

SAMANTHA'S JOURNEY INTO REAL MAGIC – PART 2

By Peter Rendell

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Smashwords Edition

Edition 2

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Author's notes:

This novel is an Urban Fantasy and a Rocky Romance.

Rated (18+). If you are not of legal age or are easily offended, then do not read this novel.

Erotica: No underage sex, no Incest (except for sex education), and no bestiality (but Greek mythology is ok). The early chapters show Merlin's illusions in a nightclub, so anything goes. Magical essence is created by sexual intercourse. This fundamental leads to much moralising and lengthy discussions on the implications.

Second Edition: Added highlights for scenes.

Lexical Conventions:

'Communications by Telepathy are shown in Italics and enclosed in single quotes'.

Dedication

Thank you to my family for their support. The continuous supply of love, and mugs of tea helped me keep going.

CHAPTER 1

ZED, Havana, Cuba. - Wed 14th Apr 2010

ZED retreated to his mansion in Havana, Cuba. It was far too risky for him to remain in Milton or even the UK. He was lucky that Merlin had stayed to protect Samantha and did not take up the chase. He had expected Merlin to be hot on his trail, but ZED had escaped without consequences. Samantha must be more valuable than he thought.

Despite his extensive precautions and meticulous planning, there were a few seconds where he panicked. He had triggered the fire alarm on impulse. He was confident that any trail to him had gone cold. He had used a neighbour's passport and physical identity for the trip to the UK. Even Merlin couldn't follow that deception.

ZED had used his ring of Gaia to revert to his regular appearance; he was 35 years old, short black hair, blue eyes and rough orange skin that came from his Greek heritage. He was 6' tall and a slender build. It was a stark comparison to the 5' tall Latino lady he had been just an hour earlier.

His home was the Villa Aurora, set back from the Playa de Bacuranao and a 5-minute walk from the beach. The house was built in the nineteen-twenties using imported stone blocks for the first 2 floors. The upper structure was steel, concrete and white marble. The ground floor was prone to flooding in the hurricane season; it had space for 40 cars. The first floor held the kitchens and the servant's quarters; the living quarters and ZED's office were on the second floor. A lounge and the family bedrooms were on the top floor. ZED's staff consisted of a chef, sous chef, two maids and a chauffeur. They were well paid and had served the family for generations.

ZED was in his office, reviewing his ring's scan of Samantha. A few strands of Samantha's hair had been caught by the ring. It was this action that had probably triggered Merlin's protection wards. ZED was surprised to find that the red strands were natural. A DNA scan showed Samantha was carrying the extra 'Magic-User' chromosome; Samantha had all the Magical Blessings. On the surface, Samantha seemed to have a huge potential, but to be so vulnerable she must be a novice. Samantha was a "Mistress of powers". What were the Powers? What can they do? ZED's experience was with magical essence; he had never heard of magical powers.

ZED had to consult the knowledge of the ring to answer several questions. Much of the past had been recorded in the 'Ancient' and 'Hellenic' periods of Ancient Greek. ZED didn't know any Greek so he would have to seek outside help. But, the knowledge of the ring was too much to be exposed to a third party; he would need a new strategy. He went back to analysing the scan of Samantha. She was three months pregnant. It seemed to be wild speculation, but was Samantha carrying Angel? A recent video suggested that this was the case, but he had no way to prove it. The ring had noted the presence of the medallion of Athena and had detected magical essence within the medallion but nothing more. How influential was the medallion? Was Samantha aware of its potential? ZED's envy was growing. Someday, he would have Samantha do his bidding.

Back in Milton, UK...Thu 15th Apr 2010

Samantha arrived at the Star at 9pm and went straight up to the security room. McGregor was on duty. All the security monitors were on standby; there was no activity. Evidently, the news was out – it's holiday time. That wouldn't last! Samantha's bet was they would see drug pushers again in less than a fortnight.

There was a call on her mobile. A young couple had come into the Star looking for her. She went down to the bar where Kim was waiting. Samantha recognised the man but not the woman.

They were Barry and Charlie; Charlie was now 'Charlotte' but still called Charlie. As per instructions, they had reported back in 7 days.

"Drink all you want".

"What do you want me to do?" Kim, Barry and Charlie sang in unison.

"Kim. You will return to your duties, 1, 2, 3, now."

"Barry and Charlie, you will come with me."

Samantha took the couple to the Penthouse suite, deepened their hypnosis and reinforced their protections.

'Astrid, Arturus, tell me more about these two.'

'Barry and Charlie are unemployed and have large debts. They were given free tickets for the show.'

'Thank you, Astrid. I wonder if Merlin gave them the tickets.'

'They only remember getting them from a friend who couldn't go.'

'Serendipity.'

"Charlie, you will go through training tomorrow. Report for a medical tomorrow at the private clinic in the University Hospital. Barry, you will become a barman at the Star."

Samantha told McGregor that Barry Groom would be joining the staff. Barry is a UK citizen and has his own accommodation.

[At the MURPHY private clinic...Fri 16th Apr 2010](#)

Kim monitored Samantha's health while the seamstress skills were downloaded into Charlie. Charlie had become a good-looking woman, but Samantha couldn't resist scheduling more changes. Charlie's legs would become 3 inches longer. She would become a sexy 38dd-24-34. Ten per cent of her body fat would be changed to muscle. Samantha thought this would be enough to boost Charlie's confidence. Charlie would take up Salsa dancing to explain away the changes that would happen over the next few months.

[At the Star ...Fri 16th Apr 2010, 9pm](#)

Samantha arrived at the Star at 9pm. Jake was talking to Kim at the front desk. He had been waiting to see Samantha.

"Samantha. Can you spare a moment?" Jake asked. He looked nervous. Something was bothering him.

"Yes. Jake. Let's go upstairs." Samantha took Jake to the Penthouse suite and into the bedroom.

"Jake. There are times when thinking just gets in the way."

'Astrid, Arturus. Monitor Jake's responses.'

Samantha pulled off Jake's tracksuit and pushed him onto the bed; her own clothes disappeared in a heartbeat. She let her passions go wild, knowing that her 'Partner Failsafe' would protect them. Her lust drove Jake to new heights. Samantha's screams were silenced by the room's soundproofing spells. Her ecstasy hit peaked in oblivion.

As Samantha recovered, she sensed there was something odd about Jake. She ran her fingers down his sides; he had the erogenous zones of a woman.

'Samantha. Jake has five female imprints on his body. These changes have affected him mentally as well as physically.' Astrid prompted.

Samantha thought about this information while Jake was recovering. The number five was intriguing. The possibility that interested her was the 'Arches of Parnassus' illusion. It was a new illusion they were working on. Her best guess was that each arch applied a sex-oriented imprint to the body. Jake had gone through the arches in both directions. However, as Jacquie, she only went forward through the arches before Merlin changed her back to Jake. The only way to fix Jake was to set up the arches and test her theory. She would have a word with Merlin as soon as possible.

"Jake. There are five female imprints on your body that are affecting your feelings. Go and see Merlin. Ask him to set up the arches illusion and change you back to Jacquie. Go through the arches in the reverse direction. Then, ask Merlin to change you back to Jake. You will then be free from the feminising imprints."

"Thank you, Samantha. I thought something was different."

[Samantha, MC-Enterprises...Sat 17th Apr 2010, 10am](#)

When Samantha popped her head into MC-Enterprises at 10am, Charlie's interview was going well. Melanie was monitoring the test. Samantha went through the side door into Mademoiselle. Julie and Jessica were looking after the shop.

"Hello, Auntie Samantha," Julie said as Samantha approached the counter. "We are not very busy here. We could do so much more if we had the right skills."

