

Chapter 37. Memories and postscripts of a sapling

I read the entries I had for 2013 and then I giggled a bit. I always meant to straighten those out but I've never really found the time. Something always got in the way.

"Well looks like I'm going to have to do some data editing after all. But first, Daisy."

"Yes Miss?"

"Scenery shift to park-child-one please."

"Yes Miss." Daisy happily complied and the scene shifted from the field of flowers to the park where I played as a child.

"Thank you."

"You're welcome Miss. Is there anything else?"

"Can you edit scenery without accessing the net?"

"Yes Miss, I do have a large database devoted to that." Daisy replied.

"I would like to do a scene edit of park-child-one night time mode." The scene switched to day to night with street lamps turning on."

"Daisy, do you have lunar data?"

"Yes Miss."

"Scene edit. Three full moons with the colors of red, blue and green." I said to Daisy looking at the preview screen I brought up. Though I wasn't happy; the moons were a little too far away.

Daisy tilted her head and spoke. "Miss, may I make a suggestion?"

"Yes, what is it." Wondering what Daisy was going to suggest.

"There is a file with those parameters you have stated Miss."

"There is?" I asked in surprise.

"Yes Miss."

"Please show me in a preview window." I asked.

"Yes Miss." And a window appeared and there staring me in the face was what I saw when I think I heard Laetitia. All three moons shining in the sky with the colors I had stated. Plus they were a lot closer than I had. Then I took a look at the file name on top of the window. It read "Madmargaritia GS 2011". I thought it was odd file name but then it hit me. It was short for Madlax, Margaret, and Laetitia Gazth-Sonika 2011.

"Daisy when was this downloaded?" I asked as I couldn't remember ever downloading this file.

Daisy stood as she looked up the date and then she answered. "July 7th 2033, 8:34 PM."

I felt a bit violated. I had loaded this VSR with enough security to stop a major hacker attack. I wondered who had violated my "safe space".

"Daisy, who accessed this VSR on July 7th 2033?" I asked determined to find out whom.

Daisy tilted her head again and then answered. "The user ID is "Madmargarita" and is registered to Margaret Burton, Miss."

I sighed, knowing that I should've known that Margaret would do something like this. How she got past my security baffled me at first and then it hit me again: Vanessa. Vanessa knows my passwords to my VSR. Anyways, I looked at the file and I smiled. At least it was a nice gesture on Margaret and Vanessa's part.

"Daisy, install and run this file for all outdoor scenes."

"Yes, Miss." Daisy complied and I saw three full moons in the sky. The moonlight brightened up the park nicely and I sat on the bench with my book and began to look over where I needed to do data editing.

On January 4th I moved back in with Margaret at the mansion with the kids.

In March we celebrated Elsa's first birthday. I saw the picture with her trying to gum the cake and I laughed.

Then I saw the picture of the tea party at Kirika and Mireille's place. I can see why Chloe was so amused by this. The looks of utter surprise are priceless. Then I saw the picture my mom took with the black eye from the tea party. She had it blown up and framed. I swear she gets a kick out of that.

Then I saw the pictures I took at mom and step dad's wedding in...2014. She looked beautiful in that gown. Granted it took me a while and a bit longer for Luna to call him dad.

"June 2015? Oh okay. That's when Vanessa was pregnant with Victoria. Now he goes by Victor. I know it's going to take awhile but I'll remember. I know he was diagnosed with G.I.D when he was five. I was hoping he would've waited till he was out of high school. Maybe Sammy and the other's are right I am being overly protective."

Then I scanned down to 2016 and saw the news articles. They had found the mass grave where they buried the victims of the plane crash. They found the remains of Margaret's mother and plus they found our father. Margaret and I helped those who couldn't afford to have their deceased relatives brought back to Nafrece. That went a long way for closure for Margaret, Luna and I.

Then I saw the picture of the menu of Nadie and Ellis' Mexican food restaurant in Nafrece. She always complained that Nafrece made lousy tacos. I am glad they moved back to Nafrece and we were able to help them open the restaurant. Though the name "Inca Rose" is a bit odd name for a restaurant, they managed to start a chain across Europe.

Victor was born in March like Elsa was. He keeps pushing me away for some reason.

I got my first cybernetics in 2016; I had my brain cyberized and it made my life easier in some respects.

Then I saw the pictures of Margaret's graduation from university that year. She looked happy in those pictures. I didn't know at the time she was two months pregnant with my nephew. I thought Carrossea was going to run but he stayed. They've been "happily unmarried" for the last seventeen years. I found my nephew Richard Jr. birth announcement and first baby picture from 2017; he looks so adorable in that picture. He's looking like father the older he gets.

I paused, as the memories of Susan and Elsa flooded in. We almost forgot about the sticky note warning Elsa left for March 18th 2018 with tragic consequences. Susan had cut both wrists and was bleeding to death in the bathtub. Carrossea and I broke down the door to get to her. Thankfully we got to her in time. What I did was one of the hardest things since arranging my grandpa's funeral; I had to put Susan in a private clinic. I couldn't help her and I still till this day feel horrible about it.

