

Synopsis

Slave, ACHAN CHAM, receives an offer to train as a squire to SIR GAVIN LUKOS, a Kingsguard knight. Although it's illegal for a slave to hold such a position, Achan seizes the opportunity, hoping to pull himself out of his pitiful station in life. He trains in secret with Sir Gavin, learning to use his wooden sword while maintaining his duties to the manor. Sir Gavin is enraged to discover Achan has been forced to drink a tonic all his life and urges Achan to stop.

VRELL SPARROW isn't a boy, nor is her name Vrell. She's hiding to avoid a forced marriage when two Kingsguard Knights arrive to transport her to Mahanaim to apprentice. They somehow know of her bloodvoicing gift: the ability to speak to, and hear the minds of others. A great honor for a "boy" like Vrell, she must go with the men to keep from being discovered.

Strange voices call out to Achan's mind, demanding his identity, but he ignores them. Sir Gavin publicly proclaims Achan a squire. Achan enters the tournament celebrating PRINCE GIDON HADAR's coming of age. When Achan's master, LORD NATHAK, discovers him mingling with nobles, he is sent back to the kitchens. Lord Nathak banishes Sir Gavin and forces Achan to utilize his newfound skill with a sword by serving as Prince Gidon's new sparring partner, an exercise that threatens his life daily. Achan manages to survive and accompanies the prince on a journey to Mahanaim where the prince will enter into negotiations to take the throne.

Vrell hears a boy's voice in her mind. He has discovered his bloodvoice but does not understand it. The knights deliver Vrell safely to Mahanaim. She meets her new master, MACOUN HADAR, who is obsessed with learning the identity of a newly gifted boy. He sends Vrell to find him. Seeking out the boy's mind, Vrell stumbles into a battle. Instead of a boy, she finds a squire protecting Prince Gidon Hadar. During the battle, the squire is struck with several arrows. Vrell helps the squire, thankful that Prince Gidon does not recognize her.

Achan awakes in a dungeon, wounded and weak. A boy named Vrell tends Achan's wounds and speaks into his mind. Achan is accused of trying to murder the prince. Vrell teaches Achan about bloodvoicing and explains that the tonic Lord Nathak forces Achan to take, stifles his ability. Sir Gavin breaks into the dungeon, rescues Achan, only to drag him before the council where the great knight makes an outrageous claim:

I blocked out the ending so that there wouldn't be any spoilers going around. ☺

Prince Gidon is the first book in a trilogy about Achan, Vrell, and the land of Er'Rets.