

The background of the entire page is a digital illustration of three women with vibrant pink hair standing in a city street at night. The woman in the center is wearing a grey patterned sweater and blue jeans, with her right hand raised in a waving gesture. To her right, another woman with pink hair and glasses is wearing a purple dress with a gold belt buckle and is making a peace sign. To the left, a third woman with pink hair is wearing a grey school uniform with a white shirt and a yellow tie. The street is lit with blue and yellow lights, and buildings with windows are visible in the background.

The Collected Works of Sasporilla Bucket

Free of Charge

VOLUME 2

A Harry Potter Universe Fan Fiction
By Darren Kelly

Sasporilla Bucket - The Girl with pink hair

I want to thank the 1600+ people who have come to my website (at the time I'm writing this) for your love and support. You inspire me everyday to continue writing these stories because of how much you love reading them. As we now move away from the childhood innocence of the girl with pink hair and into her teen years, I promise that this will be one wild ride!

Originally Warner Brothers Games was creating a Harry Potter online MMO. As a huge Harry Potter fan I was following this very closely. A Harry Potter MMO was the game I planned not only to play but to live in. I created the character of Sasporilla Bucket to be my character in game. Over time I created a family tree & history for her and her relatives. As a failed author, never able to get a story read by any company anywhere, I wrote several short stories on the events in their lives that shaped them into who they were. In time I found my creations were as alive as any in the Harry Potter universe.

After years of prodding by friends & family I chose to create this website to share my creations with other fans of Harry Potter. This site contains some of my stories & artwork dealing with Sasporilla Bucket, her family & her time at Hogwarts & after. It is a work in progress so please be patient & enjoy. Check the menus above for the areas you want to peruse.

I am in no way affiliated with Warner Bros. or with J.K.Rowling. My work is purely that of fan fiction & do not ask for, nor accept money, gifts or other compensation for my work. If you really feel you must do something, research which charities J.K.Rowling donates to, then donate to them as such.

Thank you for coming & ENJOY

Darren Kelly

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HOME COMING

A Harry Potter / Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction
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Sasporilla stepped out of her mothers minivan into the drive way of #4 Castle Road. She walked into the house using a cane Saint Mungos had given her for support. Wysteria grabbed Sassy's bag and hauled it behind them. Sasporilla was very surprised that Miss Daisy didn't meet them at the door as she always did. As Sassy walked in she was met by a house full of friends and family excited to see her up and around. A large black and white dog lumbered over to her.

"Hello Buster." Sasporilla smiled. He wagged his tail at her but paid her little mind as he passed her by to say hello to his mummy.

"Hello buster my boy." Wysteria smiled and rubbed his head pleasing the dog to no end.

"Where's Gooseberry?" Sasporilla asked.

"Sweet heart." Wysteria said gently. "No ones seen your monkey since the night you went into St.Mungos." Sasporilla was worried. Where would she go? Perhaps she'd been taken. Sassy vowed to find her darling little friend.

Karry ran up and hugged her Sasporilla tightly. Karry had grown a bit and had started to Blossom. She was clearly going to be built more like her mom and sister Kay as opposed to her other sister Kandy, who took more after her fathers side.

With balloons and cake it felt more like a birthday party than a home coming. Everyone had to come up, say hello, and wish her well. Mrs.Curtiss helped her mother set out drinks and food for the guests. Sasporilla excused herself from the crowd of well-wishers and hobbled to the kitchen. Her mum and Mrs.Curtiss sipped a bit of wine as they laughed and prepared an enormous cake.

"Can I help." Sasporilla asked.

"Don't be silly dear." Wysteria said.

"For goodness sake girl." Kolleen Curtiss said pulling over a chair. "Get off your feet sweetness."

Sasporilla sat on the chair at the side of the kitchen counter.

"You just rest yourself pumpkin." Wysteria said.

"And let us handle the details, ya?" Kolleen said rubbing the girls pink hair.

"Where's miss Daisy?" Sasporilla asked. "Why isn't she here?"

Kolleen took a deep breath, smiled and took another tray of snacks out to the guests. She shot Wysteria a concerned sympathetic look. She didn't envy her friend this conversation.

"Sassy my love." Wysteria said walking over and taking her daughter by the hand. "Daisy passed away while you were in the hospital."

Sasporilla felt the tears well up in her eyes.

"They found her in your bed, snuggled in next to you." Wysterias lower lip quivered. "She had died in the night laying next to her most favorite person. We can't have asked for a better more peaceful way for her to go."

Tears rolled down Sasporillas cheeks. She stood from the chair and grabbed her cane. With much effort she ran across the kitchen and up the back steps to her room where she collapsed in tears onto her bed.

She had lost so much. So many friends. While in the hospital she'd heard the stories of the attacks on London. She knew of the families that were missing or dead and she knew that Mr.Olivander had vanished.

"Sassy." Karry said gently.

Sasporilla looked up to see Karry and Korry standing at the top of her stairs. Korry had grown almost a foot and Sasporilla noticed he was becoming less cute and more handsome. She felt like such a child in their presence.

"Can we come in?" Korry asked.

"You don't have to suffer alone anymore Sassy." Karry said sitting next to Sasporilla on her bed. "You have friends who are here for you."

"Ya." Korry said. "We're here for you."

"Would you stop repeating everything I say." Karry said.

"I'm not repeating everything you say." Korry said innocently.

"Oh you are infuriating!" Karry sad giving her brother a smack.

"Ow!" Korry smiled. "I am. I really am."

"Look you two." Sasporilla said sitting up. "Are you here to cheer me up or bicker like a pair of old washer women?"

"Why?" Korry asked. "You got socks need washing?"

"You are twisted." Karry laughed. "So are you coming back to Hogwarts this year Sassy?"

"Yes." Sasporilla sniffed. "I'll be coming back for my third year."

"We're fourth years now." Korry said.

"Right." Sasporilla said. "I forgot. I've missed a whole year. Guess I slept in."

"But at least we'll all be there together." Karry shrugged.

"What about the others?" Sasporilla asked.

"Janeys not allowed back because she's partially a beast blood. So she's back in the mountains with her mum and dad. Enchandra Benzs family won't let her come back with all that's going on."

"What about your sisters?" Sassy asked.

"Kandys coming back." Korry said. "Mum and dad are forcing ber to finish school. Ever since the whole dungeon thing she's not wanted to go back. Been hanging with a bad crowd."

"That's awful." Sasporilla said.

"Kays out now. Graduated last year." Karry smiled changing the subject. "She's got a job at the Ministry in the office of Muggle Relations. She was a shoe in cause our dad is a muggle and all."

"Any word from little Zac?" Sasporilla said.

"Little Zac?" Korry laughed.

"What?" Sasporilla asked.

"Zac started growing the summer you went into Saint Mungos." Karry said. "By the end of last year he was almost six feet tall."

"What?" Sasporilla laughed very surprised. "No way!"

"Yep." Korry said. "Tall and skinny."

"Ya." Karry said. "Not half bad looking either."

"If you like the type." Korry said.

"Oh?" Sasporilla inquired. "And what sort of young man is your type?"

"Well we know not skinny ones." Karry said.

"I like girls!" Korry insisted.

The girls started to laugh hysterically as Korry kept turning deeper shades of red. Laughing, Sasporilla realized, was better than crying any day of the week



RETAIL THERAPY

A Harry Potter UNIVERSE/ Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction
by Darren Kelly

According to Mrs.Curtiss there was no therapy greater than retail therapy and Sasporilla had trouble finding clothes that fit her in her wardrobe. She hadn't realized that though she was still small, she had grown just a few

inches in hospital. It was time for new clothes and some new robes but even though getting her books and school supplies was of paramount importance, Diagon Alley was no longer a safe place. A dark element lurked there causing no end of trouble.

The Curtiss family and the Buckets decided they would go together, escorted by D.I. Nick Owlmore. Nothing said to a band of thugs, stay away from our us or else, like having a well known Aurer accompany you.

Sasporilla could have easily made do with used robes and old books, like she always had, but uncle Nick insisted that the aurers fund paid for new just as gladly as used. The book list was long as this was Sasporillas third year at Hogwarts. She was able to get everything she needed quickly as Diagon Alley seemed almost empty.

Sasporilla paused at the boarded up windows of Olivanders wand shop. She could almost hear the vibrations of the wand singing to her from inside. It Seemed a shame to close the shop. Quality wand shops were hide to find and Olivanders was the best. What would the first years do? Sasporilla wondered.

The Curtiss family ran up quite a bill with everything they needed. Kandy had pretty much stopped growing but still needed her books and supplies. The wins however were growing like weeds and if Karry was anything like her oldest sister and mother, as it appeared she was, they would need to buy her robes a tad larger so she could grow into them.

The sooner they could get out of Diagon Alley the better they'd feel. It was just a matter of getting the children the proper cauldrons and they'd be off.

There was a bit of a commotion outside the shop. A group of well dressed but odd looking young men walked past, signing autographs, for a gallion each, and posing for photographs for the Daily Prophet. Sasporilla looked out through the window and locked eyes with Marlon Wormwood. It was then she realized the people at the center of the disturbance were the Weird Sisters. Marlon Wormwood smiled and headed jauntily towards the shop. His tall thin frame was accentuated by the tight black pinstripe suit he wore. His greasy long black hair topped with a chapeau straight off the mad hatter.

The shop bell rang as he stepped through the door. He stepped quickly over to Sasporilla Bucket, took off his top hat and bowed politely before her.

"Sasporilla Bucket." Marlon Woormwood grinned. "I'm so happy to see you up and around! All healed then?"

"Just about." Sassy said holding up her cane.

"Ah yes." Marlon said holding up his own walking stick. "Well I was wondering what you thought of the album we sent you?"

"I thought it horrifically appalling!" Sasporilla said.

"Sasporilla!" Wysteria gasped. "Don't be rude!"

"Yes child." Marlon said grabbing and kissing Wysterias hand. "Listen to your mother."

Wysteria pulled her hand away. "It's not that I disagree with my daughters assessment", Wysteria frowned a tad sickened by the very forward young man, "I just think niceties should be observed."

"Indeed." Marlon said donning his top hat and stepping toward the shop door. "Perhaps our new recording will change your mind Miss Bucket. It will be out around Christmas. Good day."

With that Marlon Wormwood closed the shop door behind him and ran oddly back to his band mates where he turned and waved his hands tauntingly at her. It was then and there Sasporilla Bucket knew it had been Marlon Wormwood that had attacked her that day, pushing her head into the water and making deathly ill.

"Uncle Nick." Sasporilla said. "It was him that pushed me in that dirty water."

"Are you sure?" Nick Owlmore asked.

"I'm certain of it." Sasporilla said.

Nick left the shop but couldn't catch the band before they'd aparated away. He returned to Sasporilla with the bitter sweet news.

"I couldn't catch up to them." Nick said. "But I'll have the lot of them hauled in for questioning by days end."

Kollen convinced Wysteria the place to buy casual clothes was in the muggle shops home in Essex. The selection was much broader though perhaps the quality not as good. However one could not beat the exchange rate. For the cost of outfit in Diagon alley Kolleen could clothe all of her children from head to toe from the muggle shops.

Wysteria bought Sasporilla almost ten new outfits, all just a tad big so she could grow into them. With luck they'd get two years out of them. Buying intimates was always something Sasporilla hated doing. Wysteria usually had to drag Sasporilla kick and screaming to look at knickers but with Karrys influence they went through them laughing and joking. Kolleen had Karry try on

brassieres. She was developing fast and needed them. Wysteria took Sassy over to the training bras.

"Mom I don't want to wear one." Sasporilla insisted.

"My dear girl." Wysteria smiled holding different styles up in front of her daughters chest for comparison. "All the other girls wear them don't they?"

"Well yes, but." Sasporilla said.

"And your just of age when girls of my family start to blossom ya?"

"I guess." Sasporilla said hanging her head.

"If you wait until your in full bloom to to start wearing a bra you'll take forever to get comfortable wearing one." Wysteria reassured her. "Look these ones are fun, more like sports tops and one has a pink bow and the other a rose."

Sasporilla conceded the point. Wysteria could buy them for her and force her to wear one at home but at school she was out of sight out of mind. She just had to smile and nod now and do what she pleased later.

Make up was not something Sasporilla or her mother ever really used. The Bucket girls usually just let their natural beauty shine through. The Curtiss women swore by their collections of of make up in all colours for every mood and every occasion though it was all a bit new to Karry.

Kolleen helped the girls pick out makeup that suited them but was not overtly to adult for them. Sasporilla had to admit she liked a bit of makeup. It made her feel grown up and pretty. As she looked at herself in the mirror she noticed someone staring at her from the back of the shop. It was the shabby man! She turned quickly but the shabby man had disappeared.



DEAD HATEFUL EYES

A Harry Potter UNIVERSE/ Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction
by Darren Kelly

Deep within the cellars of Saint Mungos were the cells where dangerous psychiatric patients were held. A young man dressed in a blue jumpsuit, his hands and feet shackled and forced to wear a leather muzzle was lead into a hearing room on the first floor. His shackles were attached to a locking ring in front of his seat.

A small group of people sat in the gallery to observe the proceedings. The parents of the young man sat trying to remain prim and proper. Others were assumed to be the usual group of witches and wizards who studied the medical arts.

Three old witches walked into the room and took seats behind raised judging benches at the front of the room. A quill sprung to life and hovered prepared to take a verbatim transcript of the events.

"I call together this tribunal of the Saint Mungos psychiatric board to determine the stability and moral competence of William Percival Bombaduck." The oldest witch at the center of the judges said. "I call Dr. James Caius."

