

Kalin Burrfoot is the name given to a human- 'half kender' (once disgraced and redeemed) Solamnic Knight recruit; whom would later become the Paternal father who raised the Kender named Tasslehoff Burrfoot.

Kalin's Parents were Que Shu plains people who wandered into Xak Tsaroth long ago and never came back. As a child he was rescued from the dark depths by an unlikely band of Kender explorers and brought back to the surface to live with them as a child.

The human boy later grew up and left home to join the Solamnic Knights on Sancrist Isle in Ergoth. He still had Nightmares about the Black Dragon Kisanth. Later on he joined a garrison and became friends with a Kendermaid Scout (most likely Tas mother) who had known him as a child; although there was no Romance between the two obviously one being a Kender of significantly older age than Kalin; he admired her as a mother figure and they went on many adventures as a recruit for the company. On a training mission he once stepped on a burr in the dark giving the whole platoon away- the company named him "Burrfoot" for spite and the name stuck. Tasslehoff once spoke of the half Kender who almost became a Solamnic Knight...

It is questionable WHOM exactly Tasslehoff's biological father was- all we know is that somehow HE met that Kendermaid Scout and THEY had a baby. Tas and his parents became separated; nobody knows how. His mother describes it as-

"A ship came out of the Sky; he got on it and never told me where he was going... I hope hes ok, but we got lost. I had to go look for him and what I found, well... Tanis its good that Tas has found friends to keep his feet on Krynn's roads; you miss your path and it's a mess of a way getting back home. I've been there." The elderly Kendermaid sipped her tea noisily and stared at them through her spectacles pausing to dab at the steam collecting on the surface with a kerchief Astrid handed her. Looking closely it might have not been steam; but tears welling up in her eyes as if remembering something painful to talk about. "For me, I'm back on Krynn where I belong, but you my son oh will you EVER find what you're looking for? Meet a nice girl like Astrid here perhaps? Or no, no maybe your story begins differently?"

Mine did. I've seen many futures and pasts. It's all so confusing and makes your head spin around; gracious for a Kender to be so flumoxxed! I've seen the other side of the universe now and... its so terrifyingly wonderful and horrible, but its just like Fizban told you my son- some doors they kept locked from Kender for a reason... Not that they shouldn't be opened or explored, but it helps to know which ones aren't a waste of YOUR time. Time is important for you; the candle with the brightest light and you've got to use that 'light' within you to get you out of the darkest of places.”

It was at this time at an orphanage in Northern Ergoth a few decades precluding up to the War of The Lance; Kalin was given charge to look after a young Kender child as a promise to a friend while SHE went 'to find out who took him (Tasslehoffs REAL father?)...' at least that's what the hastily scrawled letter in the Kendermaids handwriting that been significantly burnt and rendered illegible had implied. (DM:Note what if all this multiverse hopping around Tas actually did paradox and 'accidentally' romance his mother to become his father?!! Kenders are known to mess things up on a monumental level.) actually this is hogwash but you see where this is going.

Kalin was given a young Kender infant barely a few months old to look after; not knowing much about Kender he did his best and raised the Kender as a human child. Kender babies mature at twice the rate human babies do, by the age of three of a human toddler; a Kender child is already walking and talking. Ansalonian Kender depending on their region have extremely course and thick hair that grows at an alarming rate; Kender are masters at maintaining and weaving their hair to accommodate this. Hylo Kender keep their kids hair short just to stop the siblings from setting it on fire or getting it caught in something\* Kalin found this out because he didn't often cut the childs hair so it wore a TOPKNOT.

The Orphange had given the child the name on the note left with the Baby that said 'Kalin', at the time little Tas didnt have a name and was apt on picking the right one to suit him, Tas says he changed his mind many times... Once while out walking around with the young Kender on his shoulders through a fair in Northern Ergoth a Drunken barbarian and his wench bellowed at them when they saw the childs prominent topknot!

“Tassle! Hoff! Tasslehoff!” For once the humans were laughing and being amicable to this Kender child. It pleased the boy enough he looked up at the man he called DAD and said “Tasslehoff, that is MY name.’

And so the Kender learned to walk talk & read the maps he loved. Tas was an exceptional Kender because he was raised around humans who had in turn been around Kender enough to understand and tolerate them. On into his teens he found company among a diverse crowd of outcasts who found their value in each other due to having one attribute the other lacked but it held them all together; strength in the circle 'hoop' of companions or tribe -the analogy the plains people often spoke of.

