

Chapter 27. Deconstructing Elenore

While waiting for the test results Elenore surveyed the room. Her mother went out to get something to eat and meet up with Three-Speed. She wondered what his last name was making a mental note to ask him when she saw him. Laetitia was watching TV or, more accurately, flipping through the channels in utter boredom. Susan was still asleep, though she showed signs of stirring.

Elenore stared caringly at Susan while she thought. *“What am I going to do? I don’t want child welfare taking Susan away from me. I might have to run to another country...no that’s too drastic. Plus I don’t want to make things worse for her. Her life has been turned upside down enough already. I can just imagine if the media get a hold of this story. Walter has caused a big enough stink that they’re investigating him and I know Susan’s and my name are going to come up sooner or later.”*

Elenore thought she heard Alice’s voice in her head.

“What am I going to do?” “Alice” said in a mocking tone. *“It’s obvious; you’re going to have to fight. You want to keep her right? Then fight for her. Fight the press, fight the workers, shit! Fight the king if you have to. And if you need to tell about that asshole, go ahead. Nail his damn hide to the wall. You owe him no favors...the prick.”*

Elenore smirked even though “Alice” used more foul language in less than a minute than she would use in half a year if she swore at all. But she didn’t care...

Laetitia stopped flipping through the channels long enough to look at Elenore, smiled and then went back to flipping through the channels. Her smile disappeared as she found a news channel. “Elenore take a look at this!” She said trying to get Elenore’s attention. Laetitia turned up the volume just as Elenore went over and looked at the TV.

As the news anchor spoke Elenore got the impression he was speaking to her;

“In the latest development of the Echo scandal, it was recently found out that the eight year old daughter of Walter Baker was in fact his niece’s child. –A picture of Elenore appeared in a small square on the right hand side of the screen.- Miss Baker was reportedly sexually assaulted by her uncle when she was twelve years old. Evidence recently uncovered showed that Walter Baker had gone to great lengths to cover this up. Even to the point of drugging his niece into blocking the events. –A picture of Three-Speed appeared where Elenore’s was for a few seconds and then disappeared. - Roy Johansson of Nafrece Intelligence had this to say; “I’m deeply upset by the media’s total disregard for Miss Baker’s privacy. This hampers our investigation into this matter. This young woman has suffered enough already...”

Elenore looked at the screen in horror; in a matter of seconds her life was once again shattered.

Laetitia mercifully turned off the TV.

“I’m sorry Elenore; I didn’t know he was going to say that.” Laetitia said in a sympathetic tone.

Elenore stood there for a few seconds and then she looked at Laetitia then at Susan.

“Damn it Roy! Who the Hell leaked that information to the press?! You just got the test for God’s sake!” A very angry Meg said in a loud voice while they were in a conference room at the hospital.

“I’m just as pissed about this as you are. I had to do damage control a little while ago. The media is having a field day with this. You and Elenore might have to give testimony if it comes down to it.” Three-Speed said trying to calm down an understandably upset Meg.

“You think the Soldats or Enfant leaked the information to get back at Walter?”

Three-Speed shook his head. “You know as well as I do, Walter made his share of enemies. I wouldn’t be surprised if one or more of them did. I’m just sorry Elenore, Susan and you got caught in the middle of this.”

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“What’s going to happen to Susan? They’re not going to take her away like they did with Elenore?” Meg asked nearly in tears.

Three-Speed hugged Meg. “For now I have both Elenore and Susan down as material witnesses under N.I.’s custody. That way child services can’t touch Susan and in the meantime I need either you or Elenore to look over and sign the paperwork to make sure she stays with either of you.”

“Thank you Roy. But if Walter’s enemies or a reporter are here, Susan might be in danger.”

“Don’t worry; I’ll have Val bring them to the mansion.”

“Why the mansion?”

“I’ve had a few men I could trust clear out any reporters camping near there, and I doubt no one will screw with Margaret. Not if they still want a career.” Three-Speed said with a smirk.

“Can I see the results of the test please?” Meg asked. Three-Speed handed her the test results. Meg looked over the results especially those highlighted and they revealed what they all suspected plus a terrible revelation; Susan was Elenore and Walter’s daughter. Susan had the same disease that killed her sister but for some reason it was dormant but it could become active at any time and kill Susan in a matter of hours.

