

FORT NOAH

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Story Premise:

In the beginning, there was the Song. The tool of creation. Through its notes everything exists. Over eons of time, the complete Song was lost.

On an ancient, supercontinent Earth, the ability to sing the Song lingers within a primeval race of gargantuan men. The Nephilim. Inside his megalithic city, Noah is determined to find a way to control the Nephilim's Song for his own nefarious, world-altering purposes. But soon, a young man named Adam will discover a great power hidden within him.

Using his newfound ability, can Adam and his companions stop Noah's scheme before it's too late?

Historical Background Information or Timeline:

This story is meant to be a fish out of water kind of tale. Adam learns about the world as the audience learns, so, there isn't really anything that a reader needs to know going in because they'll learn as Adam does. However, because it's good for me to have a timeline of events in place, I'm going to do little prehistory breakdown to keep things in line.

Noah and his scientists discover the slugs that produce the mud of man. Using the slugs, Noah begins to take animal qualities and combine them with unborn children. Once born, the children have traits unique to the animal that they had been combined with. This led to many unviable pregnancies. Those that were viable came out deformed or inhuman much to the anger of the families being promised miracle children. Those that were born seemingly healthy were allowed to be raised by the parents, under the watchful eyes of Noah's scientists. Frustrated by the length of time that the process was taking, and tired of the complaints of his test subjects, Noah created a way to speed up the process. They called this new way, Editing. This allowed them to conduct many tests quickly and those that weren't viable were recycled back into mud.

Decades of experiments finally led to a breakthrough. The discovery of the Song. This changed everything for Noah. Soon, after thorough testing on others, Noah gave himself the ability to communicate via ultrasound and infrasound to the beasts of the field, including the Nephilim. He used the Nephilim's DNA to produce animals that could be edited and used as spies. He then commanded the Nephilim to build his fort out of the mountaintop. Then they built the dam, large parts of the city, and finally the megalithic wall. The lands around the city were devastated of natural resources. After the walls were constructed, Noah cast out any of the families that had complained about the experiments or anyone found to be disloyal to Noah by one his spies.

These people became known as the Ejk, who by now had generations of edits running through their genes. Some of the outcast were pure human dissenters or sympathizers to Ejk. Mostly those cast out were animal-human hybrids, which Noah declared were abominations as part of his cleansing of the city. He then filled his city with the most unscrupulous scientists he could find and began his experiments into the Song in earnest.

The Ejk groups broke off into clans, forming a feudal society. Families that could trace their lineage to those who were first edited were named the Lords of the clan.

All of this occurred 100 years prior to Adam's birth.

Main Character:

Adam – If black is beautiful, then Adam is (capital-G) Gorgeous. His skin shines like polished obsidian. He looks like if Lupita Nyong'o and Daniel Kaluuya had a baby and that baby grew up to be fit as an Olympic swimmer. Adam has a winning smile and a gentle, Christ-like demeanor and body language. His only physical flaw is he's missing a small chunk out of the top of his left ear.

Adam was born in a lab using the “mud of man.” When, as an infant, Adam demonstrates his innate ability to the Song, the woman who was his Editor had him smuggled out of the city. With the help of some animal companions, Adam landed on an uncharted island.

By the time Adam was ten years old, the rats had devastated the island's vegetation and were on the direct path to make the island uninhabitable.

In the seven years that follow, Adam grows into a prime specimen of fitness and athleticism, falls in love with Seth, and feels the gap between him and the tribe widen into a chasm but has no idea why.

Adam, despite his less than ideal upbringing, grows into a thoughtful, decisive, and non-violent young adult. It's these traits that carry him through his journey to stop Noah's horrific scheme.

As he journeys through the story, he will show compassion for the mistreated, bravery for standing up for the abused in the face of power, and he will learn just what it takes to provoke him to violence.

Why is Adam special? Because, not at first but eventually, he will be able to sing all the known notes of the Song, as well as create his own notes. This is what Noah has been searching for. Adam is the key to opening and closing the door to the Ark.