"Somebody has to look after the shop," Samantha replied.

"Yes, but Marie-Claire usually manages while she is taking orders. During the week, the shop may sell 20 items per day; on a Saturday, we might reach 50. It is barely enough to justify more than half a person. Someone from school could do it. Jessica and I should be working next door."

"Yes, you are right. I have been thinking about it. The issues are complicated. Perhaps you should remind me in a week or two?"

[Samantha, Milton...Sun 18th Apr 2010](#)

After a blissful night with Merlin, Samantha awoke in the later part of the morning. Merlin had already gone; he always seemed to have something urgent to do on a Sunday morning. Samantha thought he was trying to avoid a discussion on religion. She put on a dressing gown and went into the kitchen to make some coffee.

There was a knock at the door; Julie and Jessica came in. The shop 'Mademoiselle' was closed, and Marie-Claire was working on a sewing machine. The girls had been excused; they had the day off.

Samantha gave them glasses of milk and was quite relieved when they drank the milk without question. She had expected some resistance to her offering; blossoming ladies are usually developing a taste for tea or coffee. She waited a few moments to let the hypnotic milk take effect.

"Samantha. Was that your breast milk?"

"Yes, Jessica. Would you like some more?" Samantha looked directly into Jessica's eyes and then down at her breasts. Jessica was already in a light trance; the implication came across as a command. Samantha led them into the lounge, sat on the couch and opened her gown.

"Come on Julie, Jessica. Drink all you want."

Samantha took them gently down to deep hypnosis and installed the 'Drink all you want' trigger and personal protection.

"On the word 'now' after the count of 3, you will be wide awake and refreshed. You will be aware that you have been hypnotised. You will remember the pleasant, comfortable deep relaxation and be confident in your future. You will think that suckling on my breasts is perfectly normal and not worthy of mention to anyone. 1, 2, 3 Now."

"That was very nice. Can we do this again?" Julie was looking at Samantha with big pleading eyes.

"Yes, Julie. You can come for some stress relief whenever you need it. Have you ever seen one of Merlin's shows?" Samantha wanted to move things along.

"No. We only saw a rehearsal where he went through the motions. He didn't actually do an illusion."

"OK. Watch this video of Tuesday night's performance." They sat back to watch the show.

"What happened to Jake?" Jessica asked with her eyes still glued to the TV.

"You saw the silhouette on the curtain." Samantha challenged.

"Yes. It looked like Jake was naked, and then he grew breasts and slimmed down. It really looked as though he was changed into a woman."

"And when the curtain drops?"

"Jacquie is there."

"And so, what do you believe?"

"Jacquie was substituted for Jake. And that is what everyone will believe, but how?"

"Yes, and that is why Merlin is still alive. If anyone suspected that he is a wizard using real magic what do you think would happen?"

"I guess it would be the Salem Witch trials all over again. He would be pursued and killed."

"And if I tell you that what you saw is what really happened, then what do you think?"

"I am sorry Samantha, but, my first question would have to be 'are you telling the truth?'"

"That's a fair question. Yes, Julie. I am. There is no reason why I should lie."

"Then Jake was Jacquie. Did he enjoy being a woman?"

"I don't know. You should ask him."

CHAPTER 2

Charlie starts at MC-Enterprises...Mon 19th Apr 2010

Charlie started her new job at MC-Enterprises. She tried to put her debt worries out of her mind; Samantha had said she would help, but nothing had been discussed. Melanie had assured her that promises would be kept; no debt collector would ever dare to come into MC-Enterprises.

Telephones desk, MC-Enterprises...Mon 19th Apr 2010

Marie-Claire had authorised the web pages for Fey's dresses. The orders flooded in; each client was told that the orders could take 4 to 6 weeks; it was accepted begrudgingly. The alternative is terrible fitting 'off-the-peg' or styles based on the idea that big ladies are matronly, elderly, military or fat. There is a very high demand for made to measure.

Samantha, The Black Cat...Mon 19th Apr 2010, 6pm

Teddy came up to the Black Cat at 6pm; he looked tired. Samantha took Teddy to her breast to refresh him and then shagged his brains out. After 2 hours of mindless sex, she left Teddy to float for a while. He would sleep well tonight in her bed; his bed at the Barn, bed and breakfast, would remain untouched.

Samantha telephoned Merlin about Jake. Merlin said he would set up the 'arches illusion' immediately. Merlin also said he would inform the Barn that Teddy's absence was expected. Samantha had been politely ticked off.

'Huh? How did Merlin know that Teddy was here? I hadn't told him; had I? I wasn't trying to hide the fact; we both knew it was of no consequence; we both had our sources of magical essence; we also knew that I had a habit of missing minor details; it was just good manners and etiquette to inform the Barn of Teddy's non-arrival.'

Samantha arrived at the Star at 8.30pm and made her way backstage. She wanted to help Merlin treat Jake before they opened to the public. Merlin had set up the Arches illusion in precisely the same positions as before. Jake took his spot, on stage, and was changed into Jacquie.

'Astrid, Arturus monitor Jacquie's imprinting.'

Jacquie took up her position in front of the 5th arch. She strolled back through the 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st arches.

'Astrid, Arturus. Can you confirm that the female imprints have gone?'

'Yes. Samantha. The female imprints have gone.'

"Jacquie. Please take centre stage." Jacquie was changed back to Jake.

Jake moved to the first arch and strode forward – 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th arch.

'Samantha. Jake now has 5 new male imprints.' Astrid reported.

"Thank you, Merlin. I won't risk it with Jake, but we may have to do some more tests with the arches. For instance, if someone wants to lose 2 imprints then is the effect of doing 5th, 4th the same as doing 2nd, 1st?"

"Let me know when you want to do those tests. We will have to work together." Merlin was intrigued by the unexpected quirks of the arches.

"Are we done for now?"

“Sure. Take Jake for a test drive. He will be fine. He is strong enough to cope with your animal passion. I want him back here by 11pm.”

Samantha took Jake up to the Penthouse suite.

“How do you feel now Jake?”

“Great. I am ready to shag your brains out.”

‘Angel, Astrid, put a lust spell on that beautiful cock. I want it long and hard inside me.’

Samantha felt the raw energy pulse through her body. Her orgasms rose to a peak and stayed there. As they ebbed, Samantha realised that this was her own misuse of drugs. She must limit her use of the lust spell. Self-recrimination was a bitch, but, wait a minute, the purpose here was threefold. She was repairing the damage done by the female imprints, replacing Jake’s self-esteem as a male and creating new magical essence.

Jake had a shower while Samantha relaxed in the afterglow. Jake came back into the bedroom.

“I am a little disappointed Jake. Here I am naked and desirable. My presence alone should be enough to give you a rise.”

“Are you kidding? It will be hours before I am ready to go again.”

“Drink all you want.”

Samantha gave Jake 10 minutes of her milk to aid his recovery but couldn’t resist tinkering with Jake’s body. She tweaked his muscle performance by 10% and improved his speed of recovery.

“Jake. Be careful on your next training session. You will be sharper than usual. Pull your punches just a little more. You will be fully refreshed and wide awake on the word ‘now’ after a count of 3; - 1, 2, 3, now.”

Samantha watched with a keen eye as Jake got dressed.

“Jake. Would you like to come for afternoon tea on Sunday? You could chat with Julie and Jessica.”

“Yes, Samantha. I would like that very much.”

[Samantha, The Black Cat...Tue 20th Apr 2010, 4pm](#)

Miss Jones arrived at the ‘Black Cat’ at 4pm. Samantha, Julie and Jessica were waiting in the lounge. Samantha stood up to address her guests.

