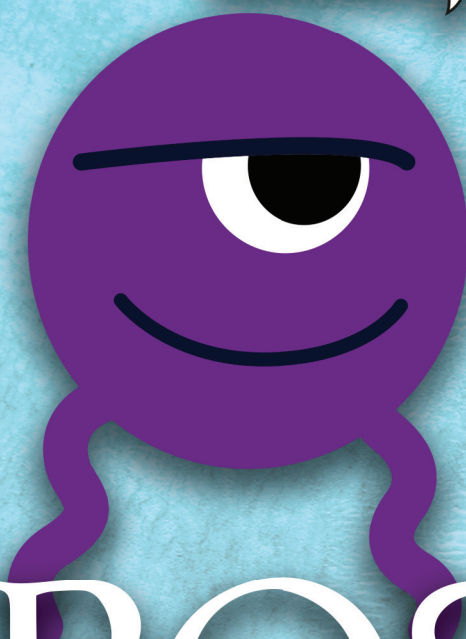


# WILL WIGHT

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

[THIS ONE'S ALL ME.]

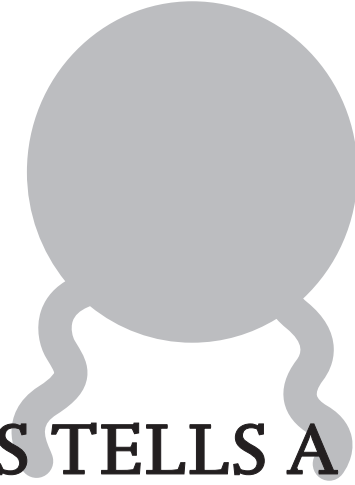


# DROSS

TELLS A STORY

---

A CRADLE STORY



# DROSS TELLS A STORY

---

A CRADLE STORY

WILL WIGHT



DROSS TELLS A STORY

*Copyright © 2025 Hidden Gnome Publishing*

*Book and cover design by Patrick Foster*

All rights reserved. No part of this story may be reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval without permission in writing from the author.

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, businesses, companies, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

This PDF edition is not for sale or distribution.

*[www.HiddenGnome.com](http://www.HiddenGnome.com)*

PUBLISHED BY



**[ABIDAN RECORDS: REAPER DIVISION INTERVIEWS]**

**[INTERVIEW SUBJECT: RANK 1 COMBAT ANALYSIS PRESENCE,  
DESIGNATION "DROSS"]**

**[SPECIAL NOTE: SUBJECT DROSS WAS REQUESTED TO RECOUNT  
THE COMPLETE ACTIVITIES OF HIS HOST, WEI SHI LINDON  
ARELIUS. INCLUDED BELOW IS HIS REPORT IN ITS ENTIRETY. IT  
HAS BEEN ORGANIZED INTO "BOOKS" AT DROSS' INSISTENCE.]**

**[BEGINNING REPORT...]**

DROSS: Oh, you want to hear about Lindon? You came to the right spirit, because I'm the foremost Lindon expert in existence. In fact, don't even bother asking Lindon himself. He's biased.

## ~~WILL WIGHT~~ DROSS

I've compiled a very detailed presentation for you, which I have arranged into twelve parts. You might call them "books." We'll start with the first one, which I have entitled...

### UNSOULED

It's because he was an Unsouled. Get it?

Anyway, there's nothing important in this one. I wasn't around, so I won't bore you. You can skip this, frankly.

Lindon was weak and pathetic, an angel-lady came from beyond all space and time to take pity on him, and he decided not to be so weak and pathetic.

Oh, he met Yerin too. You know Yerin, right?

She has a sword. I think that sums up her character fairly well, don't you?

Let's move on.

### SOULSMITH

He sort of learns Soulsmithing in this one, but not really.

He does meet Eithan. That's probably the most interesting thing about Lindon at this point, meeting Eithan.

Lindon tricks an old lady into training him, meets Eithan, gets captured, gets captured *again*, begs Eithan to help him, gets locked in a cave, gets poisoned, advances to Iron, kills a guy who deserved it, and finds a spear.

Actually, he doesn't even find a spear. He's just there while Eithan finds the spear.

## DROSS TELLS A STORY

I tried to get Lindon to put me in Eithan's head, but he wouldn't do it.

## BLACKFLAME

Lindon meets a turtle and learns to set himself on fire.

## SKYSWORN

Something about Yerin and the Bleeding Phoenix, I don't know, I usually skip this part of Lindon's memories.

But he does join the Skysworn, which is vitally important, because it brings us toooooo...

## GHOSTWATER

HERE IT IS! Finally!

*This* is where Lindon's journey really begins, you see. He finally drops his weak, pathetic, cowardly self by gaining the *courage* and *wisdom* to give me control over his body. Everything useful he did was actually me piloting him, you know.

I remember our first meeting so clearly: I was waiting inside a well for just the right sacred artist, one with potential. Heralds and Sages had fought over me, but I turned them down. They weren't vessels where I could really shine.

When I saw Lindon, I knew he was a blank canvas—a husk, really. A lump of clay to be molded by my hands. So to speak.