What makes Adam special? His Editing. The woman who edited him did so through unsanctioned use of Noah's DNA and that of the Nephilim. In Noah's eyes, his personal DNA is too pure to be directly miscegenated with that of an unintelligent beast such as the Nephilim, so this was already an infraction. Noah has made natural birth illegal for all women except for Noah's concubines. So, in a truly forbidden act, Adam's Editor then carried him to term instead of using the microincubator in her lab. Thanks to Noah's already highly edited DNA, the inherent abilities built into the Nephilim's, and the natural growth environment of the Editor's womb, Adam is the first and only human capable of singing the highly complex notes of the Song.

Supporting Characters:

Noah – He’s a downright bastard. He has very narrow ideas about what qualifies as “genetic purity.” He only cares about himself and achieving his goal of finding the key notes to opening the Ark. A petty, narcissist dictator, he controls his city with a heavy hand. He has no issue with expending others to get what he wants, and he’s been doing this for over 500 years. Through the effects of editing, Noah’s extended his lifespan and is able to sing more of the notes of the Song than any living human. He is also incredibly savvy, and every move is calculated. He even sets up ways for his people to betray him in the hopes they discover the key to the Song. Adam’s birth was his doing, maybe not directly, but the possibility for it to happen was certainly part of Noah’s plan. It’s why he had animal spies edited that are intelligent, capable of understanding, and instinctively loyal to him. He adores and rewards loyalty but punishes betrayers with swift brutality. So, while his city full of scientists search to find the key, he sits in his Fort on the top of the mountain, waiting impatiently (that means trying to “manually” create the key with his rotating queue of concubines until something finally piques his immortal interests). This image is a good idea of what I want Noah to look like. Old, white, male, with a long white beard. The image also is nice metaphor for how important Noah sees himself when compared to other humans. And bonus, he’s also surrounded by examples his animal spies.



Xaq – He is blunt and can be a bit coarse. He is the epitome of an entitled youngest child whose parents are too busy, tired, or oblivious to deal with his bullshit and so, he gets away with a lot. The fact that he’s an Ejk Lord’s son only exacerbates his attitude. His lineage doesn’t help either. Xaq is a descendant of one of the first bloodlines cast out into the wilderness by Noah. This pedigree aids in Xaq’s obnoxious behavior being endured by much of the Lord’s staff and any of the people that reside under his father’s Flag. The image below is as close I could find that wouldn’t require me to pay for a commission. So, imagine this sort of monstrous aspect but on an attractive, boyish-looking, young gay man.



Lilith – Native of the island and only daughter of the Chieftess Salome. She is physically strong and very graceful and can easily hold her own in a fight. She is strong willed and a natural leader. She's also very direct and doesn't mince words or put bows on criticism. She doesn't want to be powerful, just to have her own agency and ability to make decisions for herself. Although not gay, she has no interest in marriage and refuses to lay beneath a man. The image below isn't a literal depiction, but Lilith would definitely be happy to be portrayed as such a fierce individual.



Mother Kiore – Well, first and foremost, she’s a 3-foot tall rat as a result of being edited with the mud of man. She has human level intelligence, is capable of speaking “telepathically” with humans via the Song, and prefers to walk on her hind legs in an effort to gain the human’s respect. She’s sweet and gentle and dotes on those she cares for like a plump grandma during the holidays. For those she doesn’t care for, she is a ruthless, conniving, unscrupulous death monger. She’s a voice of influence for Adam because she teaches him how to sing the Song, but her advice typically calls for bleeding and screaming. I mean, she’s also typically right, in a cold, pragmatic sense, but Adam isn’t vicious enough to follow her advice. Lilith, however, takes a shine to Kiore and the two become quite the deadly duo. She’s also a spy for Noah and so, as part of Noah’s “betrayal contingency,” Kiore was instrumental to the infant Adam’s escape to island. She, along with her mate, guided the canoe using the stars like they were taught. She and her mate were also responsible for the scourge of rats devastating the island. This wasn’t intentional, they were never supposed to be on the island for so long, but the native named Elon destroyed the container with the recovery beacon in it. So, as part of their mission, the couple tried to keep Adam protected from their hungry, feral children, hoping for a recovery unit’s unlikely arrival. After seventeen years, her children were out of her control. So, when she sees a chance to escape with Adam, she takes it, without looking back. To her, only the completion of her mission matters. She’s been genetically programmed to follow it. The image is exactly what I imagine Mother Kiore looking like. How could you not trust something as cute as her?