“We need to show this to Elenore!”

Three-Speed was going answer but he was interrupted by a chirp from his walkie-talkie.

“Three-Speed here.”

“Area cleared but we need to move them now.” Val’s voice sounded from the walkie-talkie. They both could hear a bit of disappointment in her voice.

“Alright, we’ll be there ASAP. Get them ready to move.”

“Roger.” Val’s voice responded.

“She sounded a bit disappointed, was she expecting something?”

“No, I wouldn’t let her use those code phrases she loves using.”

Meg chuckled as they went on their way to Susan’s room.

Back at Susan’s room; Elenore had picked up Susan and grabbed her teddy bear.

“Where are we going mommy?” Susan asked as she held on to Elenore.

“We’re going somewhere safe sweetie.”

“Isn’t this place safe?”

“No, there are too many bad people lurking around and I don’t want to see you get hurt because of it, okay?”

“What about Laetitia? Are we going to leave her here? What if the bad people come and try to hurt her?”

Laetitia smiled as she realized she actually had a friend who cared. “I’ll be fine, but you and your mommy have to go. Don’t worry I’ll see you soon.”

Susan smiled at Laetitia and then turned her head back at Elenore.

“What about grandma?”

“Once we get to someplace safe, we’ll contact grandma. Okay?”

Susan nodded and leaned her head on Elenore’s shoulder. Elenore turned her head to Laetitia.

“I’m sorry Laetitia, but please tell Margaret we had to go.”

Laetitia nodded and Elenore started towards the door.

Valerie stood in the doorway. “Oh cool, I was just about to get you two. We need to get you two out of here if you get my drift.” Valerie said with a smile.

“We’re not going anywhere with you or anyone else.” Elenore said as she sat Susan in a chair ready to fight Valerie.

“Geez kiddo, relax why don’t you. I’m on your side.” Valerie a bit astonished that Elenore was willing to plow through her.

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"I'll just say this once; Please get out of our way. I don't want to hurt you but I will if I must." Elenore said in a determined tone.

The next few seconds bewildered Elenore for years to come until she learned the truth. She could've sworn Valerie was standing in the doorway. The next thing she knew she was right behind her with her hand on where her neck and shoulder met. Elenore fell to her knees in pain as Valerie forced her down and kept her there, the pain becoming unbearable.

"I really hate doing this but you left me no choice. Now you're going to be a good girl and wait for your mom and Roy to show up."

Elenore tried to move but Valerie just increased the pressure. Elenore cried out in pain as Susan and Laetitia looked on.

Valerie looked at Susan and smiled. "Don't worry kiddo; I'm making sure your mommy doesn't go anywhere before your grandma shows up. Okay?"

Susan nodded as she saw Valerie do this once before. "Can you do some magic tricks Aunt Valerie?" Valerie smiled. "I will later okay kiddo."

Susan beamed and nodded as Meg and Three Speed entered.

"What happened here?" Three-Speed asked looking at Elenore then at Valerie.

"She was about to take off with Susan." Valerie replied, her hand still on Elenore.

"Let her go Valerie." Three-Speed said then Valerie released her pressure slowly allowing Elenore to get up. Elenore looked at Valerie in shock and pain; even with her Noir training she wasn't able to throw one punch or kick.

"Why were you going to take Susan?" Meg asked as helped Elenore get to her feet.

"I saw the news today..." Elenore replied.

"Oh boy." Valerie chimed in.

"They were talking about Susan and me, and Mr. Johansson was on there as well." Elenore said looking right at Three-Speed. Meg and Valerie assumed this was the damage control Three-Speed was talking about earlier.

"I'm sorry, somebody leaked the information out. But we do have to get you two out of here ASAP."

Meg picked up Susan and handed Elenore the test results. "Read this once you get on your way. I'll meet you two there."

"Do you know where we're going mom?" Elenore asked a bit nervously.

"Yes, but I can't say right now. There are too many ears and mouths around here. Now let's get going."

Three-Speed turned to Valerie and said. "Val, clear the way."

"Got it." Valerie smiled and took off ahead of the trio.

Three-Speed left the room and checked for anyone. Once the coast was clear he motioned for Meg and Elenore to come out. Meg noticed the worried look on Elenore's face as she tried to rub her shoulder.

