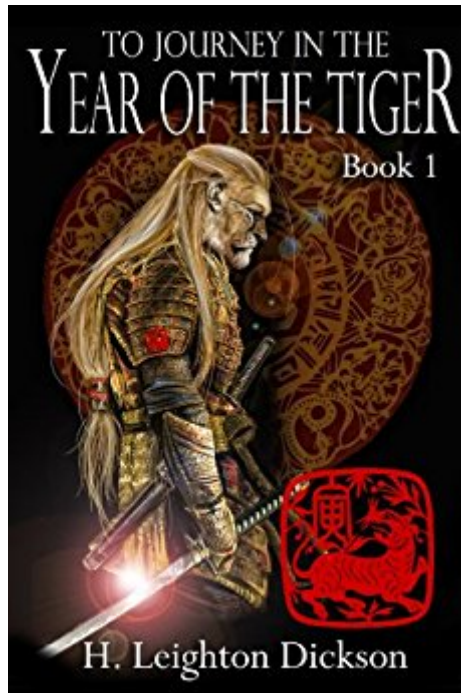


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# To Journey In The Year Of The Tiger (Tails From The Upper Kingdom Book 1)



## Synopsis

In the Survival of the Fittest, Not All Men are Created Equal. Some are Created Lions."Powerful, Passionate and Poetic!" - West Coast Book Reviews"Fantasy adventure fans will enjoy this!" - Publisher's Weekly

TO JOURNEY IN THE YEAR OF THE TIGER is the first in a Ground-Breaking Original Series by H. Leighton Dickson. This is a powerful, post-apocalyptic story of lions and tigers, wolves and dragons, embracing and blending the cultures of Dynastic China, Ancient India and Feudal Japan. Half feline, half human, this genetically altered world has evolved in the wake of the fall of human civilization. Fans of Tolkien, Game of Thrones, Redwall or Japanese anime will be entertained in these intelligent and beautifully written pages in a blend of science, fantasy and zoological speculation.

Kirin Wynegarde-Grey is a young lion with a big job â “ Captain of the Guard in a Kingdom that spans from the mountains of western China to the deserts of the Middle East. When an ancient threat awakens in the West and threatens to overthrow the Empire, he must lead a team that includes his enigmatic brother, a lethal swordswoman and three radically different and mysterious specialists through a world where humans are legend and animals walk like men. This is the journey of six individuals as they travel beyond the edges of the known Empire, into lands uncharted and wild. It is a journey of magic and mystery, science and swords, romance and intrigue. It is a journey of different perspectives and unexpected karma and love found in surprising places. It is a journey that takes place five thousand years or so in the future, naturally in the Year of the Tiger.

fantasy, chinese fantasy, chinese zodiac, sword and sorcery, fantasy romance

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book, and am looking forward to the second one. The story was engaging, the characters were complex and well thought out, and the writing was high quality. This is one of those gems you always hope to find in independently published books. I can't think of anything to say about the story that wouldn't be a spoiler, and isn't already included in the synopsis. Just try this series, you won't regret it.

\*\*\*The "unfortunate formatting" referred to at the end of this review has since been fixed.\*\*\*H.

Leighton Dickinson's *To Journey in the Year of the Tiger* (Tails from the Upper Kingdom) surprised me with how well the author delineated each character, making the character traits so specific that it was easy to tell who was who from how the character acted and spoke, which was good because the author made the unfortunate choice of giving two of the characters, both lion-men, names that were almost identical. It made sense because they were brothers, but early on, I was not always able to recall which was being referred to just by name, however, as I said their personalities and duties were so different it always quickly became apparent who was being referred to. I almost made a big mistake and quit early on in a book I ended up thoroughly enjoying because there multiple earth cultures were seemingly hodgepogged into the cat-human-hybrid empire in which the tale, er, tale takes place. HOWEVER, I read on long enough to get excellent hints that there was a very valid and logical reason behind this rather than being the amateurish world-building I initially feared. This novel earned four stars because, though the characterization and plotting were excellent, the similar names of the two characters, as well as some rather unfortunate formatting on the kindle version created a few stumbles, and the ending didn't have much in the way of resolution. Since I did enjoy reading this book and LOVED the sequel *To Walk in the Way of Lions* (Tails from the Upper Kingdom) I highly recommend this book.

I'm writing this before finishing the book, because I take forever to read eBooks (no reflection of

their quality) and I wanted to do it before I forget. I'm actually looking forward to my next excuse for a train trip as I tend to read ebooks on them and would love having time to sit down and concentrate on this one! First, the usual concern about Kindle books--there are some tiny stylistic things in the writing that bug me a bit (things like author-voice intrusions of 'truth be told' sort of narration) but on my Kindle for PC, the formatting's just fine and the writing's sophisticated and generally well-edited, so there are none of the quality-control issues people might worry about. I am absolutely loving the world-building. Asian cultures tend to get overlooked quite a bit in Western-written fantasy, but the society here is real, the characters are unique and fascinating, and the dropped references to recognizable cultural artifacts and languages work perfectly. The atmosphere feels like a real world and the characters make sense in context. Do not let the idea of cat-people put you off. It makes complete sense and elements of feline biology fit in logically with the characters. I am very picky about world-building in my fantasy (and have put down a lot of fantasy novels I've picked up because I hit the made-up names and the same-old same-old Fake Middle Ages setup and can't even) and this world is engrossing and makes me want to read more and become engrossed in it. I am glad I picked this one up and am looking forward to delving deeper.

I have had mixed experiences with independently published e-books. This is by far the best "indie" I have read. The basic premise of a stratified Asian feline civilization, is well-developed, and serves to point out the latent tensions and inherent injustice in any caste system. There were a few times, especially early in the read, when I got confused about characters. Further in, once the personalities were more clearly defined, I did better. The back-story is intriguing, and I appreciated how the author paced out the clues. I do look forward to reading the next installment!

The name of the book was what caught my attention and enticed me to read it. Animals as people is not a new concept, but I like the way this author spins the story. The host of characters are very interesting and the action is pretty good too. Tales of royalty and extreme honor always take me back to the fantastic "In Her Name" series. I ordered this book for free from the Lending Library as my monthly selection. However, I can't wait for next month to get the second book for free, so I am going to pay for it. It is just that good. Update 24 Aug 2012: Just read the second book "To Walk in the Way of Lions" and it was fantastic. Try both books and you won't be disappointed. Leighton Dickson has now been added to my list of favorite authors. I read her short bio and now have insight into why these books are so good. She loves animals and definitely knows how to turn that into a great work of fiction.

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