Locations:

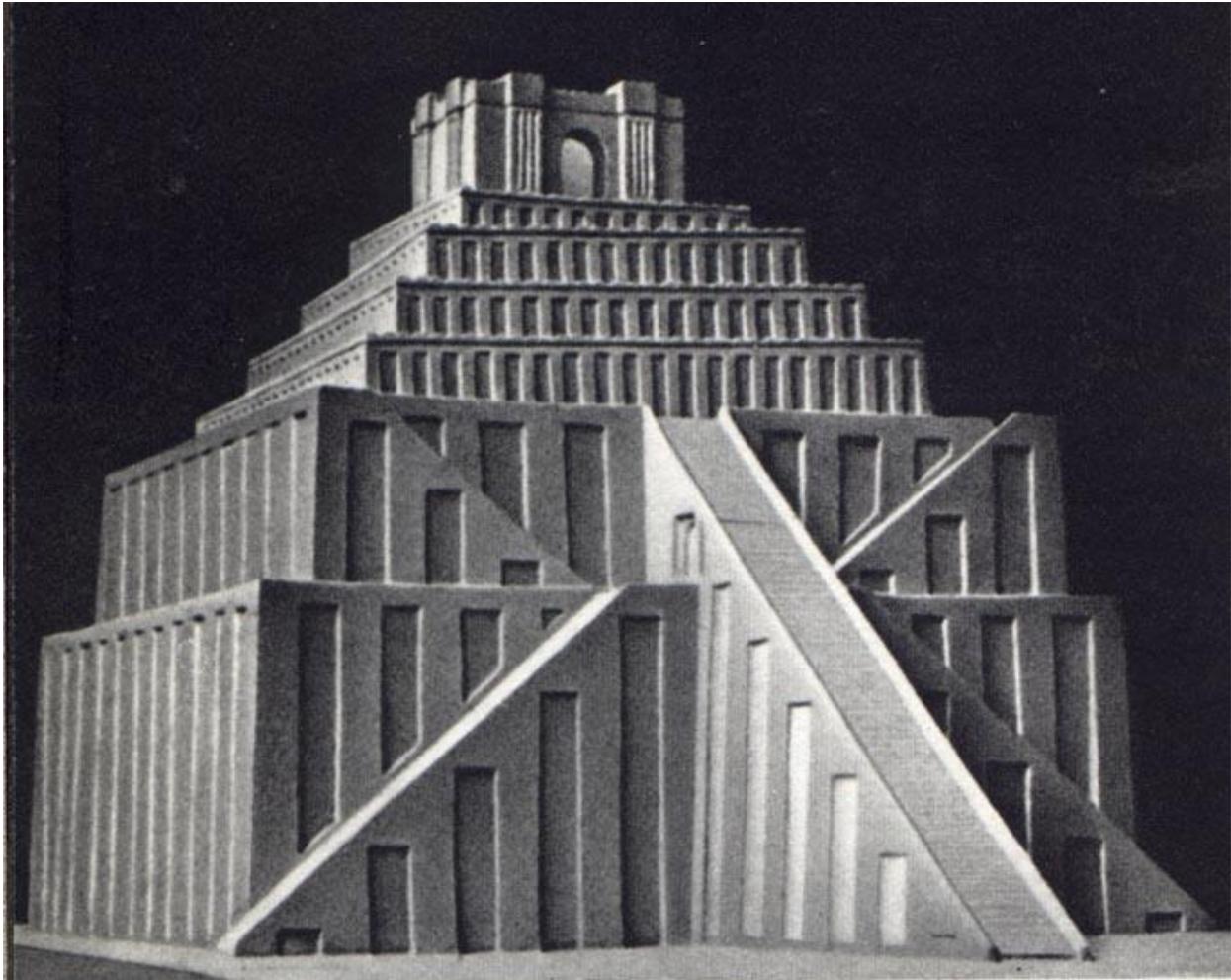
The wilderness – The land in front of the megalithic wall of the city is a wasteland. No vegetation or life. A dust bowl of dried and cracked soil as far as the eye can see. A few days journey away from the city the land begins to come to life. This is where the Ejk live. There are grasslands where giant, bi-pedal birds reside. A forest filled with megaflora versions of flowers, mushrooms, and carnivorous plants thriving under the towering canopy of mammoth trees. And a rocky shoreline whipped by strong gusts of wind and pounding waves with slivers of approachable beach carved out of the cliffs. This image is an Ejk war encampment the night before a battle on the edge of the wasteland (minus the giant column of flame; let's not be ridiculous, now).