An older man in white robes walked into the hearing room. Billy Bombaduck seemed agitated by the mans appearance despite a calming spell cast upon him.

"State your name?" The tribunal asked.

"Dr. James Caius; PsyAD specializing in clinical assessment and treatment of violent youth."

"Thank you Doctor." One of the tribunal witches said. "As we have read your files on Master Bumbaduck and have taken into account the external, social and familial influences upon him. We ask that you read your recommendation to the tribunal into the record."

Dr. Caius opened a note book and put on his glasses. "The patient, William Percival Bombaduck, exhibits extreme violent tendencies. He has committed no less than three dozen violent acts since being admitted to Saint Mungos, including destruction of property and violent assault on staff."

Billy laughed sadistically as the doctor continued.

"After several months of observation and intense therapy my team and I have concluded that Willam Bombaduck is a violent sociopath that suffers from bursts of psychotic rage disorder. He has been 100% unresponsive to conventional medical and magical courses of therapy. It is my recommendation that William Bombaduck be

remanded in medical detention until a cure is found or until he is twenty five years of age when at a which time he, if found to be incurable, will be moved to Azkaban prison where he may no longer harm people."

"I'll kill you!" Billy Bombaduck screamed trying to stand, fighting the restraints of his chains.

"Taking into consideration the recommendations of our esteemed colleague, and the evidence of medical files before us, the tribunal asks if there is anyone from the family that may have anything to ad?"

A small man in long black robes stood up at the side of the Bombaduck family holding up thin scroll. "My name is J.K.Garland of Garland, Kelpie and Freeman Barristers and Solicitors. I am representing the Bombaduck family in this matter and am authorized to speak on their behalf."

"Approach." The members of the tribunal commanded. Garland walked to the tribunals bench and handed them his authorization from the family to speak on their behalf. "You may speak."

"The esteemed Mayor of Avonshire and his darling wife are mortified at the aberrant behavior of their only child. Behavior they can not condone nor begin to understand. They haven't the ability, the facility, nor the desire to deal with him in their lives. They beg the tribunal to remand him in the custody of Saint Mungos for his own good and the good of the family."

Billy Bombaduck fought the chains until the locking ring snapped. He turned and looked at his parents with dead hateful eyes.

"Petrificus Totalus" caused Billy to stiffen and fall. The head of the tribunal set her wand back down on the bench and sat.

"The tribunal has seen, nor heard anything here today, to change our minds." The head tribunal witch said. "We accept the recommendations that William Percival Bombaduck be remanded in the care of Saint Mungos psychiatric facility."

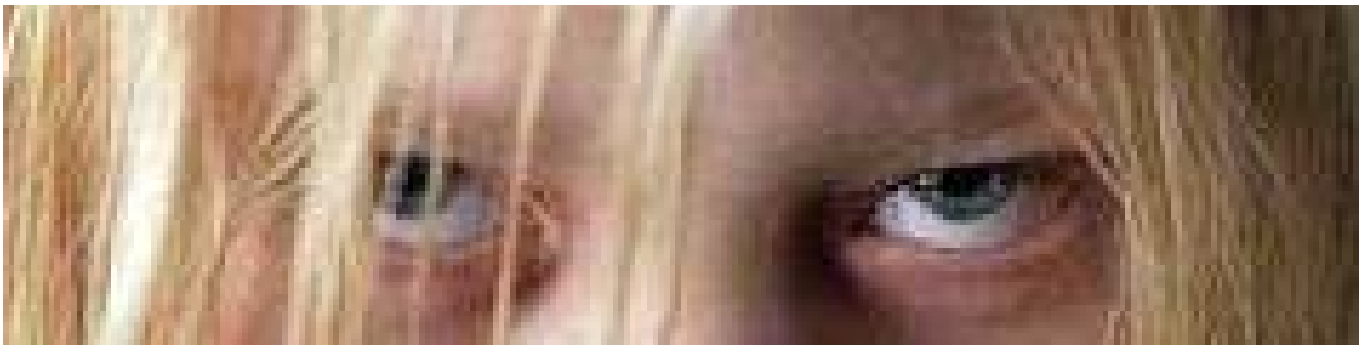
Billy Bombaduck was returned to his room where he was stretched out on his bed, still stiff as a board, or at least that's what the interns thought.

Jose the smaller of the two interns wasn't prepared for the boy when he reached out and took the mans wand.

"Avada Kedavra." Billy Bombaduck yelled killing the intern and turning on his partner. In a blast of green light the other intern fell dead. The cell door was left wide open and Billy Bombaduck walked out armed and dangerous. Billy took clothing from the first corpse in his way that was close to his size. He had grown quite a bit since he was first admitted to Saint Mungos. Anyone who raised a wand or tried to restrain him fell to the ground dead. He had little use for other spells when the killing curse solved most problems.

He found the witches of the tribunal in the lobby speaking with his traitorous parents. Billy Bombaduck killed them all then set their corpses alight. He laughed gleeful as he danced around their burning bodies spitting profanities.

It was with savage fury that Billy Bombaduck killed with impunity in the lobby of Saint Mungos that day and in an instant disappeared into the crowds on the streets of London



Sasporilla Bucket

The Girl With Pink Hair

ALL SEEMS DARKEST

BEFORE THE DAWN COMETH



A Harry Potter Universe Fan fiction

All Seems Darkest Before The Dawn Cometh

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Chapter 1

The Hogwarts Express seemed oddly quiet. There seemed to be a lot fewer people on the trains compared to years before.

Sasporilla, Karry and Korry Curtiss sat with Ginny Weasley in a compartment while Kandy sat with the older students in the back of the train.

News spread fast along the train about the death of Mad Eye Moody and the violent escape of Billy Bombaduck. They talked of how the Ministry was changing under the new Minister of Magic Pius Thicknesse who many believed to be a death eater.

Ginny Weasley was much less talkative than usual. She simply didn't want to let slip any knowledge she about the Order.

"All I'm saying," Sasporilla frowned, "is that I've known Billy for a very long time. My whole life really. He has always been a violent dangerous little psycho and with him on the loose no one's safe!"

"We can take him in a duel." Karry said.

"He doesn't duel." Korry said. "He just straight up kills!"

"I've heard Snapes been named Headmaster of Hogwarts this year." Ginny said.

"Oh shoot." Karry said. "This will be a fun year."

"He can't be any worse than Umbridge." Sasporilla said conservatively optimistic.

Zac Zarcassian slid opened the door to the compartment and stepped inside. Sasporilla Bucket couldn't get over the fact that the small frightened boy she new was now almost six feet tall and looking pretty handsome.

"Zac?" Sassy asked.

"Sasporilla!" Zac yelled grabbing her and pulling her up for a big hug. "It's so good to see you!"

"Look at you!" Sassy smiled. "You're so tall and so skinny!"

"Ya." Zac said. "I've started my growth spurt."

"If this is just a start." Sassy laughed. "Then you'll be nine feet tall by the time you're done."

"You've grown too." Korry said to Sasporilla.

"Yes I've grown all of three inches." Sasporilla said proudly.

"Yes soon our little Sasporilla will be a woman." Karry mocked.

"Really?" Sassy said to Karry. "You're saying this to me? You're just beginning to grow and you're already... well, curvy as your mum."

"Yes I am." Karry said standing up and striking a pose.

"Sit down you fool." Korry laughed.

"Just hope my behind doesn't get as big as Kays." Karry mused.

"Oh ya." Korry said. "Old bubble butt's got a lot of junk in her trunk."

"I always thought it was rather nice." Zac said.

"Zac!" Sasporilla laughed.

The trains breaks came on and pitched the girls into each other and fell into their seats. Zac grabbed the over head luggage rack to keep his balance.

Ginny looked out the window and saw a man dressed in black standing on the track. Death eaters surrounded the train and were coming aboard.

"Death eaters are coming aboard." Ginny said as she stood up and ran out of the compartment to warn the others.

"Ready your wands." Sasporilla said seriously. "But don't do anything to provoke them."

Death eaters moved slowly through the train checking everyone in every compartment and those in the club cars. It was obvious they were looking for something or some one. Once they'd left the compartment Sasporilla Bucket and her friends started to breathe again.

"What do you think they're looking for?" Karry asked.

"Not what." Sasporilla mused. "Who? I think they're looking for some one."

"Probably Harry Potter." Korry said. "He's just been name UNDESIRABLE #1."

"WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAARY POTTER!?!!" The death eater said reappearing suddenly in the doorway.

"Nothing." Sasporilla said nervously but tightening the grip on her wand that sat just out of the death eaters sight at the side of her leg.

"You're lying!" The death eater said stepping in and grabbing the young witch by her pink hair.

"Get your hands off her!" Korry yelled standing and casting "Stupif..."

The death eater physically disarmed him with the back of his hand knocking the young man back into to overhead shelf, banging his head, and knocking young Korry Curtiss unconscious.

"Anything from the trolley dears?" The trolley witch asked pushing her cart into the compartment door and pinning the death eater to the window.

The death eater struggled to get to his wand but couldn't reach it with the candy trolley pressed hard against him.

"You are not a Hogwarts student." The trolley witch said. "Your presence on this train is a security breach. You will be removed."

The trolley witch shoved her cart forward and pushed the death eater through the wall as if it weren't solid, and out into the wilderness. As the trolley was pulled back the witch smiled. "Anything from the trolley dears."



Chapter 2

Professor Sprout met the girls as they poured into the Hufflepuff common room.

"Ladies please." Professor Sprout said holding up her hands. "This year has seen the lowest enrolment in Hogwarts history. Some of your friends may not be attending school this year because of concerns by their parents."

A murmur built amongst the girls who couldn't believe the frank honesty of their House Mistress.

"Due to this issue," Professor Sprout said, "dorm assignments will not be based on year in attendance but will be mixed year to maximize bed space. Unused rooms will be closed off. These are the orders of the Headmaster." Sasporilla and Karry looked at each other hopefully. As Karry was now a fourth year and Sasporilla was now a third year they would not have been able to room together normally. Perhaps they would get the chance to share a dorm after all. It was bad enough their class schedule would keep them separated.

"Here is this years dorm schedule." Professor Sprout said holding up a parchment that flew from her hand and tacked itself to the girls dorm door.

The girls piled in front, Sasporilla and Karry elbowing their way to the front.

The squeal of delight that came from the girls as they realized they'd be roomed together shook the Hufflepuff dorm room windows. Not only were they together again, but they were left in their same old room. Sassy and Karry danced and cheered as the others checked their room assignments. Once everyone had checked the list, door to the girls dorm unlocked and they flowed in.

Sasporilla and Karry found there things at the ends of their beds as they always were.

Both girls flopped down on their beds.

"Feels good to be back in our room." Karry said. "Last year I was down the hall with Enchandra Benz, Mindy Drogan and Cheyline Gorsitch."

"Not a bad bunch." Sasporilla said sniffing the air. "God it's been a full year and I can still smell Janey's farts."

Sassy and Karry burst into laughter.

"Ya the house elves have had quite a time trying to clear out that stench, bless her heart." Karry said.

"Though I won't exactly miss her smell." Sasporilla mused. "I will miss Janey quite a bit."
"She was an innocent, honest soul." Karry said.
"Don't forget brave." Sasporilla added.
"And smart in her own way." Karry added. "Figured out we were all Obliviated," Karry said, "and figured out the counter spell. With some help from me of course."
"Of course." Susan Bones said walking into the room, taking the bed next to Sasporilla. "Are you still on about that Karry Curtiss. It's all we heard last year."
"Yes but Sasporilla missed last year so I have to catch her up." Karry laughed.
"How you doing Sasporilla Bucket?" Susan Bones asked concerned. "You all right now?"
"A lot better thanks." Sasporilla smiled.
"I should say so." Susan said sitting on her bed to start changing into her robes. "We honestly thought you were done for."
"Close, but not quite." Sasporilla said. "Geuss we should start to get ready for dinner."
"I wonder who will be in the last bed?" Karry asked.

Madrigal Neelander was a first year sorted in to Hufflepuff. She was more than happy as her entire family going back ten generations had been sorted into Hufflepuff. She joined the Hufflepuff table in the great hall amidst the cheering from her house mates. She sat in between a second year girl and Sasporilla Bucket.
"Hi." Sassy smiled warmly. "Welcome to Hufflepuff house. I'm Sasporilla Bucket and this is my friend Karry Curtiss."
"Hello." Karry leaned in and waved.
"I'm Madrigal Neelander." The young witch beamed. "And thank you for the kind welcome!"
Sasporilla looked around the great hall. No table was full of students. Most had almost half a table of free space, with exception of Slytherin who were at about ninety percent.
"I guess the rumors are true." Sasporilla said concerned. "Guess a lot of families chose not to send there children this year."
"A lot of them have packed up and just moved away." Madrigal said. "Our neighbors of 175 years just packed up in the night and left. No one wants to be in the UK with you know who on the prowl."
"Students." Headmaster Severus Snape said from his podium at the front of the great hall. His tone was slow and droning as he addressed this years students. "This year brings many changes at Hogwarts. Some Professors have left us and others have stayed. Amongst our newest members of faculty are Deputy Headmistress Alecto Carrow and our new defense against the dark arts Professor Amycus Carrow. They are also in charge," Professor Snape turned to look at Sasporilla Bucket specifically, "discipline."
The usual murmur of the student body was nowhere to be found. The silence in the great hall was deafening. Sasporilla couldn't believe it but Hogwarts had gotten even more oppressive under Snape than it was under Umbridge.
"Excuse me sir?" Sasporilla said standing up and leaning against her cane.
"Sit down miss Bucket." Professor Snapes eyes almost pleaded with the girl.
"I just wanted to, on behalf of all of us I'm sure, want to welcome the our new teachers and deputy Headmistress personally."
There was a half hearted clap from the Slytherin table but from no one else.
"I was wondering though sir. Did they have to murder the people they're replacing to get the job like you did?"
"Impudent girl!" Alecto Carrow yelled.
"Crucio!" Amycus Carrow cast riddling Sasporillas body with excruciating pain. The professor of dark arts walked up to the Hufflepuff table maintaining his spell on the girl. Sasporilla screamed in agony.
"That is an unforgivable curse." Karry Curtiss said. "I'll see you in Azkaban!"
That was when Karry noticed the tattoo on his forearm. The cuff of his robes had raised up just enough to see the Dark Mark below.
"Crucio." Alecto Carrow cast and brought down Karry to join her friend.

