

Denna

Physical Qualities

- Her eyebrows arched, she looked ten years older (paraphrasing)
- Smells like road dust, honey, smell of air before a heavy summer rain/storm (NotW). Road dust, selas flower, green grass (WMF).
- “Eyes like dark pools” - Kvothe can’t think straight when they meet eyes
- Red Lips
- White teeth
- Nice ear - physically and musically
- Her voice is like a burning silver
- “Her hair was arranged to display her elegant neck to good effect, revealing the emerald teardrop earrings and matching necklace at her throat. Her lips, as always, were red without the aid of any paint. I looked into the deep brown of her eyes” = Denna

“She was dressed in grey and lavender, and her curling chestnut hair was pulled back to reveal her elegant neck. Her mouth was full and red without the benefit of any paint. Her dark brown eyes were gravely serious” = Meluan.

And both are described with having “a strong jaw”.

What is going on here? Why the parallel between Denna and Meluan?

Kvothe and Denna:

Stories of Stones

The stories of stones (the secret of stones):

"Once there was a boy who came to the water. This is the story of a girl who came to the water with the boy. They talked and the boy threw the stones as if casting them away from himself. The girl didn't have any stones, so the boy gave her some. Then she gave herself to the boy, and he cast her away as he would a stone, unmindful of any falling she might feel."

"It's a sad stone then?"

"No, not sad. But it was dropped once. It knows the feel of motion. It has trouble staying the way most stones do. It takes the offer that the water makes and moves sometimes. When it moves it thinks about the boy."

- Significantly: when Kvothe and Denna first met, they went to a "wide clearing circling a pond... on the edge of the water were a pair of waystones." = "the story of a girl who came to the water with the boy." This is definitely the story about K and D's relationship.
 - Then when Kvothe had to leave for university, she tried to talk him into staying with her, but he ultimately rejected. She didn't feel sad but she still felt the falling.
 - Could also refer to how Kvothe fought her and left her without saying anything at Severen (Cthaeh)
- "They talked and the boy threw the stones as if casting them away from himself" - stones = opportunities? hope? people/relationship? (Women hate Denna, Denna have terrible luck with men) Why "as if casting them away from himself?" Perhaps it means Kvothe was compelled to go to university to learn more about the Chandrian.
- Ch. 38 WMF - The reason Kvothe doesn't ask Denna out: "But you fear she will reject you. You fear she would laugh and you would look the fool... 'that struck uncomfortably close to the mark.'"
- Stone and Water:
 - "Wilem is a stone in deep water. Simmon is like a boy splashing in a brook" - Ch.65 NoW - Spark. Referring to their maturity towards love?
 - "The sound of it [harp] was like hammers on bells, like water over stones..." - Ch. 73 WMF.
 - "This one is telling me what it is like to live in the water, but not be a fish." - Ch. 148 WMF.
 - There are lots of references but I forgot to keep track of them...

- Denna's perspective on their relationship:

