

Lexa: her hands--square palms, scarred fingers (of ranch work; barbwire cuts...)

Travis serenaded his way into her (life) (heart)

one character--Lexa?--says, when another complains about computers:

"Of course they're dumb. You're on a beach, you don't look down at the sand and think how smart it is, do you?"

That and barrel racing.

--give Lexa a barrel racing flashback? (the record time in Elko?)

Lexa had begun barrel-racing when she was seven,...

McPartland jazz info is in '96 diary, 23 June entry.

Lexa loves the land; the towns drive her crazy. She prefers the imperviousness
of Seattle?

- Lexa and jazz: this would add to portrait of her by--
- letting her cook to jazz, analogy w/ creative food
 - giving her the Do-Re-Mi Club/McPartland experience (in Lyle's chair, when Mitch calls from Seattle)
 - renaming her catering biz to "Do-Re-Mi", using the Satchmo saying in McPInd scene

Care

Mariah: a whistling woman?

h₂a is "wild helix" geneticist?

Lexa as caterer:

*--Mitch could be her occasional bartender, ideal at it because he barely drinks.

--in the scene after he flies home from San Francisco, Lexa can be shown catering a cyberbaron shindig on the East Side. (take a tour of Bill Gates' house as bgnd?)
(Linda Sullivan as source on this?)

*Mitch's size and athletic bgnd also makes him an ipso facto security person; nobody is going to mess w/ Lexa's stuff once they've glimpsed him. And, he can remove drunks as needed.

Lexa:

- feels guilt for having left (betrayed?) her husband during Exxon Valdez oil spill? ("You SOB. How come I love you?")
- her opening scene, coming into Seattle by ferry. (Alaska ferries run to B'ham)
- Alaska she wanted to pick up & spank.

the education of Lexa McCaskill began there, far north.

Tell me funny stuff. *Lesaa?*

(Mariah to Jick, as they ride together in 'Toothless Ferries section? It could be a saying from when she was a youngster.)

used?

Lexa's

Mariah's collarbones: make them prominent, evocative of Anna's. (and Beth's?)

- Lexa knows (says) you're in trouble when your best feature is your collarbones.

Lexa:

--a ranch kid, always out w/ Jick when he's working with the sheep etc. Good on horseback (find reference to this in Mariah), she was a barrel racer, on the college rodeo team @ ~~Montana State.~~ (Could be Colo. State) There she met her husband-to-be Travis, who was playing the trombone in brass band that did the long fanfares for the grand entry.

--Travis is in wildlife management, so Lexa could have had that as a college major, too. Or she could be a late-bloomer academically, and have coasted her way through college as a female rodeo jock.

--in their Alaska life, Travis is with the state Fish and Game (Frog and Goose) dept.,

* Lexa is a camp cook (on outback expeditions, hunting camps etc., a la Karen Feather?). When they're stationed in Sitka, she could become a fishboat or tugboat cook, as Pat Schuster was. In any case, she's a superb hiker, an overachiever at that in the same way her sister Mariah is at photography--"how good is there?"

--if I really want to push the camp-cook aspect, Lexa can have been the cook the FBI used in its wintertime stakeout of the Unabomber suspect. (probably too complicated)

* A summer job in Alaska during college could have started her on this, as an alternative way to have met Travis.

Lexa in Mariah, pp. 194-96

"Smaller, built more along her mother's lines than the lankiness of Mariah and me. Her hair more coppery than Mariah's, her face not so slimly intent, her chosen life more snug, moored...I knew if she stepped out of that phone mouthpiece right then I would be surer of her actions than I was of any of Mariah's...

(husband: Travis)

pp. 150-4, Jick killing the grizzly: Lexa is 8, 2 yrs younger than Mariah;

"hopping up and down as she put out her small hand to touch the pale fur..."

p. 43--"Our other daughter, Lexa, was a real ranch kid, always out with me among the sheep, forever atop a horse, so much like Marcella and I had been in our own growing up that it was as if we'd ordered Lexa from the catalogue."

...the blood-thorns of having been born into the same family. (Mariah & Lexa)

is Lexa broody?

L surprised to discover that Travis

~~Riley~~ was not the only fish in her sea. (quick mention of other men Mariah has dated, or brought home to the ranch.)

Mitch and Lexa met @ Exxon Valdez oilspill? ('89?)

--she's in a Seattle Times pic, rubber boots etc., Mitch put on his refrig door along w/ yellowing Far Sides. ("She was on my refrigerator door for weeks before...")

--Lexa's husband (Travis?) was a source for Mitch's story, that steamcleaning the shores of Prince Wm Sound might be worse than the oilspill.

--Mitch and Lexa travel from Valdez together (to Sitka?) by float plane, attraction growing between them. (At one point, Lexa calls Jick on his birthday?)

Lexa misses Jick; recalls Mitch's grouching about his father.

barrel-racing: clip fractions of seconds off...

Lexa in Alaska, on meeting Mitch:

"We're related. Montana, right?"

--this can be the first mention of Montana in the book

used?

Lara?

use as Jick memory of Mariah's childhood: Carol's experience of having
bad tonsils, entire year or so, before starting school; not wanting to eat.
--possibly insert in drive to Helena scene

Lexa:

--peeing on the rocks to attract mountain goats (Jerry DeSanto story abt Beth Ferris)

--Lexa does this for ~~photography~~ Mariah when M. wants to shoot pics of goats?