"Expelliarmus!" Korry and Zac cast knocking the wands from their teachers hands.

"Enough!" Professor Snapes voice boomed, causing everyone to grab their ears. They turned their heads to see Snape holding his wand to the side of his neck. The Carrows grabbed Sassy and Karry by the arms and lifted them to their feet. Korry and Zac stood before the Carrows defiantly.

"Impudence," Professor Snape droned, "will be met with discipline. Does everyone understand?"

"Yes headmaster." people said hanging their heads.

"PUT AWAY YOUR WANDS!" Snape insisted of Korry and Zac, who refused.

"Stupify." Snape cast and both boys fell.

"Does anyone else choose to defy my will, in my school?" Snape said making the Carrows smile. "Very well then. As punishment for your class mates actions all houses will now return to their Dorms without any supper."

The quiet broke with protests until Snape raised a questioning eyebrow. Then all went silent again.

The houses were filed out of the hall in neat even lines of students standing four abreast.

Professor Snape walked up to the Carrows with a look of disgust that was obviously meant for the children.

"What shall we do with them Severus?" Alecto Carrow asked.

"It's Headmaster Snape, Alecto." He said sternly, "you would be wise to address me as such."

"Our apologies Headmaster." Amycus Carrow said bowing his head and encouraging his sister to do the same. After all Severus Snape was one of Voldemorts chief council and most trusted Death Eater.

"Now." Snape said placing his wand under the Curtiss girls chin and looking in her shaken scared eyes, "I want to hear it from you miss Curtiss. Do you understand that any shenanigans you and your outsider friends get up to this year will be met with this sort of discipline?"

"Yes Headmaster." Karry said.

"Excellent." Professor Snape said turning to Sasporilla but leaving his wand under her friends chin. "And you miss Bucket?"

Karrys eyes pleaded with her. Their well being was in Sasporillas hands.

"Understood Headmaster." Sasporilla said very begrudgingly.

"Wonderful." Snape said. "Now if you would kindly have they're Heads of House escort them back to their dorms. I expect we'll have no more of this kind of trouble."

As the Professors of each house escorted their charges out of the great hall Sasporilla heard Snape demand Drooble be sent to his office.



Chapter 3

Billy Bombaduck no longer cared about anyone who got in his way. He walked the muggle streets of London trying to find a way into knockturn alley. If he could meet up with just one death eater then he might be able to convince them to take him to the Dark Lord.

Billy stood in the shadows of an alleyway across from the Leaky Cauldron. The clientele going in and out of the old pub were quite dismal. As the gateway to Diagon Alley it was usually hopping with activity.

He'd attempted to gain the attention of one or two men who looked like dark wizards. Only one even acknowledged him by saying "Bugger off street rat."

It wasn't until after dark that he saw Fenrir Greyback walking towards the Leaky Cauldron. Billy Bombaduck had heard the stories of the werewolf in the service of Voldemort and knew this was his best chance.

Billy Bombaduck stepped out of the shadows and whistled a the large werewolf like a muggle calling a dog.

"Here Fenrir." Billy said patting his thighs. "Come on boy. Who's a good puppy?"

Fenrir Greyback launched into a rage and charged the boy anxious to draw his blood for the insult.

"Petrificus Totalus!" Billy cast with the wand he took off of the Jose, the intern from Saint Mungos.

Fenrir Greyback stood rigid and motionless in the dark of the alley. Billy Bombaduck circled the large werewolf. Both looked at each other with hate burning in their eyes.

"I am William Percival Bombaduck." Billy said putting his wand in the chest of Fenrir Greyback. "I have killed about my own parents, a dozen or more witches and wizards and as many muggles twice again in the last few

days. I am young, yes, but I am dangerous and have nothing to gain by killing you. However if I let you live you could be of use to me. I require an audience with the Dark Lord and I know you can take me to him. I'm going to step back and remove the petrification spell. If you charge at me I will kill you. If you walk away, I will kill you."

"What's going on here?" A muggle police man asked as he stepped into the alley.

"Avada Kedavra!" Billy cast dowsing the copper in green death.

He stepped back from Fenrir Greyback and removed the petrification spell. The werewolf stirred shaking off the effects he debated his next move. This kid, whoever he was, was dangerous and it appeared for the time being he had the upper hand. With a chuckle of concession he raised his hand and summoned the boy forward. "Come with me."

A few moments later Fenrir Greyback pulled the boy through the leaky cauldron and into Diagon Alley. A sharp turn into Knockturn alley found Billy Bombaduck face to face with Lucious Malfoy.

"Lucious." Fenrir Greyback said. "Is this the one the Dark Lord wants?"

"Not even close." Lucious Malfoy hissed. "Moth headed imbecile does he look anything like Potter."

"No." Fenrir Greyback said. "The other one. The escaped mental patient."

Billy Bombaduck drew his wand. "Crucio!"

Fenrir Greyback dropped to the ground writhing in agony.

"There is nothing wrong with me!" Billy Bombaduck screamed with hate.

"That will do boy." Lucious said calmly placing his wand on the boys hand. "That will do."

Fenrir Greyback jumped to his feet ready to attack but Billy Bombaducks wand was pointed right at him. His young eyes showed no sign of fear, only blood lust.

"I do believe this young man may be of interest to the Dark Lord." Lucious said amused. "I do believe we should take him with us to meet the Dark Lord."

Fenrir Greyback nodded and snarled trying to catch his breath.

Lucious Malfoy apparated them to his mansion which was the current head quarters of Lord Voldemort. With a wave of his wand they passed through the security gates and into the home.

They passed through the grand foyer. Billy had only ever seen rooms this big at Hogwarts. He didn't realize anyone lived in a house this big.

They lead Billy Bombaduck into a large room. The Dark Lord sat in an arm chair by the fire.

"Ah Lucious." Voldemort said. "Who have you brought to me?"

"My Lord." Lucious Malfoy groveled. "This is William Bombaduck."

"Ah, the young man who killed his parents." Voldemort smiled. "Please come sit next to me."

Billy Bombaduck stepped over to the side of the Dark Lords chair and took a knee before him.

"My Lord." Billy Bombaduck said bowing his head. "I want nothing more than to serve you and be one of your death eaters."

Voldemort placed his hand on the boys blonde hair. "I sense there is something you want more."

"I want to kill your enemies." Billy Bombaduck said. "See them tortured and watch their corpses burn."

"Especially... her?" Voldemort smiled.

"Yes." Billy Bombaduck snarled. "Especially Sasporilla Bucket."

"Tell me boy." Voldemort asked. "Why do you hate her so?"

"I have always hated her, I don't know why." Billy Bombaduck growled. "If for no other than I hate her just for hate sake."

"Such darkness, such passion." Voldemort said holding out his hand. "Give me your arm boy."

Billy Bombaduck placed his right arm in the Dark Lords hand. Voldemort placed his wand against the boys arm and spoke a dark incantation imbuing the boys skin with the skull and snake tattoo. Billy Bombaduck now bore the Dark Mark.

"Stand William Bombaduck." Voldemort commanded. "I know of the trials you've faced. Of the education and justice denied you. Do not fear, we will educate you in the magical skills you will need to serve at my side. I will have specific work for you in days to come. Now it's time for Fenrir to give you a special gift."

Before he could react Billy Bombaduck felt the teeth of the large lychanthrope sink into his shoulder. The psychotic young death eater was also now, a werewolf.

Chapter 4

Sasporilla Bucket had only experienced a dementor once in her life. The one that showed up at her fathers funeral, attacked her grand parents then turned on her. She knew they were dangerous, deadly even, but she understood why they used them in Azkaban Prison. She never thought she'd see them hovering high above the Hogwarts grounds. Students were being told it was for their own protection. Sasporilla suspected it was keep them inside the castle walls.

Karry sat on her bed with a piece of parchment on one of her text books. Quill in hand she prepared to pen the letter that would see aurors pour into Hogwarts and arrest Snape and his Death Eaters.

"Dear Mom. The Professors used the forbidden Cruciatus curse on Sasporilla and I. We are ok but please send help! Karry"

The words that she wrote never made it out of the quill. The ink on the page read...

Dear Mom. Hogwarts is better than it has ever been. Sasporilla and I are prepared to learn so much this year from the amazing new professors. Hope all is well at home. Karry.

"What the?" Karry said.

What's wrong?" Sasporilla asked rubbing her shoulder which was still quite sore.

"The words I wrote changed from pen to paper. How is that possible?"

"Some crafty dark spell." Sasporilla said. "They don't want the truth getting out."

The letter suddenly folded itself into the shape of a paper airplane and flew out the window.

"Seems they want the lies to get out express." Karry said.

Professor Sprout appeared in the doorway with Madrigal Neelander.

"Girls." Professor Sprout smiled. "This is your fourth for you room."

"Hi Madrigal." Karry smiled. "Come on in. You get Janeys old bed at the end."

"If you have some perfume I'd suggest spraying a bit." Sasporilla smiled. "Janeys farts were legendary."

Madrigal walked in sad and quiet.

"Miss Bucket." Professor Sprout said. "I can't believe you said what was on all of our minds."

"I spent to much time with Lyra." Sasporilla laughed rubbing a cramp in her leg.

"Though I applaud your cheek," Professor Sprout cautioned, "you must be careful. The Carrows are dangerous as is the Headmaster."

"They're Death Eaters." Karry said. "I saw the dark mark on their arms."

"Professor Sprout," Sasporilla asked, "Our letters rewrite themselves as lies. How can we tell our families what needs to be told when spells block us from doing so?"

"All I can say is the Poseatieive Charm turns all negative writing into a positive. Perhaps if possitivity implied the negative the truth will out. If sent to the right person."

Professor Sprout stepped out and shut the dorm room door.

"Are you ok?" Madrigal asked Sassy and Karry.

"Bit sore." Sasporilla smiled. "I've suffered worse for a lot longer."

"Yes we're fine." Karry smiled. "Thank you for asking."

"I was so scared." Madrigal said. "This isn't what my family said Hogwarts was like."

"Hogwarts is being run by Death Eaters." Sasporilla said. "We're going to have to be very strong."

"I don't know what we can do?" Karry said.

"Most of the DA are still here." Sasporilla mused. "Even without Harry, I think we've learned enough amongst us to teach new people to defend themselves. Madrigal, want to learn how to protect yourself from Death Eaters?"

"You'd teach me?" Madrigal asked with a glimmer of hope.

"We'd teach you." Karry smiled.

Drooble appeared in the room with Susan Bones and trays of food that appeared on the trunks at the end of the bed.

"Drooble." Sasporilla gasped and ran over to give her favorite house elf and gave him a big hug.

"Miss Sasporilla!" Drooble said. "It does my heart good to see you!"

"I've missed you my friend." Sassy smiled.

"And I you." Drooble smiled. "Professor Snape has ordered the house elves do with tonight's dinner what we see fit. So we are bringing it to all the students to feed you."

"Brilliant." Karry said tucking in.

"Won't this get you into trouble?" Madrigal asked.

"It is possible." Drooble said. "However the Hogwarts house elves follow my orders and I alone will answer for this decision. If the Headmaster should choose to punish me or any of my house elves there will be repercussions. I was taught much by Sasporilla Bucket."

The girls all grabbed some food, ravenous from the long days events.

"Drooble?" Sasporilla asked with her mouth half full. "I have to talk to you about something important. When you're not busy."

"Don't come to the kitchens. Stay where you are suppose to be at a times. The Carrows are very dangerous." Drooble said. "And make no mistake, Headmaster Snape is not what you think he is."

With a snap of his fingers Drooble disappeared, leaving the girls to eat their late but still delicious dinner.

After wards Sasporilla took out some paper and her quill. Karry looked on enthusiastically. Sasporilla had an idea that was so mad it just might work.

"Dear Uncle Nick. As usual I can say nothing negative about Hogwarts. It is perfect in every way."

The words scrawled on the paper exactly as written.

"Things are as good for all of us here this year as they were for me my last term. You never have to worry about me and the girls as we are so happy with Headmaster Snape and the Carrows. Delightful people. Write to me when ever you can, as nothing is urgent. Hoping all is well with you. Sasporilla"

The girls couldn't believe there eyes as the message was as written! The paper folded into the shape of a paper airplane and flew out of the window.

The paper air plane flew across the Hogwarts grounds and up to the Headmasters tower where it landed on his desk and unfolded.

Professor Snape and the Carrows looked over the letters making sure no secret codes were used. Letters that passed muster were sent off by owl. Those deemed suspicious were burned. The names of their authors recorded in the discipline journal the Carrows kept.

Professor Snape picked up the letter from Sasporilla Bucket to Nick Owlmore. It was clearly a coded cry for help. Snape rolled it up and assigned an owl to its delivery.