“OK. Julie, Jessica. You would be more useful to MC-Enterprises if you had seamstress or dressmaker skills. I can copy them into you using real magic. If I take the position of your mother, I am against it, as I feel it is exploitation. If it had been an outside company then I would have blocked it, but the company is MC-Enterprises, and I must bat for the company. My main reservation is that I don’t know if it will have an ageing effect on your muscles, particularly on your hands.”

“Auntie Samantha,” Jessica responded in the moment of silence. “I trust your judgement. I am willing to chance it.”

“Yes, me too. Auntie.” Julie added. She was keen to show her support. “We appreciate the risks are unknown, but I think we have taken bigger risks already.”

Samantha noted their use of the title ‘auntie’.

“Drink all you want.”

“What do you want me to do.” The chorus was heard.

“Julie, Jessica. You will relax on the sofa and receive your gifts. Marie-Claire, you and I will take the easy chairs.”

'Astrid, Arturus. Load the seamstress skills into Julie and the dressmaker skills into Jessica; the basic computer skills and cutting station user skills are to be loaded into both.'

Miss Jones kept Samantha on a steady supply of glucose drinks during the next 5-hours.

[Samantha, MURPHY...Wed 21st Apr 2010, 10am](#)

Samantha and Merlin began a ward round at 10am. Samantha explained to Merlin how her powers went about their tasks. After a few short moments, Merlin disappeared with Miss Jones for a cup of tea. Merlin had come as promised. This wasn't his skill set, and so Samantha was not surprised to see him leave at the earliest opportunity. Samantha treated all 40 patients with the standard 5-minute treatment. There were 2 patients of interest – Jane Taylor and Jennifer Reims.

Jane was a tall and skinny type and would have been called 'beanpole' at school. She had no qualifications and was pulled into drugs by a pusher at a party. Jane had long black hair, blue eyes, pale pink skin and wore glasses to correct astigmatism.

Jennifer Reims, age 30, was a mousey blonde with a short, stocky stature. She had blue eyes and dark tanned skin.

Samantha was finished by afternoon tea and went back to the private ward. Sophie had come to see Samantha for her first 4-week review. Now that she was 'all woman', having lost her transgender issues, she managed to joke about her first period. Oozing confidence, Sophie had become a much better nurse. She wanted to get off the night shift and asked Samantha for help. Samantha said she would put in a recommendation.

[Samantha, The Black Cat...Wed 21st Apr 2010, 10pm](#)

'Angel. Are you awake?'

'Yes, Samantha.'

'You have been very quiet lately.'

Angel had been so quiet that Samantha had almost forgotten about the spirit that was living temporarily behind her left ear.

'Yes, Samantha. I have been sleeping like a baby. That sex with Jake left me overloaded. Jake was sensational.'

'Yes, he was. Merlin said you have some spells that may help me in Drug Rehab.'

'He also said that your new techniques are superior. The old spells were basically stun and kill. The old magic was based on magical essence, but most learned the spells parrot fashion without ever understanding them. The old spells were all based on runes. It was the runes that programmed the magical essence. The ways that you manipulate magical essence to do small tasks is revolutionary. Your methods have allowed your powers to work within constraints; it gives them scope to learn. I spend all my time trying to keep up

with your teaching. You are a new world Witch.’ Angel went quiet for a few moments.

‘I don’t like the idea of being called a Witch; I am a healer.’ Samantha replied.

‘Oh, come on Samantha; you are the first to master telepathy in a Millennia. Talking to cats has never been achieved before; many witches pretended they could, but it was a monologue. You could motivate many animals to work for you; the military possibilities are obvious. You must look at real magic warfare potentials so that you can build shields; you may even need to destroy your aggressor!’

‘NO! ANGEL, DON’T GO THERE!’ Samantha shrieked her dismay.

[Samantha, The Black Cat...Thu 22nd Apr 2010](#)

“Merlin. Do you have any ideas about future staff accommodation? Did you do anything about the Children’s Home?”

“Slow down Samantha. One question at a time. The company running the children’s home went into voluntary liquidation with heavy debts owed to their creditors. The finance companies that had made the loans were all owned by me. By default, I now own the Children’s Home. I will decide what to do with the Home later. The Star has acquired a block of apartments on a long-term lease. It is a 3-storey block with 4 apartments in each block. We may rent apartments as required.”

“That is good news. The lack of accommodation was threatening to stop our progress.”

[Samantha, MURPHY...Fri 23rd Apr 2010, 9.30am](#)

Samantha arrived at the private ward of MURPHY at 9.30am. After a routine check, Miss Jones declared that Samantha’s pregnancy was as expected. Samantha moved on to do a ward round. She checked the progress of Jane and Jennifer who failed to reach the required depth of trance. Arturus spent another 4 minutes on both candidates. Kim left extra cartons of milk with strict instructions for them to be consumed at supper time.

[Samantha, MURPHY...Sat 24th Apr 2010, 10am](#)

Samantha collected Jane and Jennifer from drug rehab at 10am and took them straight to the private ward where Kim was waiting.

‘Astrid, Arturus. Load the dressmaker and basic computer skills into Jane and Jennifer.’

It was 2pm when the skills transfer was complete. Samantha reinforced the ‘Drink all you want trigger’ and then applied the usual protection.

It was 3pm when Samantha arrived at MC-Enterprises with Jane and Jennifer. The candidate interviews began immediately. Samantha went up to the ‘Black Cat’ to prepare an evening meal.

[Jane, MC-Enterprises...Sun 25th Apr 2010, 9am](#)

Jane and Jennifer started work at MC-Enterprises at 9am.

“Does anyone go to church?” Jennifer asked.

“Julie used to go when she sang in the choir, but, when we were made homeless, that fell by the wayside. She just kept saying ‘why me?’” Jessica spat out the words with some venom.

“You would be given time off to go to church if you wanted it. Samantha has already said that we will not be working on Sunday for much longer. It is just until the company gets on top of the order book. It is a matter of survival. Future Sundays are likely to be voluntary.”

Jessica continued in a softer voice. “I can’t see me ever going to church. I am the ‘Doubting Thomas’ type. I take nothing on trust. I value the Bible as a ‘good family guide’, but I cannot treat it as fact. It was written by the politicians of the time. We had R.E. at school, and the statement that stuck in my throat was ‘I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God and thou shall have no other gods but me’; it was that word ‘jealous’ that did it for me. It is one of the deadly sins. I am happy to lead my life by doing the best I can. What goes around comes around. I do favours so that one day someone will be there when I need one.”

There was an ominous silence as everyone seemed to be considering her words. But the silence was meaningless. There was no way of knowing if anyone else cared. The tension was broken as everyone got back to work. Gossip was the order of the day as the ladies applied themselves to their tasks. The business closed at 4pm. Jane and Jennifer made their way back to the Black Cat.

[Samantha, the Black Cat ...Sun 25th Apr 2010, 4pm](#)

It was afternoon tea at the Black Cat.

“Hi, Jake.” Jessica was excited to see him standing in the doorway. “Come and sit down.” Jessica cleared a spot on the sofa. Jake, Julie and Jessica went into their own little huddle.

Jane and Jennifer were looking at Samantha seemingly left out.

“Jake hasn’t seen them for three weeks. They have some catching up to do.”

It was 8pm before they were left alone to resume their conversation.

“Let’s go and sit on the couch,” Samantha suggested to Jane and Jennifer.

“Samantha. Can you tell us about the future?”

