

Bookworms

Elven Nations and Meetings Sextet

by Pat McGilligan

The fated history of the high elven nation, Silvanesti, and the founding of the exile kingdom, Qualinost . . .

The first bonds of friendship, the formative adventures of the beloved companions of Krynn . . .

These are the highlights of two new series in TSR's long-running and internationally popular DRAGONLANCE® saga.

The *Elven Nations* trilogy relates, for the first time, the tragic history of the Silvanesti. The story centers on the divisive relationship between twin brothers who are blood descendants of the ruling Speaker of the Stars. The rivalry between the heir apparent, Sithas, and his brother, Kith-Kanan, results in internecine political intrigue, mysterious treachery, foul magic, and, inevitably, full-scale war.

Also in 1991: Three books that are actually the initial volley of a *Meetings Sextet* that reveals the untold first encounters of Tanis Half-Elven, leader of the companions; the dwarf Flint Fireforge; that mischievous kender Tasslehoff Burrfoot; the twins Caramon and Raistlin Majere, one a stout warrior and the other a sickly mage; their sword-wielding half-sister, Kitiara Uth Matar; and the troubled Solamnic knight, Sturm Brightblade.

First Born, the opening book of the *Elven Nations* trilogy, was released in February. It is authored by Paul B. Thompson and Tonya R. Carter, who have written prolifically for the best-selling DRAGONLANCE series. This team has produced more DRAGONLANCE novels than any other authors since the original team of Margaret Weiss and Tracy Hickman. Thompson and Carter contributed to the best-selling *Tales* anthology, as well as the books **Darkness and Light** and **Riverwind the Plainsman**. They also have penned an Arabian adventure for TSR, Inc. called **Red Sands**.

Their new novel depicts the storied elven kingdom of Silvanesti, and describes the inevitable personal and political forces that drive apart two brothers and two factions of the high-born.

Interestingly, Thompson and Carter do not live in the same city. The long-time collaborators met while participating in the same writing group in North Carolina.

"I tend to be rather terse and action-oriented," Thompson said, "while Tonya is more attentive to the characters."

TSR stalwart Douglas Niles will contribute the second book in the *Elven Nations* trilogy, called **The Kinslayer Wars**, which is due in August. Niles is known to readers as the author of the best-selling *Moonshae* and *Maztica* trilogies in the FORGOTTEN REALMS® setting. But Niles has an extensive DRAGONLANCE world resume and has written more DRAGONLANCE world modules than any other TSR writer, including the seminal, *Dragons of Triumph*, the climax of the epic module series. Last year, Niles co-authored with Mary Kirchoff the successful **Flint, the King** installment of the *Preludes* line.

The Kinslayer Wars will chart the brutal and protracted war to drive the humans from Silvanesti, an ill-conceived campaign whose decisive events unite the brothers but divide the nation.

A one-time English teacher, Niles has worked for TSR for nine years, and is noted for his ability to juggle several writing assignments at once: one or more novels, a couple of modules, and a board game.

Climaxing the *Elven Nations* trilogy will be the tale of Wildrunners' exodus from Silvanesti and the first revelation of the magnificent elven city of Qualinost during the Age of Might. **The Qualinesti** will be published in November. Thompson and Carter will write the book and promise a story that will captivate the estimated six million-plus DRAGONLANCE saga enthusiasts.

The *Meetings Sextet* premiered in April. The first was co-authored by Mark Anthony and Ellen Porath, and is called **Kindred Spirits**. In it, Tanis meets Flint, way back in the days when Flint was living in Silvanesti as metal-smith to the Speaker of the Stars. Tanis is accused of a murder, and Flint springs to his defense. Their friendship is sealed when they capture the true villain.

In one of those unusual pairings that seems to be a TSR specialty, Anthony and Porath live hundreds of miles distant, the former in North Carolina and the latter within driving distance of TSR in Wisconsin.

Anthony is a budding paleontologist, whose focus is an epoch 65 million years ago. "In some ways," Anthony notes, "there are a lot of parallels to Krynn because the era of the Earth that I study is like a different world, and it takes a lot of imagination to envision it."

Porath juggled work on her first novel with the task of raising a newborn. A lecturer in agriculture journalism at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, she is a veteran wire service reporter who has written numerous newspaper articles. Like her co-author, she has an anthropology degree.

The second book in the *Meetings Sextet* takes up the chronology with the arrival of Tasslehoff in Solace; the light-fingered Tas pockets one of Flint's bracelets, which turns out to be cursed. Flint and Tanis give chase, but Tas and the elusive bracelet keep one step ahead of them.

Writing the aptly-titled **Wanderlust** will be Mary Kirchoff and Steve Winter. Kirchoff has published widely for TSR, including books in the *Endless Quest* and *Amazing Stories* series. Her work in the DRAGONLANCE realm includes a contribution to *Tales*, and two best-selling novels, **Kendermore and Flint, the King** (with Douglas Niles). She edited **The Leaves From The Inn Of The Last Home** and **The Art Of The DRAGONLANCE Saga**. She also heads TSR's book department.

Winter has worked for TSR as an editor for more than a decade and is responsible for editing and developing many of the company's popular AD&D® game materials. Mary and Steve concede that Tas is a tricky character, full of humor and spontaneity, and all they will divulge of **Wanderlust** is that it will be surprise-packed.

Dark Heart, the final book in the series, will be released in January 1992. □