"It seems." Snape Droned. "That our Miss Bucket isn't smart enough to defeat the Poseatieive Charm."

Snape and the Carrows laughed as they continued their censorship late into the night.



Chapter 5

Within the week the first letters started arriving from home. Owls swooped dropping letters and parcels. Some students chose not to write home at all hoping the lack of communications would spark concerns at home. Much to their surprise parents responded to letters that their children hadn't written. Others received the letters they'd been waiting for.

Dear Sasporilla;

Uncle Nick here! All is wonderful here as well. I was hoping all would be a bit more challenging for you this year. You need to toughen up a bit and study so much harder. The Ministry is finally bringing in Mud bloods for questioning. Muggle borns using wands are dangerous and we've always known it.

The most positive thing I can say is that girl you went to school with, Linda? You know the one I mean. They'll be bringing her in soon for blood trial and then ship her off the Azkaban with the other muggle borns.

I expect you to behave yourself and stay out of trouble this year.

Uncle Nick

Sasporilla was worried. That confirmed the death eaters had taken over the Ministry of Magic. If they brought Lyra in, with both her parents being muggles, she would have little hope. There would be little chance she would go quietly though.

Karry, Korry and Kandys letters didn't bring much better news.

Dear Karry, Korry and Kandy;

Everything's ok at home though things are getting darker in the wizarding community. Glad everything is perfect there. We had heard rumors that death eaters had taken over Hogwarts. Sasporillas Uncle Nick has reassured us with the truth.

Your sister Kay has quit the ministry because of differences in beliefs. A pamphlet by Deloris Umbridge called 'Mud bloods and the dangers they pose'. You know how we feel about Muggle borns! Well it's Kays choice to mess up her career if she so chooses.

Have a wonderful year at Hogwarts

Mom and Dad

It wasn't until lunch that Sassy and Karry had a chance to speak. The Carrows walked between the tables monitoring conversations so Sassy and Karry kept tones low.

"I heard from Uncle Nick." Sasporilla whispered. "It's all gone south out in the real world. Looks like the bad guys are taking over and it's the good people who are suffering."

"Ya my mom said Nick talked to them so they know we're in trouble here." Karrys hushed tone trailed off as Alecto Carrow approached.

"I don't care what the others say," Madrigal whispered. "I like Ms.Carrows hair style. No nonsense. Efficient. I may do mine that way."

"I would be happy to do your hair this way anytime girl." Alecto Carrow almost smiled.

As she walked away Madrigal rolled her eyes and Sassy nodded her head in thanks for the distraction.

After lunch Sasporilla had her first Defence Against the Dark Arts class. Professor Amycus Carrow walked slowly down the steps from his office. The students sat silently, most with their heads down avoiding eye contact.

With a flick of his wand, booklets appeared on each desk in front the students.

"Mud bloods and the dangers they pose". Professor Carrow said. "Required reading from the ministry of magic. I expect you will all be eager to read it. So eyes down, read the book and we will, if there is tome after, discuss muggles and mud bloods alike."

The booklet was full of lies and vitriol that frankly made Sasporilla Bucket sick to her stomach. She wondered how many people would believe this rubbish, or at least try and convince themselves these lies were true, just because it had the Ministry of Magic seal of approval.

"Ok." Professor Carrow said gaining his students full and undivided attention. "Any thoughts?"

"No one raised there hand but Sasporilla Bucket.

"Yes." Professor Carrow motioned to the young pink haired witch.

"It was the most trite piece of propaganda I've ever read." Sasporilla Bucket said honestly.

"This is why this book was written." Professor Carrow said. "It is obvious that the lies that have been taught to you under the guise of acceptance, and inclusion, have been deeply entrenched in you miss Bucket. It isn't your fault. I blame those who've influenced and taught you in the past."

"This book is what's full of lies!" Sasporilla insisted.

"Voltay!" Professor Carrow cast a small arc of electricity that struck Sasporilla on the cheek and left a small burn.

"You will raise your hand before speaking and will then do so only upon my permission."

Sasporilla held her cheek and started to tear but she refused to cry and give him the satisfaction.

"Muggles are dangerous." Carrow said. "History has shown the refuse to understand us and live with us. They torture witches and wizards, drowning, hanging, burning us at the stake! We are forced to live in secret and in fear of them."

No one in the room could dispute the historical facts.

"Some times a witch or wizard might fall in love with and marry a muggle often hiding what they are until it's to late. This has been met with all sorts of repercussions. Very few of these marriages last. Some muggle spouses

are terrified and leave. Some insist that no magic ever be used. Others keep their spouse as a slave to their personal greed's and ambitions. The children are reslly not to blame so, half bloods are tolerated. For now."

Professor Carrow went to a large wardrobe at the back of the class. He through open the doors and pulled out a young man shackled hand and foot. Carrow dragged him to the front of the room where he levitated him a foot off the floor for all to see.

"This is a muggle." Amycus Carrow sneered. "He is from the Campbell family farm near by. His ancestors were part of the mass executions of our people!"

"I... I don't know what your talking about." The young man said. "Please let me go."

"Muggles never know what we're talking about." Amycus Carrow said. "Never want to know. Herberus Krockell please come to the front."

Herberus Krockell, A third year Ravenclaw stepped to the front of the room and stood next to Professor Carrow. "You must all learn to defend yourself against muggles and blood traitors alike." Amycus Carrow hissed. "When I let the muggle go, I do not expect him to reach the door. Do you understand Herberus?"

"Yes sir." The boy said nervously pulling his wand.

Amycus Carrow made the muggles bindings vanish but rather than trying to escape, the young man attacked with a wild terrified look in his eye.

"Stupify!" Herberus Krockell cast sending the young muggle crashing to the floor.

"Good." Professor Carrow said. "But, what do we do with him now?"

The class looked confused and a bit afraid of the possible answers.

Gideon Barnswoggle raised his hand timidly.

"Yes?" Professor Carrow asked.

"Take him home and obliviate him?" Gideon suggested.

"Yes." Professor Carrow said moving quickly to the boys desk. "That would solve some problems for today, but what about tomorrow? What will we do when he comes back with hundreds, maybe thousands, of muggles with torches and pitch forks?"

"I don't know sir." Gideon Barnswoggle said looking down at his desk.

"What about asking him nicely?" Carrow smiled. "Imperio!"

The young muggle stood up and smiled. "I'll be going now. No need to worry about me. I'll return home and take my own life."

"No!" Sasporilla screamed.

"VOLTAY!" Professor Carrow cast burning her again. "No? Perhaps Miss Bucket Suggests we should give him a deterrent that he will remember. Herberus please return to your seat. Miss Bucket, please take his place."

Sasporilla stood but refused to draw her wand.

"Use the crusiatus curse please miss Bucket." Professor Carrow said.

"No." Sasporilla refused.

"VOLTAY." Professor Carrow cast. "Use the spell."

"No!" Sasporilla turned and looked at her professor with strong defiant eyes.

"VOLTAY!" Carrow yelled. "Crucio him."

"Go to hell!" Sasporilla yelled back.

"VOLTAY PORTIGIO!" Carrow screamed, a lightning bolt shot forth from his wand fueled by the power of his hate, blowing Sasporilla through other students smashing into the back wall of the room and down to the floor in a broken burned lump.

Amycus Carrow turned to the muggle and pointed his wand. "Crucio!"

The young muggle writhed with pain on the floor of the class room.

"Now." Professor Carrow smiled. "I think he's learned his lesson, don't you?"

The class nodded as the young muggle pulled himself to his feet and spit. "I'll kill you mate."

"Ah!" Carrow smiled turning suddenly on the muggle and casting, "Avada Kedvra!"

A blast of green light sent the young man to the floor dead. All students sat im shock, some were brought to tears. "That is how muggles must be dealt with!" Amycus Carrow insisted. "They know nothing but violence and death and must be treated with equal force! This ends the lesson. Herberus and Gideon, take Bucket to the infirmary."



Chapter 6

Sasporilla awoke in the infirmary to the sound of hushed tones. She could hear Professor Sprout and Professor McGonagall speaking with Madam Pomfrey.

"If those two boys hadn't brought her to us when they did the Bucket girl would be dead." Madam Pomfrey said angrily.

"We must put a stop to this Minerva." Professor Sprout said.

"I agree Pomona," Professor McGonagall said, "I'd quit in a heart beat to protest but we don't dare leave the children in the hands of these animals!"

"If we organize the good teachers we could stand against the rest and take back the school." Professor Sprout said.

"Yes but you're forgetting about the dementors Snape has guarding the school and the death eaters at Snapes command." Professor McGonagall said sitting on one of the empty beds. "I fear any actions we take will have dire repercussions on the children."

"Let's give them a bloody good kicking!" Sasporilla said standing and grabbing her wand from the night stand. The world spun and everything went black as Sasporilla fell to the floor still very weak from Professor Carrows attack.

"She is brave." Professor McGonagall said. "She reminds me of Potter in many ways."

"Yes she's a tough little monkey." Professor Sprout said.

"Yes", Madam Pomfrey said, "now do you think you could help me get her back into bed?"

It was around five a.m. the next day that Sasporilla floated back to consciousness.

She pulled herself painfully out of bed and stood by the open window watching the suns light rise in the east over the black lake. A distant murmur of a roar echoed through the morning air.

"I see you in that window Sasporilla Bucket." The giant squid called.

"Hello Francis." Sasporilla roared back. "I've missed you."

"What is all that noise!" Madam Pomfrey yelled stepping into the infirmary. "Miss Bucket get back into that bed!"

"I was just talking to the giant squid." Sasporilla said listening to another distant roar.

"Why are you injured Sasporilla Bucket?" Francis asked.

"Professor Carrow attacked me for refusing to do dark magic." Sasporilla roared. "Be careful of him."

Madam Pomfrey through her hands over her ears. "Girl you'll deafen us all!"

Sasporilla was ushered back to her bed and given a spoonful of some horrible tasting medicine that sparkled on her tongue.

"There." Madam Pomfrey said. "Few more days you'll be right as rain."

"I heard you all talking." Sasporilla said. "I agree that action is a must."

"Just forget what you heard girl and concentrate on getting well." Madam Pomfrey said. "Leave this to the adults."

Sasporilla snuggled back into her bed and drifted off to sleep with some help from the medicine.

After breakfast Kerry and Korry were escorted up to the infirmary by professors McGonagall and Sprout. No students were allowed to wander the school unaccompanied. Even though it was a Saturday morning, the new rules were held in full effect.

"How are you feeling?" Karry asked sitting on the bed forcing her friend to scootch over.

"I'm fine." Sasporilla laughed. "Bit sore in the chest but other wise good."

"I brought you something." Korry said handing Sassy a purple box with a red, and yellow ribbon that she was sure was torn from a pair of Gryphindor curtains. "Tied the ribbon myself."

Sassy opened the box. Inside were two packs of chocolate frogs and a pack of jelly slugs.

"Thanks." Sasporilla smiled.

"From my private supply." Korry smiled.

"I'll treasure each bite." Sasporilla laughed. "When I open the jelly slugs how long should I let them breathe?"

"You fool." Karry said. "You must let jelly slugs age for a year before opening then let breathe for forty five minutes."

"Of course." Sasporilla said.

Karry looked at the bandaids on her friends face.

"We heard what that animal did." Karry said cringing at the burns. "Looks like everyone's too afraid to do anything against them."

"What goes around comes around." Sasporilla said. "Hopefully it will come around very soon for Professor Carrow."

"His sister is just as bad." Korry said. "She was pulling an Umbridge in detentions. Not using the cursed quills but she'd torture you for talking back."

"I heard Neville Longbottom disarmed her once and stupified her." Karry said.

"No purpose spreading rumors Miss Curtiss." Professor Sprout said.

"Even if they may be true." Professor McGonagall smiled.

The professors left their side to walk over to the windows to give the children a bit of privacy.

"So what's the plan?" Karry asked.

"Ya." Korry said. "We've been waiting to know what you want us to do???"

"Who said I was in charge?" Sasporilla asked. "I want to fight, but I can't ask anyone else to join me. These people are Death Eaters. Killers! They make Umbridge look like a kitten. We all have to play this smarter than we have been."

A distant roar caught Sasporilla's attention. Francis had called her name. Sassy crawled out of bed and limped to the window between Professors Sprout and McGonagall. The Curtiss twins were fast in behind her.

Amycus Carrow took his morning walk along the side of the Black Lake. He walked with his hands tightly clenched behind his back. He enjoyed the brisk morning air as he watched the ripples in the water.

A giant tentacle shot up out of the lake and came down hard on the Professor who tried to unsuccessfully jump out of the way. When the tentacle raised back up and slid back beneath the water it revealed Professor Carrow lay badly broken pushed down into the soft earth.

Professor Sprout looked suitably shocked. Professor McGonagall smiled. Sasporilla and the Curtiss twins laughed and cheered.

Professor Carrow was rushed to the infirmary, alive but with no less than one hundred and three broken bones, looking very much like a swatted fly. Madam Pomfrey said there was little she could do for him at Hogwarts. Professor Carrow was sent to Saint Mungos for emergency treatment.

Later that night, some time after dinner Drooble the head house elf walked into the Infirmary.

"Hello Miss Sasporilla." Drooble smiled and waved as he stopped at madam Pomfrey's desk. Pleasantries exchanged the house elf loped over to see his favorite student.

"Hello Drooble." Sasporilla smiled.

"I would have come sooner but today is the first day you were allowed visitors." Drooble explained. "I wasn't sure what your favorite flowers were?"

