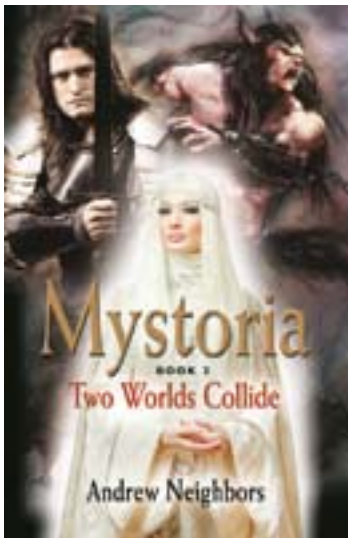


Mystoria

BOOK 2

Two Worlds Collide

Andrew Neighbors



Kathryn's return shatters the brief period of peace as the wicked witch brings an army to Mystoria that is worse than anyone ever imagined. A violent war threatens to destroy all of Mystoria, and Kathryn's plans endanger the separation of all the ancient worlds. Jasmine and Michael would love nothing more than to marry one another and live in peace, but Michael is the only hope in saving Mystoria from the coming darkness. See also: MYSTORIA: Land of the Immortals

MYSTORIA: Two Worlds Collide

by Andrew Neighbors

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First Edition

For my family and my loyal fans

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my beautiful wife for the journey we have traveled together. I would also like to thank my mom and dad for their support and encouragement. My friend Janie and I share an intrigue in the supernatural, and her insight has made me a better writer. My three children are precious gifts from God, and I am proud of each one of them. Thank you to everyone that believed in me and read *Mystoria, Land of the Immortals*. I hope you enjoy the return to *Mystoria* as much as I did.

Immortals

Wizards and Witches (Magicians)

Inhabitants of northern Mystoria

Kathryn – former queen of Mystoria with the special power of possession

Jasmine – queen of Mystoria with the special power of teleporting

Thomas – uncle of the former king of Mystoria, Leonardo, who is used as the vessel of Kathryn in her escape from Mystoria

Manny – leader of the magician council

Charles – keeper of Greyloure Castle

Leonardo – former king of Mystoria who was killed during the Werewolf Invasion

Helen – wife of Leonardo who was killed during the Werewolf Invasion

Vampires

Inhabitants of Vampire Nation and southern Mystoria

Michael – protector of Queen Jasmine and the magicians who is half vampire, half wizard

Keno – protector of King Lanko

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Lanko – king of Vampire Nation

Evelyn – wife of King Lanko

Lenora – daughter of King Lanko and Evelyn

Darius – former leader of the vampires of Mystoria who was killed during the Werewolf Invasion

**Werewolves
Inhabitants of southern Mystoria**

Foster – former leader of the werewolves who was killed during the Werewolf Invasion

Rex – former protector of the werewolves and bodyguard of Foster and now an ally of Kathryn

Christina – sister of Foster and now an ally of Kathryn

Walter – leader of the werewolves

Larson – protector of Walter

Hendrick – prisoner captured and interrogated by Michael for killing a magician

Nestors and Creatures

Gwendolyn – powerful nector and soothsayer of Mysteria

Ronald – leader of the trolls of the Enchanted Mountains

Rela, Rita, and Roca – raven witches that serve Gwendolyn

Fire Dragon – only remaining dragon in Mysteria that serves Michael and Jasmine

Breora – a nymph with the power to take many forms

Landmarks and Physical Features

Greyloure Castle – residence of Queen Jasmine. This famous castle towers above the southern lands.

Enchanted Mountains – snow covered southern side is too steep to climb and impassable and the northern side is filled with trees. These mountains separate northern and southern Mysteria.

Piranha River – raging river that separates southern Mysteria into an eastern and western half. The river is infested with flesh-eating fish.

The Dark Forest – a burnt and dead forest in northern Mysteria that leads to Skull Mountain.

Skull Mountain – residence of Gwendolyn, the powerful nester and soothsayer of Mysteria.

Vampire Nation – a barren and desolate desert world of vampires.

Northern Mysteria – a land of green grass, rolling hills, and running water with a bright sun.

Southern Mysteria – an ice tundra that never sees the sun.

Valley of Wild Horses – lush, green valley in northern Mysteria surrounded by rolling hills with a stream running through the middle that has an abundance of wild horses.

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CHAPTER 1

Battle in the Forest

Moonlight danced through the swaying trees as a cool mist brushed across Michael's face. He was kneeling in the tall grass, and his black, leather armor blended in with the dark sky above him. The only sound was of the whistling wind circling around the most powerful immortal in all of Mystoria. The vampire's shoulders tensed as three werewolves suddenly appeared and leaped over a ravine only yards in front of him.

Michael stood up and drew the long, silver sword from the scabbard on his back. The vicious animal in front of him never had a chance. Michael's sword sliced through its neck with one quick blow, ending the wolf's immortal life with decapitation. The other two wolves growled at the vampire and circled around him. Michael sensed their fear and knew if he waited they would try to escape through the forest. He launched his mighty sword through the air and watched it penetrate the chest of the wolf to his left.

The last wolf watched in wonder as Michael confidently strode toward the ferocious beast. Was the vampire going to actually fight him with no sword? The werewolf launched toward Michael for the kill. With unnatural strength Michael met the wolf in midair and knocked it backwards with his hand around its throat. With his other hand he punched the wolf in the side of the head repeatedly until it stopped squirming and faded into unconsciousness.

Michael's supernatural hearing jerked his head around just in time as the wolf with his sword still sticking out of its chest raced toward him. Michael had not planned on using or needing his magician powers, but this werewolf needed to die quickly. Michael shot a blue electric current from his fingertips and watched the wolf absorb the energy and stop dead in its tracks.