“You will get the keys to your apartment tomorrow and some time off to buy what you need to move in. You will be given company credit cards so that you can go out and buy personal items. Each card has an account that is assigned to you. The company does everything for you. If you have any debts, then they will be managed as well.”

“Can we do anything ourselves? What if we don’t get along?”

“You can do anything you want. Initially, you should stay together. You will end up supporting each other, or you will crash together. Boredom and loneliness are the enemies.”

‘Astrid, Arturus. Look at their relationship histories before they took drugs.’

‘Jane did not know Jennifer before they met in drug rehab. Jane used to be dominant; now she is submissive. She would like to start a family. However, her physical attraction to men is low. Her animal instincts are poor. As an animal in the wild, she would not survive.’ Astrid responded.

‘Jennifer has always been submissive to men. She had a sister who was murdered by the mob; she has not completed her grieving. She is bitchy with women because she believes it keeps her safe. She is frightened of being dominated by a woman. She will not compete for a mate.’ Carrie’s report was delivered with a hint of sarcasm.

Samantha pondered.

'Is it possible that drugs have destroyed their animal instincts and their natural attraction to men? I have no desire to make these two into lesbians, but their sanity and survival may depend on it. Drugs seem to have destroyed their personal magnetism. Was it possible that the drugs had cleared their muscle memories?'

"Drink all you want," Samantha commanded.

"What do you want me to do?" Jane and Jennifer replied almost together. Samantha led them to her bed and settled them down suckling on her breasts.

"Let my milk fill you. Talk to me with your mind. Think your answers as you continue to suckle. Jennifer. You are drifting down to your safe place. Tell me, what is your greatest fear?"

'To be dominated by a woman.'

"Why do you fear this domination?"

'Lack of control.'

"If you could trust someone completely, and utterly without question, knowing you were totally safe and knowing that they will keep you safe, would you let them dominate you?"

'Maybe.'

"What would you have left to fear?"

'Becoming a slave.'

"Can a slave be happy?"

'I guess if they have everything they want.'

"Jane is someone you can trust completely. Will you let Jane into your life?"

'Yes.'

"Let Jane comfort you and ease your pain."

'Yes.'

"Let Jane comfort you for the loss of your sister."

'No.'

Samantha saw the rush of blood to Jennifer's face. If it hadn't been for the hypnotic power of Samantha's milk, then Jennifer would have broken the deep hypnosis.

"Relax. Drink all you want."

Samantha said with a warm voice. She waited until Jennifer was relaxed again before resuming her investigation.

"Tell me your feelings."

'Nobody can comfort me for the loss of my sister.'

"Yes. That is true, but Jane can be your friend and give you a cuddle. Jane can give you comfort and advice if you let her."

'I would like that.'

"Jennifer. Let Jane into your life." Samantha commanded in a firm voice.

Samantha stayed silent for several minutes. There was more to life than fixing drug addiction. It was like an onion, Samantha had to peel away the layers of the problem - addiction, lifestyle, beliefs, education, friends, openness, defence; there was a long list of potential issues that had to be unravelled, reshaped, repaired and moulded, so the patient fitted into their new life.

'Astrid, Arturus. I think Jennifer is suffering from anorexia. Make her body change to stats 36dd-24-36 and weight 10stone. Alter her DNA to keep her healthy and at a stable weight.'

Samantha knew it was a vague statement she had given to Arturus. She had no idea how much DNA Arturus would have to change to meet that objective. Someday she would get Arturus to document the changes, but right now that was not important.

"Jane. What is your greatest fear?"

'Infertility. Not finding Mr Right. My tits are not big enough. I am ugly.'

'Astrid, Arturus. Make Jane's breasts grow to 36d. Change her totally submissive nature to slightly dominant. Let her feel responsible for Jennifer. The following changes are to be applied to both ladies: make them both good natural swimmers, make their ability to attract men up to twice normal, make their erogenous zones 20% above normal. Repair any faults in their animal instincts, animal responses and animal magnetism. Finally, they should believe that all their changes are natural.'

Samantha would have to keep an eye on them for the rest of the week. She needed to check on her new theories.

CHAPTER 3

[Samantha, workshop-1 at MC-Enterprises...Mon 26th Apr 2010, 8am](#)

First thing on Monday morning, Samantha went into workshop-1 at MC-Enterprises and approached Jane and Jennifer.

"Jane, Jenifer, here are your apartment keys. You should see Fleur about your company account cards. It will take a couple of hours to produce the cards, and then we go shopping."

They were distracted by the sound of heavy footsteps.

"Yes, Sir. Can I help you?"

Samantha challenged the gentleman in a black suit. He had come through the side door from Mademoiselle.

"People don't come in here without an appointment." She continued as she stood directly in front of the man.

"I am Bernard Greer. I am a Debt collector" He stood his ground.

Greer was tall, over 6', broad and rugged. His rough face gave him a threatening appearance.

"I am looking for Tina Bloom, Barry Groom and Charlie Robertson. I have the right to recover their debts from their employer."

Charlie screamed, she ran to the back room and disappeared into the kitchen.

"What's up with her? I know all my customers. I don't know her."

"Let's go back into the shop. You are upsetting my staff."

Samantha escorted the man out of the workroom and back to reception.

"I am Samantha Smith. I am a Director of MC-Enterprises. You should have made an appointment. If you try to walk in here again and in a threatening manner, I promise you, you will regret it. Now make your statement."

"Tina Bloom owes my company £20,000; Barry and Charlie owe £10,000. I am seeking an 'attachment of earnings order' to recover what they owe."

"Stop right there. You don't have the right; only the courts can do that. Tina and Charlie work for me. You will record their debts in full, dates, amounts and interest due. If the accounting is accurate and agrees with existing paperwork held by me, then the accounts will be paid within 28 days."

"Thank you, Miss Smith. Your terms are acceptable."

Samantha showed the collector out the door and then went back to the workshop. She gave Tina and Charlie the rest of the day off, to find all the paperwork they have regarding their debts.

'Angel. Do you have any spells that could help us retrieve documents from a person's memory?'

'I don't think so. The interrogation was usually done with drugs, and that was only effective where you just wanted information. Speaking a person's signature is not the same as seeing the image.'

[Samantha, MC-Enterprises...Mon 26th Apr 2010, 2pm](#)

Jane and Jennifer took the afternoon off to move into their apartment. Samantha contacted Ghost to request a cat for babysitting duties. Half an hour later, there was a click on the cat flap.

'Hello, Samantha. My name is Aurora.'

'Hello, Aurora. Come here and sit on my lap. I will introduce you to your charges very shortly.'

Aurora was a long-haired white Persian cat; she had beautiful sky-blue eyes. Two years old and born in Milton, she had a pedigree a mile long. Aurora was released from the cattery to work in an up-town newsagent. She became a free agent when the owner's business failed.

'Aurora. Your charges are Jane and Jennifer. They have never lived together before. They are recovering drug addicts. You will need to monitor them very closely for at least the next week. Anything serious then call me.'

[Samantha, Mademoiselle ...Tue 27th Apr 2010, 9am](#)

Samantha went down to Mademoiselle at 9am. She was discussing development plans with Marie-Claire when Jinx came in.

"Good morning ladies. Merlin has asked me to assist you in preparing debt statements for any employee who would like help."

"Thank you, Jinx. You are most welcome. We will use my apartment for the interviews. Ladies you heard Jinx. Those who want help with debts follow us up to the 'Black cat'"

Samantha turned and left the workshop by the rear door. The crocodile followed close behind. She opened the doors to Black Cat and shepherded them all in.