"I like daisies." Sasporilla smiled.

"A girl of simple tastes." Drooble said snapping his fingers producing a large bouquet of Daisies. "For you."

"Thank you sir." Sasporilla said. "They are absolutely beautiful."

Madam Pomfrey brought over a vase and set the flowers up on Sassy's night stand.

"How are you feeling?" Drooble asked.

"Much better thank you." Sasporilla said.

"Good, Good, Good." Drooble said. "Miss Sasporilla Bucket, Drooble must ask you, why do you endure this torture from the dark wizards?"

"People are too scared to fight right now Drooble." Sasporilla said.

"Yes I understand why they don't fight, but you could easily disarm them and make them..." Drooble snapped his fingers. "...disappear."

"That was what I wanted to talk to you about." Sasporilla said patting the bed. Drooble jumped up and sat cross legged on the bed. "I have snapped my fingers and made things happen two or three times now, but I can't do it consistently."

"Drooble told you it would come eventually." Drooble smiled excitedly. "Now it has come!"

"But I don't know how to use it all the time." Sasporilla said.

"Do you whistle?" Drooble asked.

"What?" Sasporilla asked confused.

"Whistle!" Drooble said pursing his lips and trying to whistle unsuccessfully.

"Yes of course." Sasporilla said whistling for the elf.

"Yes!" Drooble clapped. "Do you remember when you first tried to whistle and you did it like Drooble?"

"Yes." Sasporilla thought back. "I guess I was about four. I whistled accidentally so I tried all day and couldn't do it again. Then I don't know why I tried it a bit differently and just did it."

"Exactly." Drooble smiled. "You stopped trying to whistle and whistled."

Sasporilla looked at her fingers and whistled. "And now whistling is second nature. I do it when I want and sometimes without realizing it."

"And this is how you must do it." Stop trying to use your magic and just use it naturally."

"Thank you Drooble." Sasporilla hugged the small elf. "You've been a great help."



Chapter 7

In many ways having Headmaster Snape teach Defence Against the Dark Arts for the twenty eight days Amycus Carrow was in Saint Mungos. There were no curses. No torture other than having to listen to his inherent drone. Most importantly no one was killed. They were still forced to read from Ministry of Magic Propaganda and had to watch a presentation called when Muggles Attack. Anything was better than being burned, tortured with the criuiatus curse or forced to cast an unforgivable curse against ones will.

Professor Carrow lead a large group of wizards down by the Black Lake trying to find the giant squid. Little did they know Francis had an underwater cave so deep the murfolk couldn't swim that far down. The wizards had no chance of finding him there. However as the two dozen death eaters searched the lake only eighteen came back. Six death eaters were never seen again. They were delicious.

Sasporilla Bucket snapped her fingers as often as she could. The words from Drooble echoed in her head. "You Stopped trying to whistle and whistled." She drove her house mates nuts with her constant snapping.

"Sassy!" Madrigal Neelander yelled. "Give it a rest!"

"Sorry." Sasporilla said

"Rumors are that the DA is planning to reform if they can find a way to get back into the room of requirement." Karry said.

"Good luck getting to the third floor with no escort." Susan Bones said shaking her head.

"The room of requirement," Karry said, "Will present it self to any student in need. So it should be able to come out anywhere."

"You're an absolute genius." Sasporilla said. She ran out into the hall and looked at the closed off dorm rooms. She took a deep breath and concentrated on what she needed. Karry, Susan and Madrigal joined her in the hall. Sasporilla walked forward and turned the door handle on the center door. The dorm room sat locked up tight. She tried the other doors but all of them sat locked.

"Can I try something?" Madrigal asked.

"Sure." Sassy said standing back.

Madrigal drew her wand and touched the door handle. "Alohamora!"

The door unlocked and swung open. The room was pitch black and empty. Sasporilla walked forward and stuck her wand in.

"Hopefully it's what we need, Lumos." It was just an empty Hufflepuff dorm room with four empty beds and a wardrobe. Sasporilla started to close the door so disappointed by what she didn't find she almost missed what she did find.

"A wardrobe?" Sassy said walking into the room and up to the large wooden cabinet. "No Hufflepuff room has ever had a wardrobe."

"Maybe someone's stashed in here for storage?" Karry mused.

"Or just maybe..." Sasporilla hoped beyond hope as she opened the doors into the room of requirement.

It was just as Dumbledores Army had left it without the crumbled stone of the wall Deloris Umbridge had blasted through.

"We need to spread the word." Sasporilla said. "Keep it very quiet and low key. Tell them to look for a closed off dorm room with a ward robe. Hopefully we'll be back at it in no time.



Chapter 8

Kandy Curtiss didn't make it off of Hogwarts grounds alone. She had approached Alecto Carrow for what she needed and the deputy headmistress/ death eater was more than happy to oblige.

It was just after midnight November 31 when Alecto Carrow apparated to Malfoy manor, bringing Kandy Curtiss in tow. Kandy was very thin as she no longer ate that much. She felt that people like her didn't deserve to eat. Her raven hair was a brittle and unkempt mess. The layers of smeared black makeup rarely washed off fully. She would just give a quick scrub and slap more on.

She followed closely behind her deputy headmistress. She was being taken to the most important meeting of her life. As they passed through the gates and into huge doors the great house Kandy started to laugh bitterly, like the dark cackle of an old witch.

The dark lord was holding court in the main dinning room this evening. Among the guests were the Carrows, the Minister of Magic Pius Thicknesse, Deloris Umbridge, The Malfoys, Bellatrix Lestrange, Korona Portemp and their guests from the royal court of Avalon the Duke and Duchess of Essex, Trillium and Chrysanthemum Bent.

"Ah Alecto." Lord Voldemort smiled. "So good of you to join us and I see you have brought an uninvited guest?"

"This is Kandita Curtiss my Lord." Alecto Carrow smiled. "She is the one who has been begging for months to be brought to your side so that she might join you."

"I see." Voldemort stood and walked over to the girl. She was pretty under all that makeup, and a mess in need of a bath and something to eat "Do you fear me girl?"

"Yes my lord." Kandy said.

"Then why seek me out?" Voldemort asked placing his hand on her head. Her mind was as clear as a focussed telescope to his inner site. "Ah! You've come to kill me."

Kandy drew her wand and pointed it at Voldemorts laughing face. She started to hyperventilate. To kill him would stop all the pain wouldn't it? Stop those who would inflict pain in his name? She saw others had drawn their wands ready to defend their lord and kill anyone who would threaten him.

Voldemort held out his hand instructing them to hold. "Such turmoil inside you. I see that violence sickens you but the darkness calls. You are torn and it is destroying you."

"No, I" Kandy said almost pleading as Voldemort gently pulled the wand from her frail hand.

"Darkness runs in your family Kandita." Voldemort smiled. "Did you know that."

"No." Kandy shook her head insisently. "We're all good witches. Witches of light magic."

"Then how do you explain me?" Korona Portemp said gaining the girls attention. She looked exactly like her mother only with raven hair and dark smeared shadowy eyes like her own.

"Kandita Curtiss." Lord Voldemort ushered the girl over to the dark witch who stood greet her. "May I introduce you to your mothers twin sister."

"Hello Kan-di-ta." The witch said brandishing a shark like smile.

"No." Kandy said. "My mom is an only child."

"Hardly my dear." Korona Portemp said walking around the girl sizing her up. "Your MOTHER just doesn't want to admit that her twin sister spent the last 15 years in Azkaban because she fought for the other side."

"The right side!" Bellatrix Lestrange shouted.

"I too find violence appalling." Korona said. "I hate having to curse or kill, but I have and I probably will again." Voldemort looked on intrigued.

"You see Kandita." Korona said bending down to look the girl in the eye. "I was like you at your age. Didn't feel like I fit in. Felt the draw of the darkness but sickened by the senseless killing. Then I found my place here with the death eaters. You see not all of us twisted mindless Psycho's like Bellatrix here."

Belatrix Lestrage stood up pounding her fists on the table. "Insolence!"
"Ranam Verto!" Korona cast changing Belatrix Lestrage into a frog. "You see my dear. No violence. No pain just a new form until I see fit to change her back."
Kandy laughed as Belatrix Lefrog jumped across the table. Voldemorts snake Nagini raised its head in hungry curiosity.
Voldemort nodded at Korona to undo the spell.
"Reverto." Korona cast changing Belatrix from a frog back into herself. "See just as easy to turn a frog back into a toad!"
Belatrix Lestrage drew her wand but Korona Portemp was already prepared.
"Ladies." Voldemort chortled. "Not in front of our guests. Please put your wands away."
No one moved.
"I Insist." Voldemort hissed. The witches put away there wands. "Do you see young lady. We do not use violence where there is no need for violence."
"I see but..." Kay shook her head. It sounded right but it wasn't what she'd seen. It was all so confusing.
"To join us." Korona Portemp smiled is to find order and peace. No one will tell you to do anything you don't want to do."
"And if some one does?" Kandy said nervously.
"We'll see to it that you'll never get orders like it again." Voldemort smiled.
Kandita Curtiss held out her arm and pledged her allegiance to the Dark Lord who imbued her arm with the dark mark.

A large group of people passed through hedge rows that bordered the Hampshire Moors. Fenrir Greyback walked his new young charge, Billy Bombaduck into the cold dark night. The heavy cloud cover had given them more time than usual to get to the best spot for a midnight run.
"This is a right of passage amongst werewolves Billy." Fenrir Greyback said. "Your first full moon is hard. It's gonna hurt, A lot, But your also gonna run with the pack for the first time. Some of the others had their first full moons years ago. They've always run alone. Here we give them a home. A pack. Through blood we share more loyalty than most wizards. One day they will fall and we will stand."
Billy felt his heart beat heavy in his chest as the first glimmer of the full moon pierced through the clouds. Laughter and cheers erupted as they began to run. The change came easier on the run. Clothing fell away as muscles rippled and grew. Hair replaced clear skin as bones snapped and reformed. Teeth pierced gums as howls echoed on on the moors.
Almost six dozen ran with the pak that eve. They criss-crossed the Hampshire moors as a waves on a fur covered ocean. Amongst them stood out the largest, the alpha, Fenrir Greyback and the Golden furred cub, Billy Bombaduck. All fell before the gnashing of their fangs. Game, foul, even a family of muggles unlucky enough to be stargazing outside their home on the northern side of the moors. Flashes of ivory fangs, the rich dark spray of blood and the screams drowned out by the growls and howls of a bloodthirsty pack of werewolves.

Voldemort escorted Trillium & Chrysanthemum Bent to the foyer. Trillium walked with slowly, purposefully behind his wife who walked at the side of the Dark Lord.
"So you are clear on my requests Thomas?" Chrysanthemum Bent asked.
"Yes, Chrysanthemum." Voldemort said. "I will have my people take care of your problem post haste."
"Excellent." Chrysanthemum Bucket smiled.
"And what of the girl?" Voldemort asked.
"To lose her would be a horrible loss to our family but if she should become a hindrance in your task or become collateral damage then it would be looked upon as an acceptable loss."
"Understood Duchess." Lord Voldemort smiled.
"And as we've promised." Trillium Bent smiled. "We will sponsor your name for Trials of the Wizard King."

"Yes." Chrysanthemum said. "You will no longer be a pretender to the throne 'Lord' Voldemort." Voldemort was not amused by her candor but members of the Royal court of Avalon were permitted their eccentricities.



Chapter 9

The plan was so simple Sasporilla bucket couldn't believe she hadn't thought of it before. After breakfast on Sunday morning she would go back to the Hufflepuff common room. Karry would hold open one of the common room windows which sat near the ceiling, level with the ground outside. Sassy put her hand through and touched the cold ground. Sunk her fingers into the rocky soil and pulled herself into the earth.

She was able to travel as one with nature without detection by the dementors patrolling the grounds. She past from ground to forest and became as the trees and the leaves, eventually spring out to be as air. She did loops around the dementors at the far side of the grounds but they had no clue she was there. Even while staring one directly in the face.

This day wasn't about a leisurely jaunt through nature, Sasporilla had definite plans. The snows started to waft down gently as Sassy arrived in the centaur camp. The heard was preparing for its festival of Kentauros an ancient celebration of the winter solstice.

"Sasporolla!" Rockthet yelled surprised to see her after such a long time. He galloped over and gave her a big hug. "Where have you been? We all missed you!"

"I was very sick." Sasporilla said. "But I'm better now."

"Will you run eith us today?" Rockthet asked. " It's the day of the festival!"

"Yes I know." Sassy smiled. "Happy Festival of Kentauros everyone!"

The centaurs began to gather realising the person Rockthet was talking to was Sasporilla Bucket. War council to the chief and bringer of peace to the tribe of the Northern moon.

"Sasporilla Bucket." Ferez said smiling. "It is so good to see you. I had heard from Hagrid that you came close to death."

"Yes I was very sick." Sassy smiled noticing the look of concern on some of the centaurs faces. "But it was not contagious and I'm clear of it now and I've come to run with my herd. If you still want me?"

"Still want you?" Talton smiled walking up with Magorian & Delphine. "You are a revered member of our tribe. You will always be welcome among us."

"Will you help us decorate?" Rockthet asked.

"Of course!" Sasporilla smiled. "I'll do anything my tribe needs of me."

Snow had been falling light all day on the Castle Rd. Wysteria had been busy running about with Kolleen trying to finish up the Christmas shopping before the kids returned from Hogwarts. She had just put on a fresh pot of tea and was preparing her gifts for wrapping when a knock came at the door.