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Michael walked to the unmoving beast and jerked his sword from its bleeding chest. Without hesitating he removed the wolf's head with one clean blow. He only needed one prisoner.

Michael tossed the enormous werewolf that was still alive over his shoulder and dashed through the forest with incredible speed. His long, black hair trailed behind him as he dashed through three miles of thickly covered forest in a matter of seconds and emerged into a clearing. The night sky was dark except for the moonlight that peaked behind thinly moving clouds. The mist in the air was gone. The illumination from the moon was all he needed to spot his friend.

The Fire Dragon nodded its head as Michael tossed the limp body of his prisoner onto the back of the dragon. The vampire tied the werewolf with chains and then leaped onto the orange, scaly beast. He patted the top of its head and said, "Off to Greyloure Castle."

The mighty Fire Dragon sprang into the air and soared through the dark sky. Michael and the dragon felt the cool air blowing against their skin as they flew above the northern lands of Mystoria with the magicians' cottages below them. There were no candles burning at this late hour. However, Michael knew the magician council would be waiting for him at Greyloure Castle.

CHAPTER 2

The Desert

As soon as Kathryn, Christina, and Rex walked through the portal from Mystoria, they found themselves in the middle of a desert. There was no opening to go back through. They were surrounded by sand as far as the eye could see. There were three suns spread out high above them that emitted scorching heat upon the immortals. They had to shield their eyes from the bright light, and sweat began to pour from their skin.

“Let’s go,” Kathryn said as she began walking. She was still in possession of Thomas, so although it looked like an elderly wizard on the outside, it was actually the former queen of Mystoria controlling her vessel. The werewolves obediently followed the powerful witch across the sand.

Kathryn did not have a plan for this new world. Her plan had been to take over Mystoria with the help of the werewolves. It had almost worked except that Michael and Jasmine had been able to stop her takeover with their impressive and unique powers. From what Kathryn could tell Jasmine was able to teleport, and Michael had become a hybrid with vampire and magician powers. It did not matter because Kathryn had always wanted to know what lay beyond the world of Mystoria. So far she was regretting that decision.

After an hour of walking Kathryn began to worry. All three of them were drenched in sweat. They were thirsty. The bright suns were scorching their bodies. The suns had dropped a little, but there was still hours of daylight left. If she didn’t think of something fast, they were going to die. She stopped walking. She looked at the werewolves who were still in human form and had an idea.

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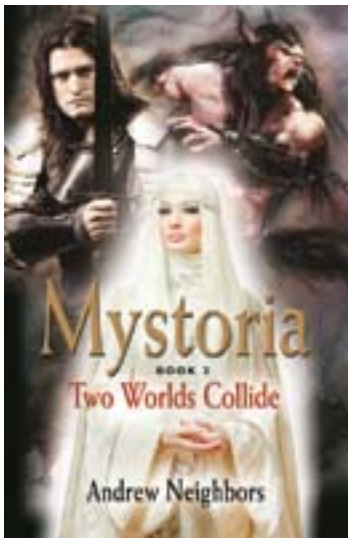
“Transform into your werewolf form and dig us a tunnel so that we can escape the suns,” Kathryn ordered. Christina and Rex nodded in approval. Their bodies violently transformed into werewolves. A werewolf’s coat was always the color of their hair in human form. Rex was a dark brown beast, and Christina was blonde. Side by side they dug a tunnel into the sand. Sand flew behind them, and they quickly disappeared under the earth. Moments later they appeared in the opening. “Well done,” Kathryn said as they transformed back into their human form. Only the most powerful werewolves were able to transform back and forth from their human to animal forms so quickly. Kathryn knew that she had some mighty soldiers at her disposal. They walked down into the tunnel and waited for darkness to fall.

Kathryn was pleased with her new servants. The former queen thought Christina was beautiful, for a werewolf. She had long, blonde hair and big, brown eyes, and she was Foster’s sister. Kathryn had been very fond of Christina’s brother, Foster. In her days as queen of Mystoria, Foster had been her faithful servant, and it was he who helped her escape from a grave on a desolate rock in the middle of Piranha Lake. Michael had killed her beloved Foster, and the powerful vampire wizard had almost killed her. Killing Michael would have to wait, but she would not forget that destroying him was a priority. Christina was tall, slender, and beautiful, and then there was Rex.

The ancient witch surmised that Rex was the largest immortal that she had ever met. And she had known many. During the death matches of old in Greyloure Castle, she had seen the greatest warriors of Mystoria fight to the death. Rex was bigger than any she had ever seen, and his muscles looked like they would burst from his skin. His neck was so thick that she wasn’t sure where his torso ended and neck began. Rex’s hair and beard were dark brown and unkempt, and he was an intimidating and foreboding presence. Kathryn was used to

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having werewolves as her servants, and she was confident in Christina and Rex. They would wait out the scorching heat and then hopefully find civilization. The unknown was intriguing and exciting for the former queen of Mystoria. Whatever lay ahead had to be better than being confined to a coffin for three hundred years. Kathryn was back, and she had a brand new world at her fingertips.



Kathryn's return shatters the brief period of peace as the wicked witch brings an army to Mystoria that is worse than anyone ever imagined. A violent war threatens to destroy all of Mystoria, and Kathryn's plans endanger the separation of all the ancient worlds. Jasmine and Michael would love nothing more than to marry one another and live in peace, but Michael is the only hope in saving Mystoria from the coming darkness. See also: MYSTORIA: Land of the Immortals

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