

Want To Know a Secret?

I'm sure questions abound considering my decision to put Mumm-Ra on the cover of the book I'm holding in this picture. Well, it's not a quick explanation, nor a simple one.

When I was in grade school, I was not a happy kid. I wasn't exactly bullied—not by my classmates, although my older brother and sister had their jackass moments—but I was ignored. Very, *very* ignored. While every other kid in my class had a group that they were able to hang out with all the time, I had only one friend, and since she was a year behind me in school, I wasn't always able to play with her at school.

Don't get me wrong, we found ways to hang out anyway. I was always going over to her house or she would come over to mine. We just got along really well; she is the twin sister of my heart. I am forever grateful that I met her, and even now—when it's been years since we last saw each other—if she called me and told me she needed help, I'd drop what I was doing and go flying down to her side in a heartbeat.

One of the things we both fell in love with was *Thundercats*. We LOVED that show. We wrote all sorts of stories about them that we would share with each other. We even created our own characters for the stories that were representations of ourselves—Tigara and Sibera, the younger sisters of Tygra and Bengali that had been kidnapped from their families as very young children, sold into child slavery, and through a number of WTF happenings, somehow ended up in the custody of Mumm-Ra as his surrogate daughters.

Kind of odd, now that I look back on it.

As time went on and we both matured and went our separate ways—she to Florida with her husband and I to the DC area with my family—our love for the show matured as well. I see a few things differently now.

Such as realizing that so many of those stories that I wrote for my friend put Mumm-Ra, the Ever-Living Source of Evil, in a far better light than a villain like *that* deserved. He *doted* on Sibera and Tigara in our stories, up to the point that he would willingly cooperate with the Thundercats because it would make “his two little kittens” happy. We had a whole redemption story plotted out for him as the finale of our extended Thundercat universe, revealing that he wasn't a bad guy, he was just tricked by the Ancient Spirits of Evil (who murdered his children) to make such a powerful sorcerer into their eternal servant.

This really caught me off-guard when I thought about it. My friend and I were all about Tygra and Bengali—because TIGERS!—and it never seemed to occur to me that I had a love for Mumm-Ra as well. So, as I sat there contemplating this, I realized something about myself: I was enamored with Mumm-Ra because I related to him. He was lonely, had probably been just as ignored by his peers as I had, but had let that loneliness turn into bitterness. He was an example of what I could become if I chose evil over righteousness, and I personally was so upset about this that I had to find *something* about him that would prove he could be redeemed from his evil ways—such as adopting two unhappy little girls.

So, in retrospect, my favorite character of the whole show was actually Mumm-Ra.

I have since found a path that I am happier with—though I will always have daydreams of “something better”—and some childish part of me wants to believe the same could be true for Mumm-Ra. Hence why I chose him for the cover of the book. I have found true pleasure in crocheting, knitting, sewing, and embroidery, and sharing my efforts with those around me. Therefore, the part of me that is Mumm-Ra has found pleasure in it as well, and wishes to share it with all the universe.

Huh... apparently I'm about one-hundred twenty words short of actually filling in this area. Bit of a problem there. Um... so, I love chocolate, Italian food, Chinese food, Greek food, ice cream, and cheeseburgers. The other favored shows of my youth are *My Little Pony*, *Moondreamers*, *Are You Being Served?*, *Night Court*, *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and *Sonic the Hedgehog* (more the Saturday show than the weekday). My three favorite online reviewers are AVGN, Diamanda Hagan, and Phelous. And... that's still not enough words. Um... so... cheeseburger. Yeah.

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