[Samantha, the Black Cat ...Tue 27th Apr 2010, 9.15am](#)

"Please go into the lounge." Samantha stood to one side and allowed Jinx to enter. Tina skipped forward and showed Jinx the correct door. Charlie came in behind.

"Fleur. I am surprised to see you here. Would you like to make a statement?"

"Yes. I have paid off my debts. I lost my house to 'Greer the Grunt'. I would like to make a statement to see if I can get anything back."

Once they were all seated, Jinx stood up.

"Ladies, are you all here of your own free will?"

"Yes." It was a resounding answer.

"I will take your statements one by one. I see that two of you already have bundles of paperwork in arms. Each interview will take 45 minutes to an hour." Jinx announced.

"Drink all you want. Ladies, remain where you are." Samantha commanded.

Jinx looked at Samantha with raised eyebrows.

"Jinx. These ladies are now in deep hypnosis. I don't want to stress them out unnecessarily, and so they will remain here until you need them. I would suggest that you interview them while they are hypnotised; they will have full access to the required memories."

"Samantha. Have you forgotten that I work for Merlin? I would have used the same techniques."

"Not without my permission, these ladies are under my protection. You may have found yourself frustrated by their lack of cooperation. I will instruct them to respond to your questions."

"Thank you, Samantha." Jinx was smiling and at ease.

"Fleur. Where is your paperwork?" Jinx enquired.

"All my stuff is in my Ex's garage in Oldfield road."

“Ok. Merlin Inc. will fetch it for you. Would you like all of your possessions retrieved?”

“Yes please.”

“Let’s start with Tina.” Jinx prompted.

“Tina. You will answer the questions, put to you by Jinx, to establish an accurate record of your debts.” Samantha stated. She sat back and watched Jinx closely; she was always ready to learn.

Tina and Charlie had found their contracts with Greer. The contracts had an outrageous interest rate of 56% per annum. Greer’s claims were four times what Tina and Charlie owed. Fleur’s documents appeared magically on the table just before Jinx was ready to process her. They were comfortably finished by midday. If Greer came back or did not abide by the assessments, then he would be in trouble.

Jinx stepped forward. “Samantha if I may be so bold. Angel should teach you the magic of tagging and retrieve. They are valuable tools.”

Samantha felt the heat in her face as she blushed. Jinx seemed to know everything. Had he been reading her mind? Just how much could this guy do?

“Thank you, Jinx. Is there anything else I should be doing?”

“It might be wise to put a tail on Greer. Might I suggest that Ghost selects a suitable team?”

“You are well informed. Thank you, Jinx. I will make sure it is done.”

Samantha rang Merlin to discuss the matter of Greer. Ghost was instructed to keep an eye on him.

[Samantha, drug rehab ...Fri 30th Apr 2010](#)

Samantha selected 2 candidates from drug rehab.

Sally Mines, aged 26, 5’8”, 34dd -22 -34, had been a model for the last 10 years; she had never made enough to buy her own home. The heroin slide began with depression. She would welcome a chance to gain new skills. Samantha thought Sally could model for Fey.

Margaret May, aged 28, 5’8”, 36ee-25-36, had been a struggling actress. She had become a high-class call girl. Her dull brunette hair showed how badly she had fallen. She had ended up sleeping with anyone who would look after her. Snorting cocaine had become a daily habit.

Samantha asked Sally and Margaret if they would like to work for MC-Enterprises. She installed the “drink all you want” trigger and tested them for depth of trance. They were not ready for skills transfer. She signed their discharge papers and took them back to “the Black Cat”.

[Samantha, the Black Cat ...Sun 2nd May 2010, 10am](#)

Kim arrived at the Black Cat at 10am. She had instructions to let herself in and go straight into the lounge. Sally and Margaret were on the sofa and descending into a deep trance. Arturus had scanned the muscle memories of both ladies and reported that Samantha’s fears were confirmed, many memories had been destroyed. The extent of the drugs damage had gone way beyond her best guesses.

Sally and Margaret had few reflexes and were equally frigid. After a lengthy assessment of the risks, Samantha allowed Arturus to copy some of her own reflex programming to the ladies. With their reflexes restored, Sally and Margaret would respond as their pleasure-reward system began to rebuild. Samantha sensed their bodies radiating contentment. They were ready.

'Astrid, Arturus, Carrie, download the dressmaker, basic computer, and cutting station User skills into Sally and Margaret. Let me know when you have finished.'

Angel taught Samantha the principles of tag magic during the next 3 hours. It seemed to have a lot in common with computer RFID technology; so that is where the idea came from. Apparently, everything in life has a natural resonance that can be detected. These resonances can be transferred, and so articles will be tagged with their owner's resonances.

Jinx had teasingly told Samantha how they could identify Fleur's possessions, but, he hadn't told Samantha how Merlin Inc got them out of a locked garage.

[Samantha, the Black Cat ...Sun 2nd May 2010, 1pm](#)

Samantha's mobile phone started ringing.

"Hello, mum. When are you coming to visit?"

"Next weekend. We should arrive for Friday tea-time. Could you arrange for us to be picked up from the airport?"

"Yes, Mum. I will make the arrangements."

Samantha called Merlin to tell him her parents were coming. He said he would make all the necessary arrangements. Samantha was greatly relieved; she phoned her sister Jo.

"Jo. Mum and dad are flying in next weekend; they will be here on Friday, around teatime."

"I will be there a bit earlier if I can," Jo replied.

"Have you considered moving down here permanently?"

"Yes. You need protection."

"Oh, not you as well! You know that was the reason I blew my top with Merlin. He wouldn't let me do anything."

"Yes. But remember the fight in the car park. It was me who did all the damage."

"What are you saying?"

"You need someone to protect your back. You are usually concentrating on other things leaving yourself exposed. And the daftest thing of all, you are a security consultant at the Star, and you have no security of your own or at MC-Enterprises."

"All good points. So, do you want to live with me or nearby?"

"Probably, nearby. I am a bad bear when I get PMT."

"Are you going to help me with Angel when she is born?"

"Sure! Are you going to breastfeed her?"

"Yes. Do you fancy helping me?"

"What do you mean? Putting your milk into bottles? Milking you?"

"Oh, that's a lovely idea. I just wondered if you wanted to breastfeed her too."

"Are you kidding? You can make my breasts give milk?"

"Yes, if you want to."

CHAPTER 4

[Samantha, MC-Enterprises...Mon 3rd May 2010, 9am](#)

Sally and Margaret's interviews started at 9am.

At 9.30am, Greer 'the Grunt' presented the loan accounts for Tina and Charlie. Samantha took the reports and waived Greer away making it quite clear that she was busy. Samantha was annoyed; yet again, Greer had come without an appointment. Five minutes later, Jinx came in to collect Greer's reports. He glanced through the reports and began to laugh; it was a deep raucous bellow with a mixture of hiccups.

"Don't fret ladies. There is nothing to worry about. I will send Greer our version of the accounts. If he agrees then they will be paid, if not, then in 28 days he will wish he hadn't been so greedy."

[Samantha, MC-Enterprises...Mon 3rd May 2010, 10am](#)

The board meeting started at 10am; the problems listed were the same as last month. Marie-Claire will move back to Mademoiselle; the objective was to see how much production improves with one person dedicated to taking telephone orders. The success of the company depends on regulating the flow of orders.

The Staff Meeting began at noon. Only Fey was absent as she was at lectures. Sally and Margaret were welcomed to the company; Fleur gave them their keys and company account cards. They have an apartment in the same block as Jane and Jennifer.

'Ghost. I need another babysitter.' Samantha prompted.

'Yes, Samantha.' Ghost responded.