"She's a bit weird, no scratch that... a lot weird. But you can trust her. She's going to take you two a safe house and on the way ask her about the "Mind bullets" story."

Elenore nodded as they went down the stairwell and towards the side parking lot.

Once they got out to the parking lot a black Volvo pulled up in front of them.

Valerie rolled down the tinted driver's side window. "All aboard!" She said with a smile. After securing Susan, Elenore got in and buckled up. Valerie rolled up the window and then they were off.

At the first stop light Elenore asked Valerie trying not to sound worried.

"Miss Dowland..."

"Call me Val."

"Miss Val. Where are we going exactly?"

Valerie was going correct her but figured it was causal as Elenore was going to get in this situation and responded. "We're going to your home. You do live at Burton Mansion, right?"

"Why there?" Elenore asked a bit surprised but happy she was going home.

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“Well, Roy thinks you’ll be safer there and once we get you two out of sight, out of mind the media buzz will cool down...hopefully.”

“I don’t want to cause any more trouble for my family.”

“Look kiddo, this isn’t your fault. Wally made a few enemies on the way and now he’s up the creek without a paddle. And now they’re trying to add more weight to a leaky canoe, if you catch my drift.”

“But how did the media get the story and why put it on the air?”

“Personally I think one or more of those nurses sold the story to a reporter. And you know how people here love a good scandal or two. I don’t know if Roy told you, but you might have to testify in court because of that story. The only silver lining is that the media is spinning you as a victim of Wally’s evil plot so the public might be sympathetic towards you and you wanting to raise Susan despite the truth might get you more support. Yeah there’s a going to be some jerks, but I know you’re tuff enough, right kiddo?” Valerie said with a smile and a wink.

“I’m going to have to be...” Elenore said trailing off.

Valerie noticed than Elenore was getting unresponsive and she hadn’t looked at the test results in skirt pocket.

“Did Duvie tell you that she, Madlax and I did a few jobs together?” Valerie asked trying to get Elenore out the funk she was slipping into.

Elenore didn’t look at Valerie but she answered in a low tone. “She did tell me you worked with her and something about mind bullets or something.”

“There’s no doubt, she’s your daughter Duvie. She gets depressed just like you do...” Valerie thought to herself.

“Oh, she mentioned that story? That’s a pretty funny one. I’ll tell you it on your way home.”

July, 21st, 2003 (*Madlax is 12, Meg is 36, Valerie is 25*)

In an old villa in Gazth-Sonika’s demilitarized zone Madlax and Meg came in from target practice.

Valerie was sitting in a chair trying to keep cool when they came in.

“Any word from Three-Speed?” Meg asked Valerie.

“Yeah, he wants you call to him ASAP.”

“Alright, I’ll be back. Valkyrie keep an eye on Madlax will you.”

“Yeah sure...” Valerie replied as Meg left the room.

“Hey Valk, guess what?” Madlax asked with a satisfied grin on her face.

“What?” Valerie asked in an irritated tone.

“My shooting has gotten a lot better. Even better than yours, Duvie said so.”

Valerie raised an eyebrow. “Oh yeah, you think you’re all that and a bag of chips but I’ve something you don’t have.” Valerie said with a mischievous grin.

“What do ya have?” Madlax asked curious but still confident.

“Mind bullets.”

“Mind bullets?”

“That’s right, I can shoot mind bullets in your mind and make you trip up and stuff.”

“Yeah right...” Madlax said walking away.

“Oh you think so huh? Well watch this.” Valerie said putting her finger against her temples and saying in an odd voice “mind bullets”.

Madlax turned to look at Valerie and she tripped.

“See... mind bullets. And now I’m going to shoot more mind bullets at you.” Valerie said as Madlax recovered.

“No...not mind bullets.” Madlax said as she started to run away.

Valerie got up and chased her with her fingers against her temples saying “I’m shooting mind bullets at you” while she chased Madlax around the room.

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The chase continued for a few minutes until Meg came back into the room.

“What’s going on?!” Meg asked and Valerie stopped and Madlax ran up to Meg.

“Duvie, Valk is shooting mind bullets at me!” Madlax said in a whining tone.

Meg looked at Madlax and sighed. “No one is shooting mind bullets at you. Valk is teasing you. Right Valk...?” Meg said with a bit of irritation directed at Valerie.