The city – Noah’s city is a godless place of science. It’s built on a foundation of science first. Its religion is scientific discovery. Its messiah is Noah. The city proper is really little more than a huge, meticulously planned laboratory. The city is sectioned off based on research departments. The buildings and roads are shaped and arranged based on patterns of sacred geometry ala Washington D.C. As far as the actual look of the city, it’s akin to ancient Babylon. The city is a marvel of its time with celebrations of art and design and technological advancements in much of the architecture and décor. Huge rooftop gardens, reflecting pools, and great, sculpted statues of Noah fill the areas between the research departments and living quarters. A visitor to the city would, at first glance, find it a wonder of design and engineering. Any deeper looks into the what exactly goes on in the labs may shock them. But that’s not likely because the city has heavy security and strict guidelines about who can visit the laboratories. Mainly as a protection against inter-department espionage. Everyone desires to be the on the team that discovers how to perfectly edit the Song. Cutthroat competitiveness, backstabbing, research theft and/or sabotage are all part of Noah’s plan, of course. The image below is a good example of the architecture and artistry of the city.



Fort Noah – Noah’s home and fortress sits atop a mountain. The fortress itself, a great ziggurat carved out of the peak, is flanked on its sides and rear by other formidable mountains. At the front of the fort is a vast lake and a massive dam, separating the fort from the city. The dam converts the water into resources for the fort and the city below. This mountain fortress is where Noah is assembling the Ark, a pocket dimension that only he would have control over. His fort is decorated with painting and sculptures of his likeness. Mirrors are everywhere, so that Noah can admire himself whenever the need arises. The image below is an example of Noah’s ziggurat fort, so, just imagine this on top of a mountain.



Additional World Information:

Outside the city, the magic level is low. Extraordinary few have access to the Song and those that do are not trusted by the general populace. The Song means Noah to the Ejk and the Ejk fear and hate Noah. Inside the city, the people consider the Song a blessing, but Noah has strict control over who gets anointed with it. Certain groups of soldiers, Noah, and his sons all can sing.

The Song can be used for stone-shaping and acoustic levitation. The first two applications discovered, allowing for Megalithic structures to be built. Later uses discovered are sonic bullets, sonic shields, ultra-fast healing, and the creation of the mud of man.

The mud of man is a unique material that is created by a species of slugs found deep beneath a mountain in New Zealand (uncoincidentally right where Noah has built his megalithic city). These slugs manipulate the resonant frequency of the stone around them. When they are hungry, they “sing” and turn the rock into a thick gel that they consume. This gel is the foundation of the mud of man. Somehow the slugs sing notes so complex that they change the state of the rock into an entirely new material. The creatures seem capable of perpetually creating the mud under the exact right conditions (usually starvation). It's not understood how the animals can produce the correct frequency to do it. The notes, and therefore, geometric patterns they produce when they sing are highly complex and beyond anything that Noah and his scientists have been to reproduce- to Noah's constant frustration. He needs the slugs to continue his experiments and hates how slow the process is taking. It was discovered that when the mud is added to the correct portion of ocean water and a portion of the chosen's DNA, you can create enough of that specific human out of the mud to begin harvesting organs and limbs. With focused editing you can create only the parts you need and save on the amount of mud necessary. Noah and his Editors have become incredible at this technique. This is what's allowed them to edit in the ability to sing the Song into selected humans and allowed near immortality to Noah. To Edit the Song into a person, they combine the mud of man, DNA samples of the target creature with the trait they wish to duplicate, and the DNA of target individual (usually fingernail trimmings, hair, fresh blood, and/or other bodily fluids). All of that information is combined into a virus that is then transmitted to a mud of man generated fetus, testing to see if the Edit is functional. They keep doing this until they find the exact right combination that gives them the effect they are seeking. Once the trait is discovered, the fetus is converted into a new virus to be transmitted to the target individual. For example, it took over a half-million attempts before they discovered the correct portion of immortal jellyfish DNA to give Noah his immortality.