[Samantha, the Black Cat...Fri 7th May 2010, 4pm](#)

By 4pm, Samantha was nervous, scared of what could go wrong. She was expecting her parents.

Samantha was no longer the mousey blond her parents used to know. Her short blond bob was now a luxurious, regal red ponytail hanging thick, luxuriant and natural. Oh, and she was now four months pregnant. She morphed her LBD to minimise her breasts and hide her pregnancy. She still didn't understand why her mother had 'hung up' on her.

Samantha's sister Jo was the first to arrive. She threw her bags into the third bedroom and went into the kitchen to prepare afternoon tea. Merlin arrived a few minutes later; he had come to support Samantha.

"They are here," Jo yelled from the kitchen. Jo had been watching the back street from the kitchen window. The limo service had collected mum and dad from the airport. Jo left the Kitchen to fetch mum and dad up to the apartment. Merlin and Samantha stood in the centre of the lounge posed to face the door and the challenge that would come through it. As her mother Sally came through the door, Samantha stepped forward.

"Mum, it's great to see you."

Sally froze just inside the door; her eyes darted up and down Samantha's body. A broad smile spread across her face. She moved in for a hug, and Samantha burst into tears. Some moments later Samantha managed to control herself.

"Please forgive me. Mum, this is Merlin. Merlin, this is my mother Sally and the gentleman behind her is my father, John."

Samantha stood back as they exchanged formal handshakes.

"Welcome. Come in. Please sit down." Merlin was warm and confident. Samantha sat beside Merlin and waited for everyone to get comfortable. Jo brought in a pot of tea and a plate of biscuits.

Sally moaned about the flight being turbulent; her view out the window had been obscured by bad weather below them. She praised the limo service and barely contained her eagerness to look around Samantha's apartment; she was scanning every object in the room. Eventually, she accepted a cup of tea from Jo and sat down on the sofa.

John just smiled and winked at Samantha as if everything was normal.

Samantha gave Mum and Dad an edited version of what happened during the first week. She never mentioned Merlin's tease or her pregnancy. Something told her that the pregnancy was hidden by a glamour spell. Samantha painted a picture of seduction by Merlin. She described her experiences as Merlin's assistant and her view of Angel in the pregnancy illusion. With an air of devilment, she emphasised the rapid swelling of Angel's breasts as she went from 16 to 26 weeks pregnant.

"Excuse me." Dad shouted, "Where is the bathroom?"

"Out the door and second on the right," Samantha said trying to suppress a fit of giggles. "I am sorry Mum. Expanding breasts does that to a man."

"Samantha!!!" Sally glared at her mischievous daughter.

Samantha was pleased that her mother had got that right. She thought it was her broad grin that did it as she began to giggle. Both were laughing with a mix of hysterics and some badly needed release of tension.

'Astrid, Arturus. Please check that Dad is OK.'

'Your Dad is fine, but he needs a clean pair of pants. He can't get the sight of expanding breasts out of his head.'

'Thank you, Astrid. Give me a full report on Sally and John; I want to know if there is anything we can do for them.'

"Jo. Please show Dad the second bedroom." After 5 minutes, Dad came back into the front room.

"Please show mum the room I prepared. If you have booked a local hotel, then I hope you will cancel it. I know you like your luxuries but, we have all we need, and we can get most things within a few minutes."

Samantha was relieved when her parents left the room. The first battle with her nerves was over.

[Samantha, the Black Cat...Fri 7th May 2010, 5pm](#)

'Samantha.'

'Yes, Astrid.'

'Your mother, Sally, has early signs of dementia. It might explain why she didn't recognise you when you rang her. Her memories show that she didn't

recognise your voice. Her audio memories show that your hysteria had raised your voice by two octaves. You didn't sound like your normal self at all. Coupled with her early dementia and the distortion effects of telephony it is not surprising that she didn't recognise you.'

[Samantha, the Black Cat...Fri 7th May 2010, 7pm](#)

Merlin left at 7pm. He said he would be back in the morning to take Dad out in the Limo. He suggested that Jo and Samantha should take Sally shopping. The family settled down for an evening meal.

"Mum, Dad. My whole world has changed. I have set up a company to make bras for the larger lady; it could make me financially independent. My shop contains a manufacturing line for bras and dresses; I will give you the grand tour tomorrow. I own 25% of MC-Enterprises and 20% of Mademoiselle, receiving dividends and salary from both businesses. Merlin has given me this apartment and the shop below. I will receive rent for the shop being used by MC-Enterprises."

"That's very good Samantha. Does that mean you are giving up contract work?" Dad asked. He always treated financial matters very seriously.

"Yes, the contracting will stop, but my IT skills will still come in handy. We need an IT system for MC-Enterprises. I have other interests too. I am paid as a security consultant at the Star nightclub; and, I now work as a psychotherapist and a fund-raiser at the local University Hospital."

Samantha was aware that she was repeating herself; she just wanted her dad to show his approval.

"Don't you think you're overdoing it?"

"Dad, I just said I am working at the hospital. Kim and Miss Jones are like mother hens to me. They watch over me every moment I am there. I spend a couple of hours there each day. No worries there, I think."

"So, what do you do at the hospital?"

Samantha froze. 'What can I tell them? I realised that I was in deep water. Dad could smell a secret a mile away.'

Samantha decided that she would tell them the truth, well most of it; there was no alternative; otherwise, she would soon trip over her lies. Samantha crossed the line.

Over the next hour, Samantha revealed the existence of real magic; she pulled things out of her virtual wardrobe to prove her claim. She was not sure if they believed her, but she wasn't prepared to use shock tactics like changing her hair. After the effects on Jo, she wasn't ready to risk her parents having a heart attack even if she could fix it. Samantha still did not reveal Merlin's tease. She told them about magical essence but not about her magical powers. She explained how she had gained the psychotherapy skills from Miss Jones.

"Samantha. Tell me how you feel about magic." Mum's question was not unexpected.

"I feel relaxed and easy. The agony comes from choosing who I can fix when I don't have time to fix them all. I work wherever Miss Jones wants me to. I spend a lot of time on the Drug Rehab Ward trying to help patients damaged by drugs."

"That sounds very rewarding." Dad chipped in.

"Dad, Mum, I have already told you more than is wise. Can you imagine what the military, or the public, will do if they find out that Merlin and I can do real magic? They will probably kill us!

Merlin disguises everything as illusions. I need to find answers for the patients I fix, or I could be in trouble.”

“Oh dear.” Dad was dismayed.

[Samantha, the Black Cat...Sat 8th May 2010, 9am](#)

Merlin arrived at 9am and took Dad out in the limo; they would be back by 6pm. ‘Man talk’ he said. He mentioned visits to a stud farm, a golf range and maybe a football match.

Mum, Jo and Samantha went shopping. They returned to the ‘Black Cat’ at 3pm.

Samantha gave Mum a glass of her breast milk and suggested that it was a long refreshing drink. In a few moments, she had consumed all the milk.

“That was nice. Is there any more?” The glazed look in Sally’s eyes confirmed that she was in light hypnosis; the milk had done its job.

‘Astrid, Arturus. Give Sally a push. Let her baby instincts flood her mind. Let her feel what she wants to do is natural.’

“Come and relax,” Samantha suggested with more command than invitation in her voice. She walked over to the sofa and made herself comfortable at the far end.

“Relax and enjoy my sweet milk,” Samantha commanded as she exposed her right breast.

Sally squeezed a nipple and licked the milk from her fingers. She repeated this several times.

Sally stretched herself out on the sofa, put her head in Samantha’s lap and began to suckle on the swollen nipple.

“Let your body relax. Let my milk refresh you. Drink all you want.”