“Yeah I was teasing you Maddie.” Valerie said knowing that Meg wasn’t done with her yet.

“Now go get cleaned up for dinner Madlax.” Meg said to Madlax.

“Okay.” Madlax said and she ran out of the room.

Meg walked up to Valerie and smacked her upside her head.

“You, act your age.”

“Come on Duvie, I was just having harmless fun with the kid...”

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“So as Madlax grew up and she went on jobs with us we teased each other. Sometimes she teased back with real bullets. Heh.” Valerie said then she the sign for a gun and said in imitation of Madlax’s voice. “I got yer mind bullets right here.”

Elenore knew that Valerie was trying to tell an amusing story but it didn’t seem so funny to her though Susan thought it was funny. Elenore looked at the back seat where Susan was laughing and she smiled.

Then Elenore pulled the test results out her pocket and began to read it. It proved without a doubt that Susan was hers but what disheartened her was when she read that Susan had the same disease as Margaret had. She looked back at Susan then turned back in despair.

She didn’t notice that Valerie had pulled up to the front of the mansion.

“We’re here! All ashore that’s going a ashore!” Valerie said in a funny voice which got a chuckle out of Susan. Valerie stopped the car and put a comforting hand on Elenore’s shoulder. “Look kiddo, I know things look bleak right now and I know this sounds cliché but have faith that things will get better.”

Elenore looked at Valerie; she knew she was trying to cheer her up. But Elenore had a hard time but she managed a quiet “thanks”.

Valerie got out of the car and got Susan out. “Don’t worry I’ll carry her to the door.” She said as she watched Elenore slowly get out of the car.

Susan noticed and turned to Valerie. “Aunt Valerie, do a magic trick. Maybe that will make mommy smile.”

“I don’t think a magic trick is going to make her smile.” Valerie thought to herself.

“I did promise I’ll show you a magic trick.” Valerie pulled a half yur coin out her pocket and held in the palm of her hand. “Now watch the coin.” Valerie told Susan. Susan watched the coin intently.

“Abracadabra.” Valerie said and the coin slowly floated above her palm. Susan was amazed as Valerie manipulated the coin all while Susan wasn’t watching a very faint purple aura briefly flashed around Susan’s wound healing it.

“Okay now hold out your hand.”

Susan held out her hand as Valerie carried her to the door and the coin dropped neatly into her hand.

“Now hold on to that coin. It’s a magic coin.”

“Thank you!” Susan beamed.

“You’re welcome kiddo. Now be a good girl for your mommy, okay?”

Susan nodded as Valerie handed Susan to Elenore. “Nice meeting you Elenore.” She said as she began to turn to go back to her car.

“Nice meeting you too Miss Val...” Elenore said as she opened the door and they went inside.

Valerie got in her car and drove off.

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A few blocks down Valerie noticed a familiar person hiking a part of her skirt up to show her leg. She pulled up and the woman got in and then they drove off.

"From the look on your face I take it you just left my mom's house."

"You know I can't ever look at Susan or your mom again, not after what I know. Do you know how many times I wanted to pop a bullet in Wally's skull?"

"Quite a few times, knowing you."

"Damn it Elsa! Do you know how hard it was leaving there? Do know how helpless I felt knowing what I know but not being able to do shit about it?! Do you know how many times I wanted to warn Aunt Jodie?!" Valerie pounded her fist on the steering wheel with a look of helplessness on her face.

"Yes I do. I wanted to help my and your family as well. But we both know we couldn't without doing major damage to the time line or causing a time loop or worse a paradox." Elsa said noticing that part of the steering wheel was warped from the impact.

"Speaking of time, any word from them?"

"Actually, they came up with a way for you to get back...but..."

"But what?"

"You'll still have to be an adult, I'm sorry."

"It's okay Elsa, I know you tried. At least I can go back to being Jodie Olivera. But I still can't look at your mom or Susan, not without a major guilt trip."

"I wouldn't worry about it. By the way..."

"Yeah..."

"Thank you for watching over Susan as much as you could. You know, she still has that coin you gave her." Elsa said kissing her on the cheek.

"Really, that's nice to know..." Jodie said as Elsa pulled out a device and pressed a few buttons. A few seconds later the car vanished in a brief flash of light.