Tas did indeed find his mother. “She's old, hey I'm older too and old Kender tend to be set in their ways. I didn't grow up with her, but shes still my Mom and when she talks about things I now understand why I think the same way sometimes. She still talks to me when she's not thinking about other things but its hard to hold her attention; she's like Tanis and Caramon or any other human I've known; see that what was so special about MY DAD and yes my MOM & DAD both served in a company with Sturm's FATHER yeah ok maybe this man Kalin wasn't my KENDER Dad, but he's still MY Dad because he listens to ME when hes smart, but he doesn't stay put for very long; whole war of the Lance I had no idea he was on Sancrist Isle and FIZBAN KNEW and didn't tell ME but told DAD everything about ME, and Tanis, and everybody about me breaking the dragon orb! Laurana and Flint met him a bunch of times and didn't even know it! He MET FLINT!?! How could I have not been there for that, and I'm still a little mad at him for not at least showing up for a bowl of soup. I know he got soup because he NEVER turns down soup he just grabbed a trencher and went and ate it over by the Gold Dragon stable where they didn't want Kender messing about with the saddle buckles... But I remember waking up that evening during a nap on the battlements and finding this little toy in my hand I'd not seen since I was a young kender & a piece of parchment that said 'a Burrfoot thru n thru\*' and wouldnt you know it my knapsack was a little bit more full come to think of it with extra rations I don't recall borrowing or finding anywhere and Flint said some Knight on the battlements gave him a nice piece of soapstone to whittle with. “I don't know who this Kalin is but I'm assuming you are talking

about MY DAD. He and my Mother were technically never married but they've been FRIENDS a long time; just like Tanis and Laurana, er except once again as Astrid explained to you -with her being an exceptional engineer that studied with Gnomes;

“a big part does not fit into small part without adequate purpose or means of integration ' a silly HUMAN cannot Root with a Kenderkin! yoo silly boy ho ho hah, ist dost not FIT, this part, YA? Nae it dost NOT. Besides dear Human boy I knew you when you was a BAY-BEE, a squealing little human that go poo poo and cries even when Astrid & Pez make faces to cheer human bay bee up and then Babe laugh and then go poo poo again & then cry; ist not want me to have Kenderling-as they eat and poo poo twice as much!' (Tas purses his lips and tries to imitate a female Kender's Northern Ergothian dialect hilariously!)

“My PARENTS traveled to Haven when I was old enough to walk with them and carry my own Hoopak; the Plainsmen were quiet around my parents I guess because Dad being Human and my Kender birth Mom they know humans and Kenders aren't even remotely compatible. They didn't have a problem with my Mother; but Dad once said he was of the Plains people just like Riverwind & Goldmoon but it was so long ago he didn't grow up with them and he didn't feel like they wanted him there. I think I did tell Goldmoon once about my Dad; she must have thought I was telling her a tall tale about the half Kender who almost became a Solamnic Knight. But she smiled and said something to Tanis while looking into the Stars round the campfire; I remember “Alon-shi” she said. “The tale of the lost son found again...”

When I asked Tanis about it later; (I HAD to because Riverwind and Goldmoon were preoccupied when I took the notion and remembered to ask a tiny detail and Riverwind chased me out of the tent despite Goldmoon saying 'the kender are but like children! He does not know my love, come back to bed as I'm sending him away now! Tas means no harm!' this was followed by the comment from Tika & Caramon “He does it to US all the time...”;

Anyway Tanis said it meant 'wayward Son' or 'fortunate son' or 'prodigal son' he said that people find their way inevitably back to family no matter what and that IS true; when I left on my wanderlust I knew I'd come back around

someday, I just didn't know when.

“Anyway Mom is not sure what happened to my Kender dad, We're always receptive to looking. Since I've been to Sigil & the Abyss both now, I can tell you dying ONCE is just the beginning but the WAIT is sooo boring, and it doesn't function like you'd want it to. Flint and Kitiara, They cant remember anything about ME. (Tas snuffles) I have to teach them all over again who I am which is ok but gee that's a lot of time... I've got so much story to tell and it can take a long time to get it all so I figure I tell the parts I remember myself, while I have time to...