Samantha droned on with a steady monotonic voice while trying to control her breathing and ignore the pleasant convulsions building in her abdomen.

“I am now going to give you some protection; it will prevent you from accidentally telling anyone about real magic. If anyone asks you about my magical skills, other than John, Jo, Merlin or myself, then you will lose your ability to tell them. Your abilities will return as soon as you stop trying to tell them.”

Samantha instructed Arturus to fix Sally’s damaged brain-cells over the next few hours. He will do his best to remove any Dementia. Jo came into the lounge at 4.30pm. She had fallen asleep on her bed.

“Drink all you want.”

Samantha stated taking Sally down deeper and catching Jo at the same time. For the next hour, Samantha deepened Jo and Sally’s hypnosis. As soon as she was sure that all necessary protection was in place, she brought them back to full consciousness.

“What a wonderful day.” Mum sighed as she sat up. She reached up and palmed her chest. “Just wonderful. Your milk is so refreshing. I feel really zingy.”

Merlin and Dad came in at 6pm. Merlin and Samantha compared notes. Merlin had put similar protection on Dad while they were in the limo. Merlin said he had also given Dad a little bonus.

[Samantha, La Mer ...Sat 8th May 2010, 8pm](#)

Samantha and her family arrived at “La Mer” at 8pm. Merlin was dressed down by his standards; he wore a slate grey two-piece suit and a pale blue tie. Samantha’s Dad, John, was wearing a smart black blazer with light khaki trousers and an open-neck golf shirt; he hated ties. Jo and Mum were both wearing casual summer frocks. Samantha was wearing her little black dress in

all its alluring natural splendour. They were guided to a round table in an alcove. The table would seat 8 people comfortably. Sally, John and Jo moved to the far side of the table; Merlin held Samantha back until the others were seated.

Samantha sat down and turned herself towards Merlin. To her surprise, Merlin had pulled a chair away from the table and was down on one knee in front of her.

“Samantha, will you marry me?”

Merlin was holding a ring box that was open showing a diamond cluster engagement ring. Samantha was stunned. She was frozen in the moment staring at the ring. She had talked to Jo about her feelings for Merlin, but she hadn't given marriage serious consideration. She had joked about it with Merlin, but this had taken her entirely by surprise.

“Yes.” She said on impulse. She knew she couldn't live without him, but it was a massive leap of faith to take on Merlin as a husband. Merlin put the engagement ring onto the third finger of her left hand.

Samantha stood up from the table, put her arms around Merlin and kissed him with unbridled passion. When she regained some composure, she became aware that they had an audience. Everyone was clapping. Samantha felt the heat in her cheeks as she blushed.

“Congratulations,” Mum said. “I guess that answers some of my questions.”

“Samantha has her Dower. She has her apartment and the shop below.” Merlin offered. “I had a chat with John this morning, and he gave me his blessing. We will have a registry office wedding for the family here in the UK, and there will be a second ceremony in France with my congregation.”

‘Nice disguise Merlin.’ Samantha thought ‘That neatly avoids the question of why you gave them to me.’

“Congratulations.” Sally stepped forward. “Merlin. Please tell me what is a Dower?”

“A ‘Dower’ is a gift from the groom to the bride. It is an ancient custom where a worthy man must provide a home for his future wife. The Dower was always a gift to the bride that showed the value of the groom and gave security to the bride. It is still enshrined in Spanish, Mexican, Greek and American law. The Romans called it ‘Donatio Propter Nuptias’. Do not confuse this with a Dowry. A Dowry is what the bride brings into the marriage; it may come from the bride or her parents.”

The restaurant did them proud. Sally and John chose prawn cocktails as was their habit of many years. They claimed they could assess the quality of a restaurant by that one standard dish. Too many restaurants cheated by using a mass-produced sauce. Merlin had lobster bisque; Jo and Samantha shared a large pot of Moules Marinières.

The main course was Halibut steaks and a large Dover Sole. They also had a choice of French fries or Dauphinoise potatoes. A Caesar-salad finished the course.

There was a long debate as to what is the correct desert in a fish restaurant. It all seemed to hinge on individual experience – French or American. Dad raved about the cuisine on the Keys in Florida – lobster, clam chowder and oysters. He suggested ‘Baked Alaska’ was a good choice. Jo had Tiramisu, Merlin had Black Forest Gateaux, Mum and Dad had cheesecake and Samantha had Crème Brûlée.

[Samantha, the Black Cat ...Sat 8th May 2010, midnight](#)

They arrived home at midnight in a euphoric state. Sally and John promptly excused themselves and went to their room. Samantha relaxed on her bed. Merlin was sitting on the dressing table stool.

“That was a beautiful evening Merlin. I thought you were against marriage.”

"No. I just said it would be unreasonable to expect me to be faithful. As you know, sex is a powerful energiser in the magical world. We need sex to build magical energy. I will have sex with other women; it is the nature of magic. My oath will be to honour you as my wife and to rear a family with you. I will share all my wealth and possessions with you. I love you."

Samantha was caught by the moment. Her world stalled in disbelief, relief and warmth.

"I never I thought I would hear those three little words from you. They are so important to a woman, and yet, you propose marriage before ever saying 'I love you'. I know you don't lack passion, so why is it difficult to say those words? You are right of course; I cannot be faithful either. I need magic to do most of the jobs I do. The need for magic becomes a need for sex. I agree neither of us should make that promise. What will your oath be at the special ceremony?"

"We will have to travel to southern France for the ceremony. There are not enough people here who practise the old religion."

Samantha noted, Merlin hadn't answered the question.

"What is the old religion?"

"My religion is older than the druids. It started in 'Krisa' near Delphi in Greece. A shrine was dedicated to Gaia. The shrine was taken over by Apollo and eventually became the Oracle of Delphi. This became famous because it predicted the future. It didn't. The Oracle made a statement, and the priests went out into the world and made it happen. I was one of the Priests of Krisa."

"So, how old are you?"

"My age is not important."

"Yes. You tried that Jedi stuff with Dad, but I would like to know."

"No Samantha. For me, it is meaningless. I am as old as you see me now. I dedicated my life to serving Gaia when my adopted-mother died. Gaia accepted and blessed me with long life; I haven't aged since. Age is only important if you get older. As I don't get older, it is not important."

"Ok. I take your point. You will never get older, but I will."

"Stop! Before you hurt us both. Some might say, that for me, long life is a curse. Each time I lose a soul mate is very painful. I have had to deal with it. I have lost several very dear to me. Perhaps the soulmate was the same spirit in each reincarnation. They didn't remember any of their previous lives and magic couldn't help them to remember. Very few are blessed with access to their spirit memories or their previous lives. I tried to extend the life of my soulmates but, ultimately, I failed. I managed to keep them physically young for their allotted lifespan, but their minds couldn't cope with the passing of relatives. They welcomed their final days. I am hoping that your powers can help you live for as long as you wish."

"Oh. I hadn't thought of that. Perhaps I should? It seems to be a daunting prospect. When are we going to get married?"

"The registry office wedding will be on New Year's Eve; the congregation wedding will take place in the New Year."

Merlin stood up and stripped in an instant. He approached the bed and pulled back the covers with Samantha still on top. She was caught in the covers. He held her tight as he kissed her. She felt a shiver run through her body.

".... And now go look at yourself in the mirror."

Samantha slipped off the bed and stood in front of the Cheval mirror.

"That is how you will look at the special wedding, minus the pregnancy."

"Oh Merlin, do I have to be naked?"

“Not all the time. It can get cold in the glade, and you will have a special robe to wear. We will be naked for the ceremony.”