Buster stood by the door growling and barking.

"For heavens sake Buster." Wysteria said shoving him back. "It's probably just Kolleen!"

Wysteria opened the door to see the cold dead eyes of Billy Bombaduck staring up at her. He had grown quite a bit since she'd seen him last but there was no mistaking that blonde hair and those hateful eyes.

To his left stood a young lady with raven hair and dark smeared make up.

"Is that you Kandy Curtiss?" Wysteria asked noticing the older raven haired woman who looked like her friend. "Kolleen?"

"No." The woman shook her head and grinned with her shark like smile. "Kandita follow me. Young William can deal with this on his own. Can't you?"

Bustet growled his hackles raised and teeth bared. The black and white Bucket family dog didn't like these people and wanted them gone.

"I have this." Billy Bombaduck said as Wysteria tried to shut the door but Billy Bombaduck kicked open.

"Avada Kedavra!" Billy Bombaduck cast.

Buster leapt forward and grabbed the boy by the forearm and shook vigorously braking skin and bone, forcing the young Death Eater to drop his wand and knocking him to the ground.

Korona Portemp rang the Curtiss' front bell and danced to its musical tone playfully. Kandy tapped her on the shoulder and pointed to Billy Bombaduck wrestling with the dog on the ground.

"He'll be fine." Korona said turning as she heard the door open.

"Yes? Kolleen Curtiss' smile dropped off as she saw her twin sister, the death eater, standing on her front stoop with her middle daughter behind her.

"Hello sister!" Korona Portemp said as both women pulled their wands and started to duel.

The light from hexes and protections, curses and counter curses deflected in the street as they were pushed back.

"Kandy get inside!" Kolleen yelled but Kandy wouldn't go. As she stood there holding her head in terror Kolleen saw the Dark Mark imbued on her daughters arm.

A blue blast caught Koleen off guard and knocked her off her feet. Korona Portemp stood above her as Kandy snatched her mothers wand from he loosened grip.

"Now dear sister." Korona said stepping on her sisters chest. "Do you remember the old wives tale grand ma ma used to tell when we were little?"

"I certainly do." Kolleen spat at her sister.

"Twins are grown from one soul and split into two." Korona Portemp cackled. "One good, one evil."

"She was right!" Kolleen screamed in pain as her twin sisters boot heal twisted in her rib cage.

"Please stop it!" Kandy yelled. "Your hurting her!"

"Life is pain kid." Korona Portemp sneered. "Ava..."

In a flash of white light, Korona Portemp flipped end over end flying down the street and landing on the Buckets dog who finally let go of Billy Bombaducks mangled arm. The shabby man stood in the road, wand drawn.

Kandy Curtiss helped her mother to her feet. Kolleen took her wand from her daughter and looked into her confused crying eyes.

"Are you injured?" Kollen asked her daughter.

"No." Kandy said.

"Get inside and lock the door." Kolleen said shoving her daughter inside.

Korona Portemp didn't like the odds. She didn't know who this shabby stranger was but he looked like he might be good in a fight and had little to lose. They'd lost the girl, no surprise, she was weak. If the Dark Lord was right she would be of more use as an unwitting spy. Korona Portemp grabbed Billy Bombaduck and they apparated away as others arrived.

Kay Curtiss appeared soon followed by Nick Owlmore. The shabby man ran in to the Bucket house. A cry of great pain echoed on to the street as the others quickly joined him. The shabby man knelt on the floor cradling the cold lifeless body of Wysteria Bucket.

Saporilla Bucket would later write in her memoirs that thete was nothing more exhilarating than running with a herd of Centaurs. They crossed the trails of the dark forest and around the hidden peninsulas of the black lake. They returned to camp only when the sun began to set and it was time to feast.

They fed on wondrous dishes of wild foul in rare spice. Salads and platters of pit roasted potatoes came in a never ending stream. The best was desert made from berries chilled by the first frost of winter. They were sweeter than any candy in Honeydukes!

Though encouraged to stay Sasporilla knew she had to get back. Soon the Carrows would be sending prefects to do a bed check. If she didn't make it back in time she'd be in detention with the psychopath twins for a week at least.

It was almost nine p.m. when a hand made of earth gently rapped on the window. The Hufflepuff common room window swung open and Sasporilla slid in like a snake from the frozen earth.

As she shut the window she heard the far to familiar voice of Headmaster Snape behind her.

Chapter 10

To paraphrase Queen Elizabeth II, the Christmas of 1997 was the Christmas Horribolous. Sasporilla Bucket returned home a few days early with the Curtiss Twins and Uncle Nick. Kolleen wanted nothing more than to hug her youngest children. She needed to know all of them were safe as her Death Eater sister was still at large.

Sasporilla sat in the corner of the Curtiss house hold, near catatonic, surrounded by her friends Karry, Korry and Kay as Nick Owlmore questioned Kandy Curtiss.

"Why did you attack Wysteria Bucket?" Nick asked gently.

"I didn't." Kandy insisted. "It was Billy. Billy Bombaduck."

"Why did 'he' attack her then?" Nick asked.

"The dark lord ordered him to kill her." Kandy said reluctantly. "I hate violence."

"Why did you come to attack your mother then?" Nick asked.

"I didn't. I just came along because my aunt said..." Kandy started crying. "They promised no violence. She lied. Why do I always fall for the lies?"

"Why did Voldemort want Wysteria killed?" Nick asked as Kolleen tried to comfort her daughter, despite her disappointment in her middle child.

"Some old people asked him." Kandy wept.

"Old people?" Alex Curtiss, Kandy's father asked. "Old like me and your mom?"

"Excuse me?" Kolleen Curtiss asked.

"No old," Kandy said, "like really old grandparents old... maybe older. People called them Duke and Duchess."

"Duke and Duchess?" Nick asked. "Did you hear any names?"

"I don't know?" Kandy sniffed.

"This is very important love." Nick said. "Please try and remember."

"I don't really remember." Kandy said. "I just know they had names like flowers."

"Flowers!" Nick sighed. "Pansy, Daisy, Rose?"

"No." Kandy said. "Fancy flowers. Like Mrs. Buckets name."

"Like Wysteria?" Nick mused fearing he knew the answer. "Trillium, Bougenvallia, Chrysanthemum?"

Yes." Kandy said. The first one and the last."

"Thank you." Nick said patting the girls knee. "You've been most helpful."

"Alex, Kolleen." Nick motioned and they walked to the far side by the door. "Can Sasporilla stay with you tonight?"

"Of course." Kolleen said. "As long as she needs. Sassy's always welcome here."

"I need to organize the funeral and get my things together." Nick said.

Nick and the Curtiss' surrounded Sassy with love and comfort but she acknowledged nothing.

"Sasporilla." Nick said. "You'll bunk here with Curtiss' ya? I'll be back in the morning."

Karry and Korry lead Sassy up stairs to Karry's room. Karry had a day bed in her room as well as a bed. Sassy was put in the day bed but didn't really sleep. She just sat there staring into space.

Billy Bombaduck was met with reverence as he entered the great room at Malfoy Manor Christmas morning. A huge Christmas tree sparkled amongst the bows of holly and other festive decorations.

"William." Voldemort smiled at the boy whose arm was in a sling. "You have done very well."

"Thank you my lord." Billy Bombaduck owed humbly. "It was my honor and my pleasure."

"You will be highly rewarded in time." Voldemort said. "But for now, a token of my appreciation."

A large box floated up from under the tree and over to Billy Bombaduck.

"Thank you my lord." Billy said. "But I don't need a reward. To kill that squib for you was good enough for me."

"Such humble dedication." Voldemort said. "You must learn to accept as humbly as you give. Open your gift."

Billy flipped back the polished wooden lid of the box to reveal a green velvet lining. Set inside was the most expensive broom on the market. An Affalon Excalibur! As fast as the Fire Bolt but lighter and stronger. Superior engineering aside it was beautifully inlaid with gold filigree on magically woven Apple and Oak woods.

"It's the best broom in Avalon and there are few like it in our world." Voldemort said.

"Thank you my lord." Billy Bombaduck said pulling it from its box eager to take it for a ride.

The Daily Prophet carried the obituary and funeral details for Wysteria Bucket in a three line column on the second last page.

Bucket, Wysteria Millicent died December 21, 1997 in her home in Essex. She is survived by her family and her daughter Sasporilla. She will be missed.

Nick Owlmore moved into #4 Castle Road to look after Sasporilla. Wysteria had made him her officially named guardian in the event of their deaths. There was no one they trusted more to look after their baby girl.

Sasporilla sat on her bed staring blankly at her poster of Myron Wagtail and petting Busters black and white fur. "Sasporilla." Nicks voice cut through the fog in her mind. "I need you to get your coat on and your boots. I need you to come with me."

Sasporilla stood and followed Nick to the front door where she put on her coat. Nick slipped on his over coat and the pair stepped out into the cold night air. He took Sasporilla by the hand, like when she was a little girl, and looked at her staring off blankly.

"Hold on tight." He smiled as they apperated.

Nick and Sassy reappeared in a small wood lot. Sassy could see farm fields through the thin trees. A small cottage sat dark and silent before them.

Nick lead Sassy inside. The cottage was small with a chair and a bed and a cold unused fire place. Sassy could see the windows were boarded up so no light could come in or out. Nick shut the door and stomped on the floor three times.

A crack of light appeared in the floor as a small hatch opened up under the chair. A hand from below pushed the hatch open making the chair tilt back. Another hand appeared holding a mirror which turned until it caught their reflection. A thumbs up and a wave signaled them to come down.

Nick escorted Sasporilla to the edge of the hatch.

A set of steps went down into a well lit warm space. She looked at Nick who gave her a nod of encouragement to head down.

Sassy walked slowly down the steps into what appeared to be a full underground house. Nick closed the trap door behind as he joined her.

"Would you like some tea?" A voice called from the kitchen.

"Yes that would be lovely thanks." Nick said. "Bit of a nip in the air."

The man stepped in carrying a tray with a pot of tea and some mugs. He was a tall thin man with bushy hair and a long shaggy beard. Sasporilla gasped when she realized it was the shabby man!

The tray hit the ground with a crash shattering the mugs and the tea pot.

"Nick!" The shabby man said. "Why have you brought her here!"

"Because it s time she knew a bit more about what's goin on!" Nick said helping pick up the broken bits of porcelain.

"Uncle Nick what's going on?" Sasporilla asked. "Why is the shabby man here?"

"The shabby man, I like that." The shabby man smiled. His smile. It was warm and familiar just like his voice.

"The Shabby man." Nick said, " is known by many names and he's here because this is his place. The only place that's safe for him to live right now."

"There are a lot of very bad people that want me dead and I've fought them since your dad and I and Nick were in Hogwarts together." The shabby man said. "I guess I should properly introduce myself. I'm DI David Skrimshaw. I'm sorry if I've scared you over the past while but I've been keeping my eye on you and your mum. I was in the north when the attack on your mother happened. I got there to late to save her. I feel as though I've failed you, Sasporilla. I'm sorry."

"It can't rain all the time." Sasporilla said.

"No it can't my clever girl." The shabby man said waving his wand across his face revealing the man behind the masquerade. David Skrimshaw, the shabby man, was Myron Wagtail.

Sasporilla ran up and hugged Myron. She started to sob wildly. With sadness for the loss of her mum and with joy at finding her friend alive and well. When she tried to be strong and keep it all inside Sasporilla found that with Myron should could be vulnerable and just let her feelings out.

Myron patted her head. He had always hated to see the young girl cry but he was happy to hug her once again.

"Come on Dave." Nick said. "Let's make a new pot of tea and sit and have a chin wag."

A fresh pot of tea later the three of them sat down to talk.

"Sassy." Nick said. "There's a bunch you should know about old Dave here and about your family."

"Ok." Sasporilla said.

"Dave went to Hogwarts with me and your dad. Skinny little retch he was, we were fifth years when he was a first year. We all got on thick as thieves."

"That's why, when I got out of school I joined the aurors like your dad and Nicky." David said. "I was really good at blending in and fitting in almost anywhere. So I was a natural for undercover work. So they put me on assignment trying to infiltrate a small group of young death eaters... the Weird Sisters. They were originally formed to be a propaganda tool for Dark wizard Ideology."

"Like they are now." Sasporilla said.

Seeing his god daughter engaging in the conversation for the first time in days brought a smile to his face.

"That's right Sassy." Nick said.

"Once Voldemort fell", Dave continued, "I was left imbedded in deep cover to watch for signs of his return. For about a week before Marlon attacked the bus.."

"Marlon Wormwood attacked the bus?" Sasporilla gasped. "He's the same one who attacked me!"

"I know." Dave Skrimshaw said. "I'm sorry I wasn't there to help. Seems like I'm always too late to help."

"No don't blame yourself." Sasporilla said coming to a realization. "It's all Voldemorts fault and his evil followers. Their to blame. They've taken my father from me and now my mother. If ANYONES to blame, its them."

"You are so much like your mother." David smiled. "I assume that's how they figured out I was not what I painted myself to be. I hated righting some of the new songs we'd been working on. Writing songs of love and light was easy for me and I had to pretend I hated them when it was always the other way around. Then at the Hogwarts show, when you went off on me and the lads for taking the piss I knew you were Wysterias daughter. So frank and honest. I couldn't help but get close to you. Despite it all your mom recognized me the moment she saw the picture of me. That's why we started writing each other."

"Dave always had a crush on your mother Sassy." Nick smiled.

"No." Sasporilla said looking into her friends eyes. "He loved her."

"Yes." Dave said. "From the first day your father introduced her to us."

