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# The Arcadian Chronicles

## Mantivore Dreams

Jessob Brarion is 16 years old before he discovers that everything he has grown up believing is a lie. Even Vrox, his imaginary mantivore companion is more than he appears - a lot more...

All Jessob has to do is hang on. Keep nursing his crippled grandfather and drudging for his mother. Because her pitiful ability with the Node nexus means that, sooner or later, she'll be forced to resign as village Brarian and Jessob can take over.

Except one sleepy afternoon, Jessob sneaks into the Node and discovers a forbidden Music site. That single rash act rips him away from everything he's ever known, forcing him to leave. At least he isn't alone. Seth Priest, the village outcast, decides to accompany him. Oh - and there's Vrox, of course. Half mad and brutalised, he's been breaking into Jessob's mind a lot, recently. But Vrox befriended him when he was little - he's bound to be on his side... isn't he?

## Chapter 1 | Chapter 2 | Chapter 3Mantivore Preys

Felina Keeper has had enough. Responsible for storing and maintaining produce in poverty-stricken Cnicus village, her daily duties are bleakly confining.

Depressed and grieving for Jessob, whom she realises, too late, she loved as a son, Felina's grip on village affairs slips as she increasingly turns to her little treats to get through each day.

Until Cnicus is engulfed in a tide of unwelcome publicity as news flyers - literally - crash into the village. Felina finds herself the de facto leader as she battles to limit the damage, both physical and emotional, on her fellow villagers.

Will she succeed? Or will starving Cnicans find themselves begging on the streets of Reseda as the village finally succumbs to the terrible pressures it has laboured under for a whole generation...

## Chapter 1

### Mantivore Destiny

What does God want from him? This question burns through Seth Priest's life. Synaesthetic and a visionary, he must have been saved from his ten-year alcoholic haze for a purpose - but what? Seth resolves to return to Cnicus to help his former best friend, Jessob. And walks into murder and violence.

Can he help Jessob escape from Vrox, without getting them all killed? Seth doesn't think so - and he isn't the only one...

## Chapter 1