The image in the mirror was exotic. Below her double-Gees, she now had a pair of double-Dees. She was the image of Mother Earth; although rumour had it, Mother Earth had more.

“If you are challenged then you will offer your milk to your challenger. Only the strongest will be able to resist you. Marie-Claire will conduct our dedication ceremony, and Kim will be your handmaiden. Our party, going to Southern France, will be Marie-Claire, Kim, Angel, you and me.”

“What about Jo?”

“If everyone turns up then she will not be allowed into the inner circle, but, if there are any no-shows, then we may need to draft some new initiates. I would suggest that we take Fey and Melanie as well. That way we have a fall-back plan if the Americans don’t show.”

A shiver ran down Samantha’s spine. Merlin’s description sounded like a fantasy, but Samantha knew he was sincere. The prospect of a naked wedding did not appeal, and in the Early Spring sounded decidedly chilly.

Samantha turned away from the mirror and walked towards the bed. She slid under the covers and rolled onto her side to face Merlin. She took him deep and hard. Each of her breasts felt as if it was being suckled. She didn’t ask how and drowned in the ecstasy.

[Samantha, the Black Cat ...Sun 9th May 2010, 9am](#)

It was 9am when Samantha awoke. Her double-Dees had disappeared. She threw on a dressing gown and followed her nose to the kitchen. Sally was cooking breakfast for an army. John and Merlin came in, 5 minutes later.

‘That’s a record, Merlin is rarely up before midday.’ Samantha giggled.

They started to attack the enormous pile of pancakes, adding their own favourites from the jams, honey and maple syrup.

“Oh, Mum, I found two young ladies squatting in an empty house. They came from a Children’s home that was closed; they are 18 years old. I offered them a home and a job so that they can prepare for college. Marie-Claire, Fleur, Melanie, Merlin and me, are all registered as their guardians. Their names are Julie and Jessica; they will be here around 3.30.”

“You don’t do things by halves, do you?” Sally stared at Samantha with wide eyes and raised eyebrows.

“Yes, Mum. I warned everyone that it was a huge commitment, but there was no shortage of volunteers. I seemed to have put together a group of people who really care.”

“Samantha. Do you have any milk?”

Samantha went to the kitchen and filled a glass with her breast-milk and brought it back into the front room.

“Drink all you want.”

Samantha watched as Mum fell into a deep trance. Dad drank the milk straight down. Merlin excused himself saying he would be back at midday.

‘Astrid, Arturus, let John believe that it is natural to suckle on my breasts.’

“Come on John ‘Drink all you want’.”

Samantha sat in the middle of the sofa and opened her dressing gown. John looked interested. Samantha cupped a breast and lifted it towards him. John took the nipple into his mouth and began to suckle.

Samantha took Sally and John down to deep trances and gave them their trigger phrase and protection. Samantha left them remembering the suckling and feeling that it was perfectly natural. She released them from trance and sent them away to dress for lunch. Merlin was back at midday.

They walked down by the river, arriving at the Otter pub and restaurant. After a light lunch of Cider with some French toast and Pâté, they returned to the 'Black Cat'.

Julie and Jessica arrived at 3.30pm along with Marie-Claire, Fleur and Melanie. Julie stepped forward.

"Sally. Would you like Jessica, and me, to call you Nan?" Julie said with a cheeky smile on her face.

"It would be an honour. I hope it will make it easier for you to be part of this family."

"John. Would you like to be called Granddad?" Sally was teasing and had a mischievous smile.

"God, no. That makes me feel old. Err, no offence meant ladies, please call me John and welcome to the family. Would you like to tell us your story?"

Julie went first; she had spent all her life in the Children's home, she had never known any of her relatives. She wasn't even sure that her surname was correct. The mistress who managed the place made no attempt to be the mother. The manager was too formal to be a father. Julie had experienced a great deal of trouble believing Samantha's offer. Julie had been offered heaven and seized it with both hands.

Jessica was next. Jessica had been left with a babysitter while mum and dad collected the grandparents from the airport. On the way back in heavy rain, a lorry jack-knifed and took out 15 cars. Jessica was seven at the time. It was noted, by all, that Jessica's life was presented with a factual coldness that choked the hearts. They stifled an urge to run and hug. They wanted to hear the rest of Jessica's of her life, but Jessica fell silent.

Marie-Claire went next. She was raised by strict parents who worked in a shop of a master corsetiere. She had become an apprentice at the age of 14. It was a 7-year apprenticeship. The master had died ten years later leaving his business to the staff. Marie-Claire got the lion's share and moved the company to Milton. Two years later she met and married Jim Archer. Jim was a weaver in the cotton trade and kept Marie-Claire well informed and at the front end of the business. Jim had been her loyal husband for 38 years, and Marie-Claire had been mourning his passing for the last 2 years.

Fleur was next; her full name was Fleur de Grand. She was 32 years old. Heroin had destroyed her marriage and her career as a Chartered Accountant. Her Ex had emptied her apartment and put her stuff in his garage. He divorced her when she started prostituting herself to support her habit. Fleur burst into tears, and Julie and Jessica went to give her some big hugs.

Melanie was next. Melanie was 30 years of age and went to work at the Star straight from college. She had recently been addicted to cocaine. She was exposed when her pusher was removed. She hadn't been able to find a job that used her degree in commerce. She was hoping that her move to MC-Enterprises will make her degree worthwhile. She is single.

Sally went next; she had been a journalist for a travel magazine. She had travelled the world. It was on those travels that she met John.

John was ex-Royal Navy. He did 25 years in the service and retired early having the rank of Chief Engineer. He had finished his career on a submarine recovery ship.

Samantha went next describing her school and college experience leading to her degree in Information Technology. Describing her permanent career followed by her contracting career; she ended with brief descriptions of her roles at MC-Enterprises and at the University Hospital. She described the first fundraiser just to add some entertainment value.

All eyes turned to Merlin to see if he would be forthcoming.

"Gentlefolk." Merlin was smiling. "You have all been very forward and outgoing so that we all feel that we are one big happy family. For some of you, it was excruciating, and Samantha and I will do our very best to help you get through to better days. I am not going to tell you how old I am. It is not important. I am a wealthy man, and I own a lot of businesses. I do not have to work, and the shows I perform are for my own pleasure and for charity. I travel around because I enjoy meeting people. Marie-Claire was my assistant many years ago, and Fey is a student on one of my apprenticeships. It may not surprise you to know that I was a member of 'SOE' during the war and I have worked for MI6 so there is not much I can tell you about the work I used to do. I have an embarrassing story regarding the Children's home. The company running the home went into voluntary liquidation with heavy debts owed to its creditors. The companies that had made the loans were all owned by me. By default, I now own the Children's home. I have decided to convert the house into apartments."

"Uncle Merlin. Has any of our stuff been discovered?"

Julie looked concerned. She was still in a hug with Fleur and Jessica.

"Anything that was found would be with Jinx. Did you hide stuff?"

"Nothing worth us taking the trouble to go and get it. The whole place gives me shivers. I kept diaries that the staff were trying to find." Julie was unusually bitter.

"Jinx will fetch them for you, but don't hold any hopes, a lot of records were burnt before I took possession. Several walls have been knocked down and new ones constructed. Leave it to Jinx."

"Thank you, Uncle Merlin. What was 'SOE'?"

"'SOE' was the Special Operations Executive. They worked with the French Resistance during the war."

And so, they rambled on. Jo left at 7pm to return to Littleton.

APPENDIX

Notes:

Edited by Grammarly using language = English (British).

Second Edition: Fixed typos and added Scene markers to aid audio synchronise.

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