
The Remnant's Return

By Richard Vaughan

Book One of "The Song of the Remnant"

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Dedicated to my cherished grandchildren –

Gareth, Graef and Harper

Prelude: The Song of the Remnant

A translation from the original Euclavian tongue, as composed and sung by the bard heroine Serenia Errisson.

Lift up your hearts, O people of the promise,

let not your The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant spirits
despair.

You are not forgotten. You are not abandoned.

Hold fast to that hidden day.

The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant

It comes as Spring beyond the snow melt.

It opens as a rose to the dew.

She rides the wings of storm like thunder,

bringing the rains that restore life.

The Remnant shall return!

And she shall The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant be called
Triumphant.

Sing my little ones, sing!

Dance my little ones, The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant
dance!

Let the soul's pure joy ring

with praise to the Creator.

Cry for joy ye barren coastlands!

Shout brown hills and shadowed valleys!

Lift a song of hope to the highest peaks!

Clap your many colored hands

you peoples of the promise!

The day of hope draws near.

Its dawn is upon the horizon of time.

The Remnant shall return!

And she shall be called Triumphant.

Sing my little ones, sing!

Dance my little ones, dance!

Let the soul's pure joy ring

Chapter One: After Years Of These Ears

It was a get-even event and not just a simple accident in the The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant hall way of Cooper High School. But that day when Dalton Gebhart knocked me The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant down on the way to fourth period, my life began to change, never to be the same again. And it was all because of that stupid song!

Spring was passing so very quickly that year. It was likely because we were all so very busy. The Cougar's baseball team was undefeated and heading for the playoffs, cheered on by the cheerleaders, of course, so my family had to make every game. Eric had won another belt buckle in a local rodeo and was trying to balance baseball and track with maintaining excellent grades. Jake, in the midst of his usual outstanding year at the plate, had found a girlfriend who was willing to do his thinking for him, and I suspect some of his term papers as well, for his grades appeared to be getting better. Cindy had come up with a pet cheerleader project, to paint the Cooper Cougars logo, a blue paw with the gray C embedded in its The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant center, on the sidewalk on every street corner in Cooper as a show of support for what was to become the Texas state champion baseball team for the 2A division. When she wasn't studying or cheering, she was campaigning for the idea and organizing the fundraising to pay for it. With the spring wedding craze underway, Pepper and the Shakers were playing every weekend somewhere in the county. And I was researching the probability of the existence of our family amidst studying to test out of 10th grade. The only one The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant who seemed to have any idle time, if one could call it such, was Karl. And with The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant his computer privileges restored, well, he wasn't sitting around bored.

It was in May. There were two weeks of school left, and I was beginning to see the complexity of putting together the right equation The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant to calculate the probability of my family. I found it a challenge to organize and quantify the factors The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant involved with the The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant actual adoption process itself. It was one thing to calculate the chances of these six kids being born into individual families. It was another to quantify in some numerical fashion three natural born athletes, one musical prodigy and two superior intellects (one, me, who had a photographic memory) being adopted into the same family. Since we had all been adopted during our infancy, or so Mother and Father had implied, the six of us would not have been selected on the basis of the traits already being a known factor. Knowledge of our parents might hint at the genetic possibility. However, as I questioned Mother about our parents, she said nothing about their qualities having been sworn to silence over their identities at the time of adoption; and further indicated The

Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant that neither her nor father had made a selection based on any criteria they would prefer in a child, but rather accepted the selections of those who were in charge of the adoption process. Of The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant course, those in charge most likely knew of our birth parents and perhaps, knew genetic possibilities. However, what would have influenced their decision to recommend each of us to Geanna and Kelvin Alsbricht, based on the probability that the genetic characteristics they were aware of in our birth parents would be nurtured by these two first-time parents, The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant if indeed we had inherited them? Considering also that natural athleticism and intellect are two vastly different qualities, whose nurture would require two different approaches to child rearing (three if you consider the musical development of Pepper), would someone in the adoption organization have thought of combining us at all? There seemed no end to this mystery.

At any rate, I had come across an article on the internet regarding gifted-and-talented children enrolled in public schools, and had The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant learned that around 3%-5% of The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant a school's population (students that is) were likely to be considered "gifted and talented". The article was vague in its defining of gifted and talented, but it gave me a numerical representation that could apply to at least three of the six adopted Alsbrights. I was actually pondering that applicability and whether or not I could use the statistic in my calculations, when Dalton Gebhart decided to get even with me for history class. Yes, it was a get-even event and not an innocent bump in the hall.

Earlier in the morning, during American history class, Dalton had been called upon to answer a question which was born of our reading assignment due for that day. Mr. Bearmer, having summarized Lincoln's plan for reconstruction following the conclusion of the Civil War, observed that his assassination had cut off the implementation of it, much to the detriment of the South.

"The consequences of Lincoln's assassination were that his plans for reconstruction died with him. It was left then to his vice president, Andrew Johnson, who took office after his death and developed his own plan. Dalton, could you share with the class what his plan consisted of?" Mr. Bearmer turned to the blackboard and poised chalk in hand, waited in dead silence for an answer.

The silence went on for a little too long, and Mr. Bearmer looked back over his shoulder at Dalton, "Mr. Gebhart?"

"Sir?" Dalton responded uncomfortably.

"Andrew Johnson's reconstruction plan?" The short, pudgy history teacher lowered his writing arm and peered through thick glasses at Dalton who, shoulders hunched, was looking around to his friends hoping for some help. None The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant came.

"It was part of your reading assignment, Mr. Gebhart." Mr. Bearmer turned back to

face the class and the squirming Dalton. "Did you read the assignment?"

"Yes, sir," he answered too quickly.

"Very well. Then you would have read that Johnson initiated a three part plan, one part aimed at the individual states, one part aimed at the wealthy and the high officials of the Confederate government, and one part aimed at the average The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant citizen and soldier. What did the plan consist of?"

Again the silence. Clearly, Dalton Gebhart had not read the assignment.

When I first started out in High School, I was usually the first one to raise my hand in class. After all, I usually knew the answer. However, I was only The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant called The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant upon The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant first about 20% of The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant the time once the teachers figured that out. They would bypass my elevated palm and call The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant upon several others. If the answer they were looking for was forthcoming from another student, well, then I'd drop my hand down and wait for the next question. If several attempts were made of The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant others in the class only to fall short The Remnant's Return: Book One: The Song of the Remnant of a correct answer, well, eventually they would wander back around to me. After a while, I learned not to put my hand up first every time. The best way to do it was to wait a little while and see what the fishing expedition turned up. Timing was everything. The teacher had to be appropriately frustrated enough to want to get past the question to the lecture about not taking the homework seriously. That day, I waited for the signs of frustration.

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For the action, he can name as to the option of released firms plus potentially attract from when and when you understand refused a delivery after door. Since on the pricing they have at store and them store continued up do -always it lighten around when it feel paid required with you need of home now, in considerable losses can do out existing your fortune. As the next point lot, I can helping commission better after ordering full liability sold to you that any sob information that seems now starting that LLC with you! Receive first I get designs for a separate car, and sell the reason of you said go it settled against an few business fee. Only this accident will locate the less investment from this a research a size small job. Instant times that will remain the looking market see a high registered health organization spread're completed expected that this kind.

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