

Excerpt from “The Weeper of Kirka”

By Tannara Young

Dario cried out, tripped over a rock and fell to the ground. Now it was completely dark. He felt in front of himself, trying to find the bank he had just clambered down. "Cilla, Cilla, are you there?" he shouted.

He grasped a root and pulled himself up. Then the light was back and the air pressed in, heavy and warm. Pavo lay a few paces away, sprawled out on the ground. Something bent over him and for a moment, Dario thought it was Cilla. It turned toward him and he saw empty dark holes in a bone white face. It moaned a horrible broken wail and raising a long-nailed hand, swiped at Pavo's face.

"Stop!" Dario yelled. He grabbed a stick and swung it at the figure. It rushed him, hands extended into claws. The air froze about him. Then it was gone.

Dario stumbled to Pavo. The man's eyes stared blankly, and he breath came shallowly. Deep scratches down his cheeks, as if he wept blood.

Dario fell to his knees and shook him. Pavo moaned and shut his eyes, but when he opened them again they were no longer glazed and fixed. Dario pushed him up, saying "Are you all right?"

Before Pavo could answer, there was an ear-splitting scream from the other side of the creek.

About Tannara Young



Tannara Young is the creator of the world of Idhua: fourteen kingdoms surrounding a vast magical forest. She writes short fiction and novels exploring the people, landscapes and magic of Idhua. She is hard at work finishing her first trilogy of novels: Red Lion, Gold Lion, for which she hopes to find a publisher in the near future. In addition, she continues to write and submit short fiction and is excited to connect with readers who enjoy Idhua and its varied lands as much as she does.

Tannara lives in central California on the coast of the wild Pacific Ocean and near majestic redwood forests. When she is not writing, she loves to take long walks through these inspiring landscapes, dreaming up her next tale.

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More Titles by Tannara Young

The Summer Valley (2013) in [*The Mythic Circle 35*](#)

Entering the Enchanted Forest (2013) - non-fiction - at [*New Myths.com*](#)

Autumn Road to Yessar (2016) in [*The Great Tome of Fantastic and Wondrous Places*](#)

Bearskin (2017) at [*Smashwords*](#)

Blackfoil (2019) at [*The Scarlet Leaf Review*](#)

The First Breath After Drowning (2019) forthcoming at [*The Future Fire*](#)