

# Heir Apparent

By Vivian Vande Velde

## Characters:

**Giannine Gellisario** - Main character, age 14. Eighth-grader at St. John the Evangelist School. AKA "Janine de St. Jehan, Shepherdder."

**Dusty** - Janine's dog.

**Giannine's Mother** - Lived in New York. Came to Rochester one weekend a month.

**Giannine's Grandmother** - Giannine lived with her in Rochester.

**Giannine's Father** - Divorced Giannine's mother when Giannine was 5.

**Solita** - Janine's foster mother.

**Dexter** - Janine's foster father, a peat cutter.

**Sir Deming** -

**King Cynric** - Janine's father.

**Prince Wofgar** - Oldest prince, aged late twenties. Foreign educated. Wore a goatee. Had ability to turn into a wolf.

**Abas** - Second prince, aged early twenties. Very muscular.

**Kenric** - Third prince, aged late teens.

**Counselor Rawdon** - One of King Cynric's advisers. Stole the king's fortune and hid it in the catacombs of Fairfield.

**Queen Andreanna** - King Cynric's wife, age 40 or 50.

**Xenos** - Wizard dressed in monk's robe. Liked to eat live centipedes. Made "magic artifacts."

**Uldemar** - Wizard who was very tall with a shaved head. Eyes were like ping-pong balls, totally white with no pupils or irises. He was blind. He could locate things and people using his scrying glass. He could transform his shape and reanimate the dead.

**Orielle** - Witch with Barbie doll figure and face. Skilled at making potions.

**Poacher** - Boy about 9 or 10 years old who was accused of killing a deer.

**Nigel Rasmussem** - Founder of Rasmussem Enterprises, aged 16. Worked the concession counter.

**Lady Cynthia** - Lady-in-waiting who dressed Janine in gown of burgundy-colored velvet.

**Lady Bliss** - Lady-in-waiting who dressed Janine in a red velvet dress that was 5 sizes too big.

**Feordina the Knitter** - Midwife who delivered Janine and took her to Dusty and Solita. Became a hermit in service at Shrine of Bruce the Warrior Poet.

**Sister Mary Ursula** - Elderly woman about 4 ½ feet tall by 4 ½ feet wide. She was "of the Sisterhood of One."

**Penrod** - Captain of the castle guard.

**King Grimbold** - King of the barbarians.

**King Tobrecan** - King Grimbold's father who lost his crown to King Cynric.

**Xenos's Father** - Looked about 5 years old. Gave Janine a magic hat after she answered three of his riddles.

**Setting** - Rochester, New York, May 25. And Kingdom of Shelby.

## Questions:

- What did Giannine's father get her for her birthday? (\$50 gift certificate for Rasmussem Enterprises)

## **Heir Apparent** By Vivian Vande Velde

- What was the name of the group protesting outside Rasmussem Enterprises? (Citizens to Protect Our Children - CPOC)
- What unusual item did the receptionist at Rasmussem Enterprises have on her desk? (Miniature genetically engineered dragon)
- What was the advice that Nigel Rasmussem gave to Giannine? ("Kenric and Sister Mary Ursula don't work well together" and "Don't forget the ring.")
- Where did Janine get killed by a wolf? (Topiary maze)
- What were the big threats to the castle? (Barbarians from the north and peasants from the east.)
- How did Janine get the magic ring? (By reciting poetry to St. Bruce) What did St. Bruce do if he didn't like your poem? (Chopped your head off) What was the ring's powers? (Whoever you gave it to was compelled to follow your wishes)
- Where did the magic crown come from? (Made by Xenos for Brecc the Slayer, the barbarian king) What was its magic? (Whoever wore it could turn things to gold by touching them) How did King Cynric get it? (Won/stole it in a tournament against the barbarians) How did the dragon get it? (King Cynric gave it to him to save his kingdom)
- Why was the drawbridge hard to close after Janine entered the castle? (Because of the several hundred ghosts from Fairfield who followed her)
- How did Janine find the gold in the Fairfield catacombs? (She used Wolfgar's wolfish hunting instincts to smell Counselor Rawdon)
- Where did the dragon live? (Cave on a mountain called "Old Hag")
- What did Orielle do to Xenos? (Cut his ear off with a waive of her finger)
- What is "sapping?" (When enemies dig tunnels under the castle to make the wall collapse)
- What were Xenos's "seven-league boots?" (When you say "Seven Leagues" they take you about 25 miles in one step)
- What did Janine get from Xenos's father? (A magic hat that allowed the wearer to slip between moments of time. It lasted for a count of 300 "Rasmussem Enterprises" or about 5 minutes)
- Riddle: How far can you walk into those woods? (Halfway)
- Riddle: Two great armies do battle on the equator. After the battle, where are the survivors buried? (Survivors aren't buried)
- Riddle: Where was Moses when the lights went out? (In the dark)
- How did Janine kill the dragon? (She turned him into gold when she put on the magic crown)
- What did Queen Andreanna do in the end? (She went away with King Grimbold) Why? (She liked his crown that turned things into gold)
- How long was Giannine in the "Heir Apparent" game? (87 minutes)
- What is the "Secret Weapon" that the programmers included? (When a player starts to cry, the characters become much more helpful)

### **In What Book...**

Did a girl ride on a bus powered by artificial intelligence? (Rochester Transit Authority)

Did a fat, elderly lady like to go skinny dipping? (Sister Mary Ursula)

Was there a fire-breathing dragon?

Did a potion taste like "licking toothpaste out of a construction worker's armpit on a 95 degree day?"