Elenore lay on her bed with her feet on the floor. She was wearing one of her uniforms, since she didn't have a dress suited for a funeral. The apron was right beside her as was the urn with her daughter Margaret's ashes. For the last hour and a half she had been "debating" with Vanessa, Margaret and her mother on where to bury or spread the ashes. Elenore wanted to go to the graveyard, but Vanessa and her mother wanted to do it the garden in the rear of the mansion. That way Elenore could be out of any sight of any photographer. Margaret suggested that they spread enough ashes to break the chain and hold some over when things died down to spread at the graveyard. The debate roamed the mansion as Elenore tried to get Susan ready. Though she was happy that her wound healed, she suspected that Valerie used a "magic trick" to heal her. Margaret did say the woman did have some mystic powers, so she made mental note to thank her discreetly the next time she saw her.

Elenore heard a small knock on her door. At first Elenore was annoyed because she thought one of the others was trying to force a decision out of her. But the knock was more like Laetitia's and the only one here who could knock like that was Susan. Elenore sat up and answered. "Come in."

Susan came in wearing a black dress that Elenore had when she was eight (her grandpa didn't like throwing anything of Elenore's away...considering Anna when she was alive didn't let her have very much of anything at all.)

"Mommy?"

"Yes Susan?"

"Why did everyone yell at each other?" Susan asked in a confused manner.

Elenore got off the bed and got down till she was eye level with Susan. She knew her daughter was familiar with death but she tried to tone down her answer. She reached over and grabbed the urn off the bed and showed it Susan.

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Elenore hesitated at first then she took a deep breath and answered. "This is what remains of your twin sister. She died after she was born and they took her body and turned it into ashes."

Susan was understandably confused at first then she lobbed question after question at Elenore. Elenore tried her best to keep the answers as comprehensible to an eight year old as possible.

"I had a sister?"

"Yes."

"What was her name?"

"Her name was Margaret."

"Did she look like me?"

"Yes, she did."

"Why did she die?"

"She got sick and her body couldn't fight it."

Susan hung her head low and then she continued her questions.

"Why did they turn her body to ashes?"

Elenore couldn't think of an answer that would make sense to Susan. "You'll have to wait till your older, then you'll understand."

"Why didn't you bury the ashes?"

"Well I wanted her next to me when I die. But I want her to be with your great grandpa and grandma."

As Susan was thinking of her next question, Elenore thought as well, she thought of the answer she had given. Then she smiled.

"Do you want to help me bring your sister to the graveyard?"

"Yes, when are we going?"

"Now sweetie. How is your leg?"

"It doesn't hurt as much but I can't move it well."

"It's okay; I'll carry the both of you."

Elenore picked up Susan and they exited the room. Elenore went downstairs and went out the front door not caring if anyone saw them.

"Did somebody hear a door open and shut?" Madlax asked as she came into the living room.

Margaret rushed to the window to see Elenore carrying Susan and starting to walk down the street.

"Oh Elenore..." Margaret said as she rushed out of the room and the stairs in a hurry.

Vanessa and Meg came into the room. "Madlax, what's going on?" Meg asked concerned.

"I heard the front door open and close ask if anyone else heard it and Margaret went to the window and saw Elenore and Susan I'm assuming." They all heard the door open and close again and Madlax saw Margaret chasing after Elenore.

"Let's go!" Meg said as she then followed by Madlax and Vanessa then Carrossea rushed down the stairs and after Margaret and Elenore.

"ELENORE!" Margaret yelled as she ran to catch up with her.

"I don't want to hear it Margaret; I'm going to the graveyard, spreading my daughter's ashes on my grandparent's grave. I could care less about reporters, photographers, or anyone else. I'm going to give my Margaret peace at last." Elenore said in a defiant but somber tone.

"We could..."

"NO MARGARET!" Elenore turned her head long enough to say what she said and she marched on.

Margaret was floored; she had never heard Elenore raise her voice to her before.

She wanted to use the Torc to calm Elenore down so she could reason with her but thought twice of it.

She didn't want to use the Torc in that way and she could sense that Elenore was crying in the inside and realized what she was doing was very painful to her but necessary. She let Elenore walk ahead of her as the others caught up with her.

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"Let her go on ahead, and then we'll follow." Margaret said trying to stop the group from rushing past her and to Elenore.

"Margaret, do you realize what's going on?" Vanessa asked pointing at Elenore.