Also that day Margaret found something in the front yard and thought it was one of the children's toys. She brought it into the house with that in mind not knowing that it was a time travel device left by somebody. When Elsa got near it activated and sent her bouncing up and down the time continuum. I have the sneaky feeling that Elsa herself left that device since it went off when she came near.

Margaret was in a panic, pressing buttons trying to get Elsa back before I got home. Thankfully I remembered the sequence Elsa yelled that day I got pregnant with her. When we got her home she had aged three years and was now nine. We had to deal with temporal affairs and it wouldn't be the last time.

Nadie and Ellis had a child in 2019. They named her Jodie in memory of Jodie Hayward who with her wife died in the terrorist attack in Naples Italy.

We did find out a long time ago she was a distant cousin of Vanessa's. Her death, I think was the starting point for what happened later.

Poupee was starting university and he wasn't home a lot which bothered Laetitia. She wanted to be at his side. Despite her maturity I don't think she understood that she was still a minor and Poupee was almost an adult. He understood and tried to keep his distance. We all tried to explain to her with some success. Until 2020 when Poupee went to England to work on the research ship Altantia, Laetitia ran away from home. We called Poupee who promised to send her home when she showed up. Sadly the Altantia was destroyed in the crossfire between pirates and the English navy. All hands were reported lost. It was the first time I or Margaret had seen Carrossea cry. Laetitia hasn't come home since, but I know she's alive. I think...or was I wishfully dreaming?

I got caught in an industrial accident at one of our plants and needed to have my body replaced with a prosthetic one. I had a hard time adjusting at first to my new body emotionally until Chloe showed up. Till this day I don't know why she decided to visit but I'm glad. I thank you very much my chère soeur dans la mort for your support. God knows I needed it considering what happened three years later.

It all started to go downhill when Nadie and Ellis came for a visit with their daughter. We were all gathered in the living room, we could hear the children play. Then we heard screams as Elsa and Jodie were kidnapped by some thing. Though temporal affairs told us it was some sort of alien, it didn't explain why it took our children.

Temporal affairs told us the horrible truth. The alien was bouncing around the continuum and Elsa and Jodie got caught in its wake. It "dropped off" Jodie forty years in the past and then we found out that Jodie had repressed the memory and was adopted by the Dowland's. It was only later when Elsa went looking for her that she remembered plus I wouldn't doubt Elsa told her about a few other things.

Temporal affairs had an opportunity to get Jodie back to 2023 which was good, the bad news was she was now in her thirties and she was trying to avoid being shot in 2012.

The woman that Luna, my mom and dad knew as Valerie "Valkyrie Val" Dowland was in fact Jodie Olivera. It did explain why she was so strong and fast.

Jodie didn't want to talk to any of us for awhile. We all thought she was upset about being sent back in time. But the truth was she was feeling guilty, Elsa had filled her in on some details she shouldn't have and the fact she couldn't do anything about it bothered her. None of us blamed her and if it wasn't for Susan and that coin she kept. Jodie would've avoided us for the rest of her life if she could.

But the second tragedy was that they couldn't find Elsa. The only reasons we know she's alive is because of her habit of leaving sticky notes in some very odd places. That and temporal affairs that she would officially reappear sometime in July 2033.

Elsa's disappearance hastened Vanessa's slide into full blown alcoholism.

Victor was attacked outside of school a couple weeks later by a trio of transphobic punks which wound him up in the hospital. And people wonder why I'm so worried about him.

What pushed Vanessa over the edge was Badgis' death. He was the oldest close friend she had. His death broke her heart. She came to drink more and more till a day after Susan's eighteenth birthday she got into a fight with Susan. In a drunken stupor she crossed the one line we would've never have thought Vanessa would do: she called Susan "incest girl". That sent Susan into a full blown rage and it took me and Sarah to pull her off Vanessa.

We took Vanessa to the hospital where she detoxed. Susan left home after that and I haven't seen her since. Vanessa filed for divorce, citing the walk away clause in our pre-nupt. Two months later we were divorced. Vanessa at the judge's orders went to A.A and she's been sober for ten years. Even after the divorce we remained friends with her. She was there for us when we needed her and it was our turn to be there for her. Vanessa feels horrible for what she said to Susan and told me she understands if Susan won't forgive her. I wonder if Susan is dead or alive...

“Daisi, how much more time I have till full consciousness?” I said closing my book after I was done editing.

“Five minutes and thirty five seconds and counting, Miss.”

“Thank you Daisi.”

“Will there be anything else Miss?”

“No. I’m going to try to relax. I still have to find out how much damage and how many casualties we suffered.” I said leaning back on the bench.

I wondered, as I sat, what was going on out there...