Sasporilla hugged her friend. She saw so much love and loss in his eyes. She imagined they mirrored her own.

"Can I get in on this?" Uncle Nick asked.

"Sure mate." David said holding out his arms to hug him.

"Stuff it you!" Nick laughed as Sassy hugged her god father.

"Where was I?" Dave asked. "Oh the attack on the bus. We came around the corner and Voldemort is standing there, bold as brass, in the middle of the road with Marlon and a bunch of masked death eaters. Always thought Marlon was a squib but he was tricky one. Learned it all on his own. He blew the bus to Hades and back, through me so hard I barely had time to apperate out. William wasn't so lucky. He wad throne clear and died. I came to days later here in the cabin upstairs. Guess it was the safest place I could imagine."

"Ya well it's a good thing you did Davey old son." Nick smiled. "Otherwise we'd have lost you as well. Oh and William didn't die of his injuries. He might have, but it looks like he wasn't given the chance."

"Marlons initiation kill?" Dave asked?

"Yes." Nick answered.

"They're horrible!" Sasporilla exclaimed. "All of them!"

"Yes they are." Dave said. "That's why I started to stand out as not one of them when you and your mom came into my life."

"It must be impossible to hide true love Myron... um Dave." Sasporilla said.

"Harder than you know Sassy." Dave said. "So I reported in, and was ordered to stay hidden." Dave said. "I tried but I was so worried about the safety of you and your mom. So, the Shabby man was born."

"I never would have believed we needed watching over." Sasporilla said. "I don't understand why they came after my mum?"

"Sassy." Nick said. "Your mums family, the Bents, asked Voldemort to kill her."

Sasporilla sat in shock it was nearly two minutes before her brain could muster the question. "Why?"

"Both your family lines are old blood in the Wizarding community." Nick said. "Well off and well respected, even with their dark leanings. The Buckets would be in the same class as the Malfoys or the Goyles or Crabbs. The Bent bloodline however is of a higher social class. The Bents are of the Royal court."

"The Royal court?" Sasporilla asked. "Of Avalon?"

"Yes." Nick said. "Your grand parents are the Duke and Duchess of Essex. They wield great respect and power in Wizarding circles. When they issue a command it is followed. When they ask for a favor, it is a coveted privilege to oblige. Voldemort obliged."

"But why my mum?" Sassy asked.

"She was a squib." Nick said. "We know they saw that as an embarrassment to their blood line. Maybe it was more than that. Maybe they didn't like the way she was starting over. Who knows. What's done is done and Voldemort has their favor."

"But Voldemort didn't actually kill my mum."

"No." Dave said. "That animal Billy Bombaduck did."

"No matter who does what, They'll all have to answer for their crimes." Sasporilla said.

Tears and Laughter flowed in abundance that night in the secret house, that sat below an old cabin, in the small wood lot on the edge of Myron Wagtails country property.

By dawn's light Nick and Sasporilla returned to #4 Castle Road. It had been a very long night but Sassy was feeling alive again. Buster greeted them at the door desperately needing out for a pee.

"I'll be right back." Sassy said slipping the leash on the dog and following him along as he did his business. When she returned home the Christmas tree was all lit up and presents were laid out beneath.

"I almost forgot it was Christmas." Sasporilla said.

"Few days after." Nick said. "Figured we'd open our prezzies and hit the sack for a bit. Then get up and go over to the Curtiss' for dinner? We've been invited. Kolleen's made up the food your mum bought. No sense in it going to waste ya?"

"Ya." Sasporilla said.

They sat around the tree. Sasporilla felt a bit uncomfortable that most of the gifts were for her. Uncle Nick got one or two and Buster cleaned up with three balls, two bones and a new coat for going for winter walks.

Sasporilla got clothes, she knew she needed them as she was growing in all directions. She was 14 and was starting to blossom, just like her mum had said. The last gift was the most odd of all. Her mum had bought her a broom. The note said, "You'll get better with practice. Love mum."

The broom was not a fast sports broom like the ones some of the kids who played Quidditch rode, this was a heavier broom made of Black Walnut and Cherry woods. It had the loveliest copper and brass inlay and accoutrements. It came with a brown leather seat, not unlike a muggle bike seat, and brass foot rests. The coolest part were the removable saddle bags and small carry rack near the back bristles. This was a broom meant for long trips and travelling with loads. It would be good for going around collecting wand cores and woods. She could even tie the case Mr. Olivander had given her to the back.

"You have to sit on it." Uncle Nick said. "Once you do, it will only respond to you. It's a Triumphant T120x. Same kind the Broomer gangs ride."

"I don't want people thinking I'm a broomer!" Sassy said.

"I don't think anyone will, but broomers won't mess with it because they know they can't steal it! And it's a solid ride."

Sassy though her leg over and sat on the seat. Her behind tingled for a second until she felt a pinch.

"Ouch!" She said dropping the broom, but it didn't fall to the ground.

"Ok step off, like you got on and set it down." Nick said.

She did so and set the broom on the floor. Nick walked over and motioned her to step back. Nick stood over the broom, held out the hand and commanded "UP!"

The broom didn't move.

"Up!" Nick said. "See. It will only work now for you."

"I can stand there for half a day asking politely or inventing new threats and curses and brooms rarely come up for me." Sasporilla laughed.

"Try it." Nick said.

Sasporilla walked up and held her hand out trying to appease her insistent Uncle.

"Up." Sasporilla said. The broom was in her hand before she finished pronouncing the 'p' in up. She climbed aboard and put her feet on the foot rests. The broom sat level and solid as if it were on a stone pedestal. "When you get back to school you can use it in class." Nick said. "Let's see old Hoochies face when you show up with that bad boy."



Chapter 11

Dinner at the Curtiss' was delicious. Turkey, ham, potatoes, carrots and peas. The chestnut dressing had just enough sage. Sasporilla disliked too much sage. For desert were three kinds of pie, apple, lemon and coconut cream. Mrs. Curtiss also put out a traditional Figgie pudding as she'd heard it was Nick's favorite.

Sasporilla avoided Kandys eye line all dinner long. She couldn't stand to look at her or the Dark Mark she tried to cover on her arm.

Kandy Curtiss kept her eyes on her plate most of the meal. Anytime she looked up at anyone they looked away. She sat amongst family and friends, totally alone. No one talked to her or even about her. She was invisible and felt unwelcome and Unwanted.

Sasporilla and the twins went out to walk the dogs. Sassy knew she could say nothing about finding Myron Wagtail alive, or who he really was, but she wouldn't feel out of sorts anymore if she caught sight of the shabby man lurking in the shadows.

The adults sipped port by the fire in the living room. Kandy and Kay drew wash-up duty. Kay washed while Kandy dried. Other than the clinking of dishes, the silence was deafening. Kandy couldn't find a good way to make small talk with the sister she'd always talked to and argued with. For fifteen years they were never at a loss for words with each other, until now. When the dishes were done Kay walked out of the kitchen and into the parlor. Kandy sat there alone. Porridge looked at her without so much as a tail wag then she was gone.

Karry and Korry had returned with Sasporilla Bucket. Kandy walked upstairs. No one cared enough to notice her go.

"They have abandoned you child." The voice of Voldemort echoed in her head. There was no doubt the Dark Lord spoke to her across the distance. "You can return. You will be welcome here. They do not deserve you. They deserve nothing."

Kandy walked into her room and sat on the edge of her bed. She pulled the wand off of her night stand and held it loosely in her fingers.

"Yes." The voice of Voldemort laughed. "You know they don't love you any more. You know they hate you for who you are. They sit in ignorance of your greatness. Their every breath mocks you. Their heart beats taunt you. You deserve better. You deserve respect! Be the Death Eater you know yourself to be paralyze them. Burn the house down around them! Then come home to me."

Kandy pulled out the black gown she'd worn to the yule ball a few years ago. It was a bit short on her but with the weight she'd lost it still fit. Her favorite shoes were a black leather ankle boot with a thin heel. It was as the muggles say, SO WITCHY-POO. She lay out on her bed and smiled for the first time in a year as she lifted her wand out before her. It was time she solved all her problems. She knew what had to be done. Voldemort was right, she was a Death Eater, and eat death she would.

Pointing her wand back at her self she softly spoke the words. "Avada Kedavra."

Chapter 12

Professor Sprout was the first one to welcome the girls back from what would be the worst Christmas vacation of their lives.

"Miss Curtiss, Miss Bucket, my deepest condolences for your losses."

"Thank you Professor Sprout." The girls said.

"If you need to talk or need anything at all," Professor Sprout said sadly, "my door is always open. You know I'm here for you?"

"Yes Professor." Karry said.

"Thank you Professor." Sasporilla nodded.

Silently they went to their dorm room and called it an early night with no dinner.

The news of Lunas disappearance was all gossip of the breakfast tables. Some said her father had simply not allowed her to return, others said she'd been kidnapped by the one who must not be named. Many students didn't return to Hogwarts after the Christmas break. After learning the truth about disciplinary measures at the school, outraged parents marched on the ministry of Magic demanding justice and recompense for their children's suffering. Their cries fell on deaf ears. Their names placed on the ever growing list of dissidents.

Sasporilla and Karry were starved the first morning back. They devoured toast, eggs, pancakes, sausages and bacon, fruit, juice and even three large glasses of milk and a cinnamon sticky bun each. The food filled their stomachs but not the holes in their young hearts.

Sasporilla had looked forward to her first Broom flying class of the year. She had taken the course for two years and barely squeaked past. This year she brought her own broom. One that worked well for her. Rather than being held on the south lawn the class was now being held in the school's largest court yard. The dementors over seeing the security of the school made free flight higher than ten meters very hazardous.

"Miss Bucket." Madam Hooch smiled putting on her gloves. "You're going to try again?"

"Yes Madam Hooch." Sasporilla smiled her broomstick in hand. "I got a broom for Christmas that seems to work for me."

Madam Hooch looked over the broom. "Triumphant, nice. That's a very good broom. Good stability, strong. Lots of bangs and whistles. Hope you can ride it."

"We'll see." Sasporilla smiled.

"Indeed we will." Madam Hooch said.

With a blow of the whistle the class came to order. Basics out of the way for some of the younger students, the older students were told to fly their brooms up and circle the court yard at about a meter above. Sasporilla flew up with ease and circled with the pack like she'd been born on a broom. Madam Hooch was most impressed.

As the younger students began following Madam Hooch around the court yard, just above ground, she cast a series of glowing hoops for the older students to slalom through. The hoops turned and rolled, bobbing up, down left & right. To pass through one successfully earned you a green star which followed after you. To miss one wiped out your previous stars. Sasporilla and the broom seemed very much in sync as they passed through hoop after hoop. She wasn't counting stars as she rarely landed with more than one. The last hoop in front of her spun down so she pushed the tip of her broom down and headed for the ground. Madam Hooch dove for cover as Sassy pulled up at the last moment and flew straight back up and through the ring before the whistle blew.

All students came in with safe & gentle landings, even Sasporilla Bucket.

Madam Hooch looked at the green stars which magically lined up along the children's broom sticks. Harland Stiptick had five green stars.

"Five Mr. Stiptick, very impressive."

"I'd have had more but I lost my first bunch on that tricky turn ring." Harland smiled.

"Indeed." Madam Hooch smiled. "How fast were you going?"

"Like Lightning!" Harland laughed.

"Yes." Madam Hooch grinned. "But like lightning you move almost as fast as the human eye but don't always strike your target. Miss Bucket, how fast were you going?"

"I was just trying to keep up." Sasporilla said. "Almost as fast as Jimmy Dillian I guess."

"Jimmy Dillian," Madam Hooch said, "how many stars do you have?"

"One Madam Hooch." Jimmy said.

"How many do you have Miss Bucket?" Madam Hooch asked smiling.

"Um..." Sasporilla looked at her broom stick and counted seventeen stars which spiraled around her broom stick.

"Seventeen Madam Hooch."

"Indeed." Madam Hooch smiled. "Flying fast can be exhilarating but accuracy is what's important. Miss Buckets new broom is made for comfort and long trips. It can zip when it needs to but it focuses on stability and accuracy of flight. Now you can still fly it like a monkey on an owls back, but Miss Bucket rides her broom with grace, patience & accuracy. It seems Miss Bucket that the problem WAS the brooms we have here all along. Congratulations, 10 points to Hufflepuff for a perfect flight and 5 more points for setting a new class record."



Chapter 13

Sasporilla, Karry, Susan and Madrigal finished up after dinner and returned to the Hufflepuff dorms. They made sure no one saw them slip away through the locked up dorm room and into the old wardrobe. The room of requirement was alive with activity. The DA had set up a base of operations within. Maps hung on the wall showing recently reported activity of Death eaters and where they were searching for Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley. Lists of known Death Eater hung next to lists of the missing and the confirmed dead. Neville and Ginny did their best to teach some the younger students the defensive arts. Other students practiced on the target dummies. Hammocks hung between beams and columns for the students who needed a safe space to sleep in.

Dean Thomas and Lee Jordan sat by the wireless preparing for their next broadcast of Potter watch. The DA was the heart of the anti-Voldemort underground and they were preparing for the day that he would come for them.

"Let's work on our patronus charm." Karry suggested. "Mine still needs a lot of work."

"Sounds good." Sasporilla agreed. "Frankly I need to take my mind to a happy place."

"Ya." Karry nodded. "Me too."

The pair took turns casting "Expecto Patronum!" Not surprisingly they had poor to no results. No matter what happy memory she tried to bring in, none seemed to be strong enough to fuel a good patronus. The best result she'd gotten was a week shield.