"Yes I do. But she needs to do this in her own way. And yes I know there are people who want to use her. She doesn't care all; all she wants to do is give her Margaret peace and exorcize a personal demon of hers."

Meg thoughtfully watched Elenore walk down the street then she turned to Margaret. "I'm going to catch to her and then the rest of you follow, please." Meg said then she hurried to catch up to Elenore. Elenore noticed her mother almost running up to her.

"I'm not changing my mind mom. I said I was going to spread her ashes on grandpa and grandma's grave and that's what I'm going to do."

"I know, but I thought we were going to do this as a family?" Meg asked as she saw Elenore trying to hold the urn and Susan at the same time.

Elenore stopped and Meg took Susan from her and began to carry her.

"I'll take that as a yes." Meg said as they continued on to the graveyard.

It was noon when they reached the graveyard. Meg stopped and let Elenore walk ahead. She put Susan down and they slowly followed after her.

Elenore was clutching the urn close to her bosom when Meg and Susan approached. Then one by one they came; Margaret, then Vanessa, Madlax, Carrossea and Limelda.

They were silent for a moment and then Elenore with her head bowed still holding the urn spoke in a somber but reverent tone. "I came here to pay my respects to someone I loved. Before I left the last nail in the coffin that was my childhood was pounded in brutally. The only good that came from it were the two lights that came into my life. Tragically one of those lights went out before her time. And this is why I am here today. Grandpa and Grandma please watch over Margaret." Elenore took two candles from her pocket and embedded them in the ground in front of the gravestone. As she searched her pockets for a lighter she realized she forgot to bring one. Meg pulled out a lighter from her purse and handed to Elenore. Elenore lit the candles and spoke again. "I light these candles for my daughter and the little girl I once was. Susan please come here." Elenore said gesturing to Susan to come over. She bent down to head with Susan and unscrewed the urn. "Place your hands on the urn sweetie." Susan put her hands on top of Elenore's and as much of the urn as she could. Then they slowly spread the ashes over the ground till the urn was empty.

"Susan looked at the grave and the candles and sadly spoke. "Goodbye Margaret. I'll see you some day. Please say hi to Gary for me."

Margaret placed her hand on Elenore's shoulder. Elenore found herself in the field of flowers standing next to Margaret. She saw her Margaret standing between her and her grandparents.

"Go on sweetie; go to great grandpa and grandma. Good bye Margaret."

"Bye mommy. Bye Aunt Margaret. Tell Susan I said bye too." And then Margaret ran to her great grandparents and the three walked off into the light holding hands.

Elenore found herself back standing in front of the grave. She turned and hugged Margaret. "Thank you Margaret." She cried on her shoulder as Margaret hugged her. After she was done crying she turned to everyone. "Thank you all for coming and I do apologize for forcing the issue. But I needed to do this; plus I also need to do this as well, I would like to be the last one to leave here please."

Margaret nodded then hugged Elenore and left. Then Vanessa and Madlax did the same. Carrossea gave a respectful nod as he left. Limelda and Elenore looked at each other and nodded and then Limelda left.

Elenore looked at her mother and Susan. "Can I stay with you mommy?"

"Go with grandma okay." Susan frowned and hung her head low.

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"Don't stay too long sweetie." Meg said as she picked up Susan and they left leaving Elenore alone standing in front of the grave.

"I miss you grandpa and I wish I had gotten to know grandma as well. But I have to go." Elenore got on her knees and prayed for a bit then she got up, and turned toward a bush. With a glare she muttered. "I won't let you win..." Then she turned and went to the gate. Standing there was Louis the caretaker.

As she walked out Louis spoke. "Take care..."

Elenore briefly smiled and replied. "Thank you sir."

She heard Louis close and lock the gate as she walked home.

When they all got home Elenore put Susan in a guest room for a nap then she went to the living room where everyone else was. Elenore stood before the assembled group.

"I'm sorry for earlier, especially I want to apologize to you Margaret. I didn't want to yell at you, but I..." Margaret stood in front of Elenore, shook her head and replied. "It's okay, I understand. But could you do one favor me?"

"Of course, what is it?"

Margaret's stomach growled loudly. "Could you please make lunch?"

Elenore chuckled and replied. "Of course, I assume you would like pasta?"

Margaret tilted her head and smiled. "Of course."