Hm? Yes, I know Lindon is going to see this report. Why do you ask?

## ~~WILL WIGHT~~ DROSS

### UNDERLORD

Do you know Akura Charity? The one with all the owls?

Well, she wanted children to fight for her, so she set two nations to war for the sake of making child gladiators.

A lot of people died, but more importantly, Lindon shot a prince with a cannon. I was proud of him for that one. He should shoot more people with cannons.

### UNCROWNED

Ooohh, this is the one where Lindon lost a fight to Yerin!

I won't make fun of him for that one. She had a head start on him. But this time, she called me for help, and she won.

Let this be a lesson: if you call on Dross, you win.

That's not even true, really. If she hadn't called my name, Lindon would have given up, so Yerin would have won even harder. But she would have been *really* mad at Lindon, I'll tell you.

Actually, I can show you! I have a very detailed simulation.

We'll start with the first fifteen names she calls him...

**[SIMULATION OMITTED FOR BREVITY.]**

### WINTERSTEEL

This was a fun one, I had a good time in this one. I'd say I spent half my time calculating points, and the other half digesting the memories from the people Lindon ate. With his arm, not his mouth.

## DROSS TELLS A STORY

Oh, and another half running simulations against Sophara, the gold dragon. I run so efficiently that I can divide my time in three halves.

When Lindon ran into Sophara for real, he killed her in about two seconds. Because he'd fought her hundreds of times, all thanks to me.

And then he became a Sage. I didn't have much to do with that one.

## BLOODLINE

Have you met Lindon's father? I think Lindon should roll him down a few flights of stairs. Not to teach him a lesson, just because he deserves it.

Anyway, the rest of Lindon's relatives are worse. Lindon beat them up, but not as much as he should have, if you ask me.

Then we fought the Wandering Titan, a giant Dreadgod, and I nobly sacrificed my own life. It was the most devastated Lindon has ever been. The darkest point in his life. He would have made a statue of me if I hadn't come back, so let's skip to that part.

I don't have any memories immediately after this. None.

## REAPER

I do not remember, and you won't get me to admit otherwise. Nothing happened here. I was dead and that was it.

Yes, Lindon could still access *some* of my functions. He fought a cat.



## ~~WILL WIGHT~~ DROSS

Oh, and it turns out Eithan was the missing Reaper of Worlds, the doom of all existence. Which surprised everyone except me, because I'd virtually figured it all out already.

Or I would have, if I had been there. Which I wasn't.

Let's move on.

## DREADGOD

There are Dreadgods in almost all of these, but this is the one where Lindon *becomes* a Dreadgod.

This is a fun one too! Or at least it is, once I come back to life. Lindon did a good job here; he even tried to sacrifice his own brain to bring me back. It always brings a tear to my eye.

Can I go back and edit the entry for Ghostwater? I should be nicer to him.

No? Okay, well, I'll be nicer to him tomorrow.

This is when I met my personal hero, Emriss Silentborn. She's my favorite tree. I hope to be like her someday, with lots of eyes and leaves. Majestic.

## WAYBOUND

I didn't know what to call this one, but we were *bound* for *the Way* and also bound *to* the Way, and mostly I thought it sounded good.

We killed a Dreadgod in the last one, I forgot to mention that, and this time we made it into a beautiful bow with the power of dreams. And I couldn't even use it!

## DROSS TELLS A STORY

I got a halo, though, so that was nice. Makes me look holy. And magnifies my psychic influence, but that goes without saying.

Also we destroyed all the Dreadgods and transcended existence, coming to meet you here, but I still didn't get to use the bow. Mercy has it now.

Doesn't that seem unfair to you?

All right, that's the end! That's it. You have all the important points, I think.

Yes, of course, I have plenty more to say, but *talking* is so inefficient. I can directly show you the memories.

All of Lindon's memories, yeah. I have all of them.

I don't see why not. He'd probably let me—

Oh, never mind. He doesn't want to show you all his memories. He's actually furious that you would ask, so he's coming here now. No point in running, he knows your name. I'll leave you to deal with that.

That ends the report, right? Can I say it?

You're running away, you're gone now, so I'll say it:

*[Report complete!]*



## Want to always know what's going on?

With Will, we mean.

The best way to stay current is to sign up for

**The Will Wight Mailing List™!**

Get book announcements and...

Well, that's pretty much it.\* No spam!



**SIGN UP HERE!**

\*Ok, *sometimes* we'll send an announcement  
about something that's only book-related. Not a lot, promise.

**WILL WIGHT** is the *New York Times* and #1 Kindle best-selling author of the *Cradle* series, a space-fantasy series entitled *The Last Horizon*, and a handful of other books that he regularly forgets to mention. His true power is only unleashed during a full moon, when he transforms into a monstrous mongoose.

Will lives in Florida, lurking beneath the swamps to ambush prey. He graduated from the University of Central Florida, where he received a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and a cursed coin of Spanish gold.

Visit his website at *WillWight.com* for eldritch incantations, book news, and a blessing of prosperity for your crops. If you believe you have experienced a sighting of Will Wight, please report it to the agents listening from your attic.