1. Meets Kvothe, who said those magic seven words "I was wondering where you were going." Spends a night under the sea of stars together. Sees Kvothe play lute beautifully. Things look pretty good (**romantic scene 1**)
2. But Kvothe leaves Denna for university
3. Meets Kvothe again about 6 months later. Kvothe thinks she forgot about him while Denna thinks he won't remember her.
4. Spends the night with Kvothe and says "steal me" (from all her admirers) (**romantic scene 2**)
5. Spends another night with Kvothe and they realise they both remembered each other from romantic scene 1. Denna says: "From that moment [Kvothe saying magical 7 words - *I was wondering why you're here*] I was yours... How could I forget the red-haired boy who left me for the University?" (**romantic scene 3**)
6. Kvothe didn't show up to the lunch date (because of the fire). Denna waited for almost an hour, "Longest I've ever see that one sit still."
7. Sees Fela, who is beautiful, gifting Kvothe a nice cloak and hugging him.
8. Meets Kvothe in Trebon (**romantic scene 4**), who leaves her while she is sleeping from exhaustion with no note or anything (to kill the draccus).
9. Meets him back in Imre. They chat again, the scene ending with Denna saying "They're [the room is] nice when you're here".
10. Some time later, Kvothe finds her crying. They talk for a little bit. Then Denna gifts a nice lute case to him and they share that when they "try to do something good... it all gets tangled up." Check out what Kvothe says here! "You are my bright penny by the roadside. You are worth more than salt or the moon on a long night of walking. You are sweet wine in my mouth, a song in my throat, and laughter in my heart... You are too good for me. You are a luxury I cannot afford. Despite this, I insist you come with me today. I will buy you dinner and spend hours waxing rhapsodic over the vast landscape of wonder that is you... I will play you music. I will sing you songs. For the rest of the afternoon, the rest of the world cannot touch us." This sounds really romantic to me! Denna starts trusting Kvothe. (**romantic scene 5**)
11. Denna meets Kvothe in Severen and starts calling him "my Kvothe"
12. Sees Kvothe more often at Severen
13. One night, they go to Maer's garden and spend another romantic night there. Denna basically says 'I love you' to Kvothe (**romantic scene 6**)
14. They have a bitter fight over Denna's song and her refusing to accept Kvothe's 'help', which she regards as Kvothe having control over her.
15. Kvothe leaves Severen without saying a word. (Denna doesn't get his letter)
16. Kvothe comes back from the Eld and Ademre. Kvothe saves Denna from a breathing problem (almost like Ben and Elodin did to Kvothe).
17. Rumours of his time with the Felurian and Kvothe sleeping around spread. Denna knows that Kvothe sleeps around (hence why she says "I won't be one of many")
18. Stories of Stones scene

*In romantic scenes, Kvothe almost always say a line (or many lines) in 7-magical-love-phrases. And stuff they say rhymes a lot as well, as if they subconsciously talk in poetic languages.

Parallels to Lanre/Lyra and Savien/Aloine + Folly

Savien and Aloine - written by Illien, who is also known in the Fae. The story is described as “love lost and found and lost again, at cruel fate and man’s folly”. Kote says: “I... loved, lost, trusted and was betrayed.” The shape of the story is really similar: tragic. Savien Traliard = greatest of the Amyr. The text heavily hints that Kvothe and Denna are Savien and Aloine. Interestingly, Denna’s name is always D-something, but once, in Severen, she is called Alora. Perhaps Alora = Aloine + Lyra?

“Aloine sang again. To me she [Denna] was not a person, or even a voice, she was just a part of the song that was burning out of me.” - a bit selfish?

Lanre and Lyra - Selitos feared for Lanre because he “understood how grief can twist a heart, how passions drive good men to folly”. This is also tragic.

*The words ‘folly’, ‘fool’ and ‘foolish’ comes up a lot regarding K and D’s relationship.

Miscellaneous

- Obviously, hates being “owned” or “treasured”. Wants devotion. “I don’t fancy being under lock and key” Significantly, Denna likes Kvothe calling her “Denna” - it sounds gentle when he says it: she likes Kvothe’s Naming. But Denna hates when men try to have mastery over her - which is Shaping.
- Doesn’t know why she’s “here”; she knows she is just going somewhere.
- Denna dreams of things that keeps her from sleeping (NotW Ch. 74)
- There is no mention of Denna telling Kvothe her name. He just calls her Denna. It just appears in the story with no explanation.
- Ring: twists when nervous, it’s made of white gold metal and blue smokestone with Yllish knots around it.
- When Kvothe and Denna are looking at “clouds and the weather to come”, Denna sees “a rose, a harp, a waterfall”
 - Rose - men always give Denna a rose, which she hates. Symbol of men

trying to own her. Bad sign.