Suddenly a flash of light appeared next to Vanessa. A tall eight year old girl with green eyes and short brown wearing what was the remains of a dress torn from what appeared to be claw marks. The girl was crying when she hugged Vanessa.

"Other mommy!" The little girl sobbed as she cried into Vanessa's blouse.

Vanessa looked at the girl as did the others in confusion. They all wondered who she was and why did she call Vanessa "other mommy"? Vanessa wrapped an arm around the girl and as soon she did the Bracelet informed her on who the girl was.

Vanessa stunned then she looked at the girl then at Elenore. "Elenore! This is Elsa from the journal! She's our daughter!"

Elenore went to Vanessa and Elsa. She bent down and got Elsa's attention.

Elsa let go of Vanessa and hugged Elenore still crying. Elsa was shaking in terror.

"Mommy!" Elsa cried.

"Okay, you have to stop crying. You're safe sweetie."

Elsa stopped crying long enough for Elenore ask a few questions.

"Tell me what happened?"

"I gave the ring to the lady." Elenore knew the ring was the Ring of Morrigan.

"Okay you gave the ring to the lady and then what?" Elenore patiently asked in a soothing tone.

Between sniffles Elsa answered. "Then I was in a jungle and a dinosaur tried to EAT ME!" Elsa yelled the last part and she hugged Elenore as she hugged her back trying to calm Elsa down.

"This question is very important. How did you get back in time?"

Elsa looked at Margaret and Elenore gave a silent "why am I not surprised" sigh.

"Aunt Margaret the bunny said blue, blue, yellow, red then green!"

Meg was writing this down as fast as she could then just before she could get to Elsa, she disappeared in flash of light.

Meg looked at Elenore as she got up. "Well that explains who Elsa is and somewhat how she got back in time."

Margaret was wondering what had happened that caused her to send Elsa back into the past. She gathered from Elsa's age it would be nine years from now. Then it hit her; her hair color had changed but her looks didn't but the Elsa that appeared and disappeared here was the same Elsa that was at the

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library yesterday! Margaret kept that revelation to herself for the moment, thankful that Elenore didn't jump to conclusions like she sometimes did.

"I'm not blaming Margaret just yet. We still don't or won't know for another nine years. We'll find out when it happens. But I want to know is how are two women going to conceive a child and who is going to carry her?" Elenore replied.

Vanessa was somewhat in shock when the Bracelet gave her another piece of information. Vanessa absent mindedly plucked three hairs from her head and placed them in her hand.

"Why are yanking your hair Vanessa?" Margaret asked wondering what Vanessa was doing.

"The Bracelet told me how we are going to do it."

"Well...?" Elenore asked a little impatiently.

"I take these three hairs in my hand and I close my hand and wait a three seconds and oh..."

Vanessa felt something form in her hand. When she opened her hand there was a three inch white pearl in place of the three hairs.

"What is that supposed to do?" Madlax asked looking at the pearl with everyone else.

"I'm supposed to give it to Elenore." Vanessa replied looking first at Madlax then the pearl then Elenore.

"Oh I see." Elenore said as she grabbed the pearl from Vanessa's hand.

"I think you where suppose to wait...never mind too late." Vanessa said as the pearl absorbed itself into Elenore.

"What just happened?!"

"When you accepted the pearl, the DNA inside it went to an egg and ..."

"What you're saying is that I just got myself pregnant."

"Pretty much yes."

"Congratulations Elenore and Vanessa!"

Meg was going to say something but then she sighed and said. "Congratulations, sweetie and thank you."

"For what mom?"

"For giving me another grandchild!" Meg answered and hugged Elenore and asked in a low tone. "You two are going to get married right?"

"We haven't gotten that far! We're not even dating. Are we Vanessa?" Elenore said defensively looking at Vanessa.

"I'm guess so..." Vanessa managed to spit out.

"Okay you two talk it over and I'll go make lunch. " Meg said letting go of Elenore and heading off to the kitchen.

Margaret looked at the note on the table.

"Oh Elenore, this came for you. It's from the bearer of the ring. Only you are suppose read it, I guess."

Margaret said picking up the note and bringing to Elenore.

"Let me sit down before I read it...I just had one big surprise, I need to relax before the next one."

Elenore said as she went to the couch and sat down.

She opened the letter and began to read it.