Story Synopsis:

The island Adam arrived at when he was a toddler is being overrun by rats. Adam and Lilith, a girl from the tribe, escape on a canoe, hoping to find a new home in the land where Adam was born.

A stowaway, Mother Kiore, a thigh-high rat with telepathy teaches Adam and Lilith about the Song, for which Adam has a natural gift. Kiore also tells them about Noah, his horrific experiments, and his plan to destroy the world.

After being shipwrecked and later captured by the Ejk, Adam is forced into doing the bidding of an Ejk Lord. Adam falls in love with the Lord's son, Xaq, learns more about the Song, reunites with Kiore and Lilith, and raises an army of giants and Ejk to stop Noah.

Spies for Noah within the Ejk capture Lilith and Xaq. While Mother Kiore, who's been working for Noah this whole time, betrays Adam. Noah, once he has Adam, floods the city just as the walls are being toppled by the giants and Ejk. The deluge kills everything not in Noah's fort atop the mountain. Noah then succeeds in using the Song to cause an earthquake that triggers the breakup of the entire supercontinent.

Adam, Lilith, and Xaq escape into Noah's dimensional pocket Ark, shutting the door behind them, and leaving Noah to face the cataclysm he created.

An unspecified time later, Adam reopens the door and the three step out to the sound of the waves gently breaking on the shore.

Story Excerpt:

Adam asked, "Why would you hide this?"

Elon smiled. "Ah, because I couldn't let anything happen to you." He tapped Adam's chest with his staff. "You see, I also discovered your secret. Wherever you are, the rats ignore." He placed one hand over an eye. "A blind spot." He raised his voice and addressed the crowd. "You and your rats were a weapon sent to us from God to smite his enemies. As a reward, our tribe will take its rightful place in God's new land." He turned to Adam and said, venom in his voice, "You were never meant to leave this place. It's just not God's will. I would know. I'm his High Priest."

Lilith jumped off the platform. Her golden hair cut through the crowd like a barracuda through a school of herring. She squeezed past two male elders and placed herself between Elon and Adam.

Arms outstretched in defiance she said, "Are you head damaged? Why are you doing this?" Elon paused. The waves of the nighttime sea splashed and hissed.

"Daughter, step away," Salome said.

Lilith ignored her mother. "Well?" she asked Elon.

He gave her a haughty grin.

Seth blindsided Adam, tackling him to the sand. Adam used his arms to defend himself from blows as Seth sat atop him, punching. "You killed my island!" he said.

From behind his arms, Adam saw the frenzied, bloodthirsty eyes of the mob enjoying his beating.

Seth's hands tightened around Adam's throat. "Die, devil!"

Lilith moved to help Adam. Molah grabbed her by the wrist, stopping her.

Elon put a hand on Seth's shoulder. "Now-now, Son, don't kill him. The tribe needs him alive for a little longer."

Beyond the tree line, the alarms clattered noisily.

The crowd fell silent.

A cacophony of squeaks quickly overwhelmed the sound of the alarms.

A murmur passed through the people.

Then shouts.

Then screams.

Panic took hold as swarms of gray fur, pink flesh, and white teeth overran the beach.

Those who fell under were covered and savaged by a thousand scratching claws and gnawing incisors.

Adam's fingers pried at Seth's grip. His vision blurred. An ocean of blood pounded in his ears.

A dark gray shape pounced on Seth, knocking him off Adam.

Adam gasped for air and rolled to his knees. Through watery eyes, he saw a rat, half as tall as a man, feasting on Seth. It looked at Adam, mouth dripping red. Over the ringing in his ears, over the screams of the people and the shrieks of the rats, Adam heard a voice, familiar and kind, speak to him.

"Hello, Adam, dear. It's time you went home."

A tan, female arm looped under Adam's, helping him stand. "Let's go!" Lilith said.

Adam stumbled in the shifting sand and lost sight of the huge rat. "Where?" Adam asked, voice ragged.

"To my wedding canoe."

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