- Harp - Denna's first instrument recommended by Kvothe, also leads to the bitter fight. Also a bad sign.
- Waterfall - Ch.65 NoW, Deoch: "she is like a waterfall of spark... you can't hold it." Probably significant in Book 3. Probably a bad sign.
- Knows "stories" about/behind stars and constellations.
- Strawberry wine is related to her - "we bought... a bottle of Avennish strawberry wine." It's also the wine Kvothe throws at the end of NotW.
- Ch. 19 - WMF - asks about a type of magic that makes whatever you wrote down become true. Then, if someone sees the writing, even if they can't read it, it'll become true - they'll think or act in a certain way.
- "Denna is a wild thing. Like a hind or a summer storm. If a storm blows down your house, or breaks a tree, you don't say the storm was mean. It was cruel. It acted according to its nature and something unfortunately was hurt... Denna is not wicked, or mean, or spiteful. She is cruel."
- Ch. 69 WMF - regarding Denna's approach to music: "...she moved through the city like some faerie creature. She walked roads no one else could see, and it made her music wild and strange and free. Significantly, the word "wild" is used to describe Felurian's laugh, "strange" for her voice and "free" for her hands. Meaning: "wild", "strange" and "free" describe something Faerie.
- Likes moonless nights best.
- Makes Kvothe promise to her by his "good left hand"
- "Master Ash might think he has a right to know about my personal affairs, my comings and goings. But he doesn't. I'm willing to concede some of that, for now... (implying he does at the moment). But you are not part of the bargain. You are mine. Mine alone. I don't intend to share you."
- Kvothe says he seems to lack a 'knack' for finding Denna. It's the same for Denna. But they find each other when they least expect it. It doesn't work very

well when they're looking for each other. Kvothe says "In some ways that seemed to be the heart of our relationship."

- "I know things they don't teach at your precious University! Secret things! I'm not an idiot!" - and yet thinks Chandrian stories are for children. What is she talking about?
- Her Lanre stories puts Lanre as a fallen hero and Selitos as a "insane monster" and a "tyrant". This is what Denna's patron wants.
- The text implies Denna has a secret of the heart just like Kvothe.
- Kvothe and Denna's relationship keeps bringing up "silence" that is "awkward", "uncomfortable" and "terrifyingly deep"

Interesting things I picked up during Denna-finding

- NotW Ch. 46, Elodin says "You can come in, but don't make any noises or sudden movements. Don't talk unless he talks to you. If you do talk, keep your voice low. Understand?" - Sounds like Kvothe warning Elodin about Auri!

Then the guy (Alder Whin) says he can't be around "people talking, dogs, cobblestones", and he's scared of "springs, slats, nails" = iron. Human-fae? There's another guy that screams "THEY'RE IN ME" endlessly. Human-fae?

- Ch. 56 - "...he doesn't know he can't save the end of a broken song with a broken lute. But you did!" - very similar to the "the broken house at the end of the broken road" in Iax's story.

Also: "[Music] is the road, and the map that shows the road. It is both together." and, "The Lethani is like a pass in the mountains... But the Lethani is also knowing the right way." Respectively, Edema Ruh = Adem, music = the Lethani?

Also, Ademre → Maedre (anagram). Music is taboo in Adem while Edema Ruh's identity is in Music. Edema Ruh always move around while Adem stay in Ademre. Definite connection there.

And in the Faeriniel story, the old man's name is Sceop and later, when Kvothe and Tempi are talking about speaking in Ademic language, the word "sceopa"

comes up. Further connection between Edema Ruh and Adem.

- “But mostly because it felt like the right thing to do, and that is reason enough” (Ch.32 NotW) - sounds like Amyr, “for the greater good (anything is allowed)” - AND Auri called him Ciridae.

- Ch. 35 WMF: Nina says “I know you didn’t give anyone in Trebon your name because then they’d have power over you...” How does she know that? Only members of the Arcanum should know that stuff, no? Even Arliden, who travelled around a lot, didn’t know the significance of knowing someone’s name. *Actually, Nisheeth pointed out that as a kid, she probably believes in children’s stories*

She also says: “I got the copper pretty okay here” - referring to the Amyr’s shield and Taborlin the Great’s sword was made of copper AND Elodin’s prison was all surrounded by copper. Perhaps it resists naming?

- Ch. 141 WMF: Kvothe doesn’t have a knack for sailor’s knots (Yllish knots?) but “proved to be a dab hand at untying them” - later Kvothe learns to read Yllish knots by just looking at them, when they’re meant to be read by touch. Also, the old man in Jax’s story listened and talked to the knot to undo it, which Jax wasn’t able to do.