“How did I get to Sigil? No, no you say it like Giggle... Did you know writing just the word out on piece of parchment makes the letters go all squiggly around the paper in a ring... Well, SIGIL it's ok? what little I got to see of it; see when I got there I was NOT feeling good at all and thought I was going to DIE and not in a pleasant or even interesting way but a sad kind of wasting and not at all heroic way; but anyway it was kind of a trap see because it wasn't meant for me but Fizban went in there and saved me and got me somewhere ' my brains wouldnt leak out into my shoes' which while would be interesting to see for me he said it wouldn't be interesting to let the rude 6ft Abishai (Fizban said it was a demon or something) drink them like a tankard of ale until the glowing bit of my soul pops like a grape in his maw. Those things belch when they talk and you cant understand half of what they say with scales and the tongue & Winged Lady Grace says its mostly lies and untruths because they are Fiends and they are supposed to tell lies and untruths. Fall from Grace, have you met her? She said my kind were RARE in Sigil, she said Kenders couldn't get into Sigil due to us being tied to the prime material by a Graygem or somesuch. Thats why I was horribly sick when I came in, granted the place stinks in places and its dirty and clean and can be so many things at once and TONS of the most Interesting people! Annah. Dakkon, and two actually conversational if not malevolent fiends who Takhisis said were 'ingrate pathetic slimes' but she slapped both of them around and not only did they LIKE it; this neat blue flame popped up on one of their bodies and now 'Athelgrin' has been blessed if he hasn't been Mazed by now; something called 'The Lady' didn't want 'The Queen' making too much trouble according to Fizban; 'on these streets amongst you Primes and

Planars we are but just travelers along the GREAT WHEEL; Aye Takhisis and I have walked these streets on a rare occasion; for this IS THE GREATEST NEUTRAL GROUND IN THE MULTIVERSE for here we feel as Mortals do; Alive AND DEAD.” You can stand out in the street in a spot and it will thunderstorm followed by snowflakes but then it makes a bunch of mud and all the streets go uphill and the place does not move like a prime material world. That's what Fall From Grace called 'Krynn' she said Krynn has a bunch of moons and planets; but its NOT just all planets; see imagine if the darkness of the sky was just a big curtain and if you pull it back.. Eh, maybe that's an even longer story. Fizban told me not to worry too much about that because Kenders are little and so we take care of the small things first. Oh but trust me its neat though; did you know there are these magic ships that FLOAT on anything?

Anyway, Fizban put this neat Blue Gem in my chest! No; it doesnt hurt. I can make it light up when I want it to, watch this! Yeah! Ok, its lit but not as bright except when I feel a certain way. You know Astrid doesn't need one?! No, cause of course she was born on the moons! She could have hopped around and got that business with Strahd settled before Raistlin showed up and killed poor Ticklempop! Granted Ticklempop as a Vampire was lonely as she was born before the Cataclysm in a former life but who knew that yanking her lifesoul out by the Topknot would weaken the link Soth had to Sithicus? It wasnt the amulet in the wolf ticklemop had found, IT WAS TICKLEMOP that kept the whole thing together while Soth was stuck in the mirrors. Once Raistlin freed her soul, WHOOPS it caused a fracture just enough to allow Soth to confront Strahd in Barovia. Strahd got MAD! Raistlin got madder! I saw Raistlin take the staff of Magius and light Strahd up like a TORCH, it didnt kill him just made him UGLY and bigger and meaner! (enraged/mutated Strahd) see stats\* DM) it was astounding to watch because Strahd really is a horrible selfish monster who didn't care about Kitiara or Laurana or Tanis or me or Astrid or even Soth, the big bully was just using Soth to claim Krynn as another fiefdom in his boring dismal foggy cold Castle; you'd think that place was interesting but it was full of rude ghosts and haunts. Strahd really is full of himself. He came riding up on a nightmare which sorry to say I'd already been there and done that once before a long time ago with that stinking waste of flesh Denzil\*; with me being tied

to the back of one. Strahd is a fat liar and thinks he's clever and Raistlin knew he was telling a whopper when he tried to get us to remove Soth but he wasn't intending to let any of us leave the stinking fog. He cast a spell; threw me and Raistlin into this big portal hoping it would kill us and it almost did... Fizban found me, and Takhisis well even if she is the Queen of Darkness she risked Krynn being destroyed just to grab Raistlin in Sigil and get us home. Sigil is a big clock, like a caged clock, Fiends and Soth were going to trap Fizban or Takhisis in there so they couldn't get out and then the black Nebula would devour Krynn like a grape...