin their repeated defense against the Many-Named One.

3

AGES OF QUEENS

Successive queens rise and fall. The noble family helps find and crown each successor through music.

4

ELLIS ERA

The dark wizard is driven away again. The Five begin leaving the Middlespace to establish heirs.

5

FALL OF LADY ELLIS

A child queen succeeds. Counselors govern through the crown.

6

REBELLION

The people revolt. Royal forces suppress the uprising. The Five take opposing sides.

7

SCATTERED YEARS

The knights do not reunite. Their families preserve incomplete pieces of the mission.

8

1939-1945

The Müller music box is completed, stolen, and carried through wartime Europe to the United States.

9

PRESENT CRISIS

The queen weakens, the kingdom destabilizes, and Johann inherits the Buchmuller charge.

THE UNWRITTEN PAGES

The history ends before the song does

Rufus finds blank pages after the final, abrupt entry. The image is appropriate: the kingdom's history is not a sealed account but a living record, waiting for choices that have not yet been made.

Use this page as a collector's ledger. Separate what the story confirms from what you suspect. Preserve contradictions. Note the clues carried by songs, artifacts, family testimony, and hidden passages.

QUESTIONS THE SURVIVING HISTORY LEAVES OPEN

- What was the full purpose of the sacred edifice?
- Who were the two unnamed knights?
- What exactly happened to Lady Ellis?
- What office did Lord Balthazar hold?
- How does the music box connect to the succession chamber?
- Can the Five Knights' covenant be restored through their heirs?



REMEMBER THE PAST
GUARD THE PRESENT
SING THE FUTURE

The surviving pages do not contain the ending.

They contain the responsibility to write it.

THE CANTICLE KINGDOM

A fictional reader companion based on the novel by Michael D. Young