"Maybe I just don't have any strong happy memories." Sasporilla said. "I've thought of time hanging out with Myron, hugging my mum, playing as a little girl. Nothing works!"

"I'm in the same boat." Zac Zarkazzian said showing up at Sassys elbow. "Most of my memories are horrible. Best ones I have are of the outsiders."

"Ya we should form a super hero team." Korry smiled jumping in beside his friend. "Muggles love super heroes! We could be the Outsiders."

"Probably one called that already." Zac mused.

"Ya probably." Korry laughed.

"What memory do you use to cast your patronus Korry?" Karry asked. "I mean it must be a good one because you cast a full wolf every time."

"Ya well that's just pure talent." Korry said proudly.

"Ya ya." Sasporilla said reaching up to tousle his thick fair hair. "You are such a brat!"

"But a loveable brat." Korry laughed.

Sasporilla had always seen Korry as cute but now that he was growing he was actually becoming quite handsome. Her memory flashed to that kiss, that Christmas night, three Christmases ago. It still made her feel.... happy."

"Go on then super star." Zac said. "Tell us about your happy memory then."

Korry blushed for a second then sat back trying to look cool.

"The day I completed my set of Chocolate frog famous wizard cards." Korry lied but it was the best he could do.

Sasporilla bit her lip still remembering the tender kiss. It was warm and brought a bit of light into her life. "Expecto Patronum!" Sasporilla yelled. A bright white light sprung forth from her wand taking the form of a large Elephant and charged across the room of requirement striking the wall on the other side. "What did you think of?" Karry asked. "Giving your brother the thing that made him happiest." Sasporilla blushed. Zac looked a bit confused. Korry blushed. Karry smiled and laughed. "The card!" Sasporilla said. "God what a bunch you are!" As bed time neared members of the DA returned to their dorms. Snuggled in everyone hoped for good dreams. Sasporilla and Karry just hoped the nightmares weren't that bad.

Voldemort slept in a wonderfully ornate canopy bed that he had appropriated from the Malfoys, forcing the couple to stay in a guest room. The dark wizard usually slept like the dead. This night he tossed and turned as he dreamed. Voldemort walked the halls of Hogwarts, just a boy in his first year, scared, angry and alone in a school full of young witches and wizards. He stood before a window and saw his reflection, older, maybe in his fourth or fifth year. He was an ambitious boy who saw himself as the most powerful wizard who would ever live. He would stop at nothing until the rest of the world saw him the same way, from its position kneeling at his feet. Voldemort wanted the crown. He would be the Wizard King of Avalon. A userper on the roalyal throne. A half-blood returning the name of Salazar Slytherin to its former glory. "Foolish boy." A voice said from just over Voldemorts shoulder. "Lord Voldemort... pretender to the throne." "Who dares talk to me in this way?" Voldemort hissed. "Who dares, indeed." The voice mocked from in front of him. Something moved in the shadows or, NO! The shadows moved. They flowed from the corners of his royal throne room and gathered as a single shadowy figure before him. Behind him. Beside him the voices hissed "The gaul." "Show yourself." Voldemort demanded. "You are afraid." The voice said. "Wise boy. Foolish boy...." The shadow rushed forward and appeared clearly before him for the first time. The Witch Queen floated before him. This was no dream, this was an unsolicited captive audience and Voldemort was the one being held captive. She had taken control of his mind. She controlled his dream. She was in his thoughts and searched his memories. "What do you want my Queen?" Voldemort asked innocently. Her face was pale and harsh. She was beautiful but cruel in her anger and she was so very angry. "She died at your behest." The witch queen said. "I want to know why?" "Who my queen?" Voldemort asked. "MY SISTER!" The witch queen screamed. "You ordered one of your thugs to kill her. Wysteria. Why?" "It was not on MY order my queen." Voldemort groveled. " It was a request of the Royal Court." "Who?" The witch queens eyes burned with rage. "The Duke and Duchess Bent of Essex." Voldemort pleaded. "Do not blame me. Please, I was just following orders." "Just following orders." The witch queen smiled. "You pathetic, weak little boy. You who would hope to usurp my husbands throne. You would watch the world burn if it will not bend to your will." Voldemort ran from the throne room, to the halls of Hogwarts, to the spot behind the old chair in his childhood home. Before the death. Before the destruction. Before the dreams of power. The witch queens cold finger pressed on his third eye making him grimace in pain as she pushed her way deep into his mind. She saw it all. She saw the truth and the witch Queen laughed. "You will not live to be king."



Chapter 14

Sasporilla Bucket stood on a dark city street corner. The cold night air chilled her to her very bone. It seemed to cold for the time of year. She didn't dress for the cold. She wasn't sure anyone could dress for this kind of cold. A street light flickered. Something moved in the shadows. Frost formed on the windows before her eyes. Sasporilla searched for her wand. It was in the pocket of her robes, but she wasn't wearing her robes. A dementor flew out of the shadows and she turned to run. Her legs felt heavy like she weighed a thousand pounds. She was moving so slow. Sassy was terrified.

An icy claw reached out and grabbed her shoulder. The dementor had her. It spun her around. Sasporilla fell hard on her behind. She sat face to face with a dementor. It stared into Sasporilla's terrified face. It breathed in her happiness and increased her terror. Sasporilla could feel her heart beat so hard in her chest until she thought it would explode. She screamed as the dementor lunged in to give her the gift of its final kiss.

Sasporilla sat straight up in bed screaming waking her room mates and the girls in the surrounding rooms.

"What's the matter!" Karry yelled running to her terrified friends side.

Sasporilla sat there disoriented breathing heavily. .

"Sassy? Karry looked into her eyes. "Sassy!"

Sasporilla looked at Karry, hugged her tightly and started to cry.

The girls of Hufflepuff looked very tired at breakfast. Sasporilla sat quietly replaying the dementor's kiss over and over in her mind. The terror she felt must be how her father felt all those years ago. She started to wonder about the spell he used to reverse the dementor's kiss all those years ago.

Sassy knew Uncle Nick wouldn't tell her the spell for fear she'd try it and suffer the same fate as her father. Besides how would she get a letter out asking. It would be edited out for sure. That's when Sasporilla Bucket knew what she would have to do.

Classes seemed to take forever. Time moved at half speed all day. Sasporilla could only concentrate on getting back to the dorm. She didn't care about turning a cup into a clock. She had no interest in how Flamel used the Philosophers stone to turn lead to gold. She really didn't want anything to do with Carrows Dark Arts class. She spent most of it in the washroom feigning Ladies problems.

After dinner Sassy ran back to the dorm. In the night stand drawer sat the box her father had given her. She pulled it out and held it in her hands. Sasporilla sat for a moment debating. She only had two wishes left. Did she really want to use one for this? Yes.

"I wish I knew what spell my father used to reverse the dementor's case."

With a slight shudder and a knock, Sasporilla knew the answer now lay in the box. Sassy took a deep breath and opened the lid. Inside sat a small slip of paper which was old and stained from years of being kept in a pocket that saw many spills on it. The paper had two words on it.

"Retrum Tollis"

"What you got there?" Karry asked plucking the paper from her fingers.

"Hey!" Sasporilla protested. "It's private! Give it back."

"Ooooo." Karry taunted. "A love note?"

Sasporilla tried to pick the paper from Karry's hand but her friend was quick and playfully motivated. Karry held off her friend as she read the slip of paper.

"Retrum Tollis?" Karry read handing it back to Sasporilla. "Wow. Sucky love note."

"It's not a love note." Sasporilla laughed.

"Your telling me." Karry laughed.

"Besides," Sasporilla mused. "Who would be sending me a love note?"

"You're kidding right?" Karry said. "Zac's quite fond of you and the way my brother looks at you?"

"He does?" Sasporilla blushed.

"And you don't think I don't see you looking at him?" Karry said.

"No, I." Sasporilla stammered unsure how to make a convincing denial.

"Oh my patronus gains strength from the day I gave him my card." Karry mocked. "Pa-lease!"

"Ok!" Sassy laughed. "I didn't want to admit it was from when he kissed me, ok?"

"First kiss is a powerful moment." Karry said. "Fills your soul with happiness and light!"

Kiss. Dark. Kiss. Light Retrum Tollis.

"It had no light." Sasporilla said shocked. "The kiss has no light!"

"Wow." Karry said. "Is my brother that bad a kisser?"

"No!" Sassy said. "Retrum Tollis is the spell my father used to reverse the dementors kiss. But it's a kiss with no light."

"So the spell was not complete?" Karry mused.

"No! It needed light to battle the darkness. Warmth to trap the cold." Sassy smiled excitedly.

"It needed an aspect of the patronus charm." Karry smiled wide eyed.

"We need to research this." Sasporilla said.

"Quietly." Susan Bones said dragging her tired carcass into the room. "Whatever you two are doing, please for the love of God, do it quietly!"

Saturday mornings after breakfast saw Sasporilla and Karry head to the library for several weeks. They combed the stacks of books looking for ways to create spells, craft and merge spell effects into one cohesive effect. This proved to be a very daunting task for a third and a fourth year.

"I think we're beaten." Sasporilla said closing the umpteenth book she had looked at today.

"No we can figure this out." Karry said having the time of her life. She loved books and researching. Sasporilla often though maybe Karry would go into dealing with books when she got older. Maybe own a book shop like Flourish and Blots or become a Librarian.

"What are you trying so desperately to figure out?" The librarian Irma Pince asked.

"Oh nothing important." Sass lied covering her notes.

"You two have been in this library every Saturday, all day, for two months!" Ms.Pince smiled. "That's a lot of research for nothing?"

The girls looked at her with silent stares.

"Look." Ms.Pince said. "If I suspect your working on something disruptive or dangerous I have to report you. Those are the rules. If you need help to learn about magic, then that's why I'm here. Trust me in your project or don't. The results will be of your own making either way."

"We want to know how spells work." Sasporilla said reluctantly.

"And we want to know how to craft new ones." Karry said.

"Excellent!" Ms.Pince smiled waving her wand and sending away the mountain of useless volumes of material the girls had pulled. Three new books pulle themselves from the shelves and landed on the table in front of them.

"These should answer all your basic questions. One is seventh year text book, Basic Magical Spell Theory by M.J.Grossjeans. Start there. The next is a university thesis on Harmonic Resonence in spells by Saddle Potlente Ph.d and the last is Making it up as I go, the auto biography of Carmella Timplton, a witch from the 1880's that created a lot of the modern spells we still use today."

The girls beamed with excitement. "Thank you Ms.Pince!" The girls said in unison.

"You're very welcome dears." Ms.Pince smiled. "All of these can be borrowed so you can check them out and peruse them at your leisure. Any further questions on the subject I have a few more advanced books in my personal collection you can have a look at."

The books were fascinating though some bits were a bit hard to understand. The basics of Magical theory stated spells were more than just a series of words and motions. They were also feelings and emotions. They were less in the command and more in the subtleties.

The thesis talked about how the mind, the thoughts, had energy. Energy that became sound. Sound that resonated with the body and the wand and with the essence of magic itself. Most interesting was the biography of Carmella Timplton. She talked about how she created new spells. She would think of what she wanted the spell to do then instinctively let her mouth form the words. When the process worked tje results spoke for themselves. When they failed, more often than not the results were catastrophic.

Wand motions worked in a very similar way. The thought of what she wanted to cast flowed like water and if you followed the flow it formed a shape. That flow and that shape was the wand motion needed to cast the spell. It all sounded so simple.

Karry found a list of sounds and how they work together. She broke down Ridonkulous' original spell.

"Retrum Tollis" Kerry said. "Ret-rum, to reverse, Tol-lis, horrible effect."

"So it did what it was suppose to." Sasporilla said. "It reversed the kiss. It took the soul of the dementor and spit it out."

"But not all of it." Karry said. "Remember what you told me from your dads letter. A part of the dementor stayed behind."

"Like a seed." Sasporilla said. "That grew inside until he became a dementor."

Karry looked at the differences in the subtlety of sounds. After ten or so minutes Karry pushed her note book over. The words 'Retrumi Petrollus' scrawled and circled amongst scribbles and musings.

"The best I can work out," Karry said, "Retrumi Petrollus should work but I think you'll need to focus on your happiest thought. Like when you cast your patronus."

"How can we test it?" Sasporilla asked.

"Test it?" Karry asked. "You don't really plan to use it?"

"If I have to yes." Sasporilla said.

"I thought this was an intellectual exercise." Karry said. "You can't try it!"

"I need to know we've fixed my fathers spell." Sasporilla said. "I need to know it really works. Think of how many lives it could save!"

"And if we're wrong think of the one life we'll lose." Karry pleaded. "YOURS!"

Sasporilla saw the look of worry in her best friends eyes. They had both lost so much in their lives recently. Karry clearly wasn't prepared to lose anyone else.

"Ok." Sasporilla said taking the page from the note book. "I won't use it, unless I have no other choice."



Chapter 15

The news of Harry Potters daring rescue of Mr.Olivander was told in tale when Luna returned to school. Sasporilla was so happy to hear her mentor was safe, though there was no plan to reopen the store anytime soon. Sassy understood better than most how it felt to be frail after an ordeal. The best thing, Sasporilla always found, after any ordeal was to just get back at it. Life went on with or without you. Might as well join the party.

"Expelliarmus!" Sasporilla Bucket cast knocking the wand from the hand of Korry Curtiss.

"Nice shot." Korry said running over to pick up his wand from the floor of the DA headquarters in the room of requirement.

Almost every member of Dumbledors Army was present today. Most just sat around, tired, beaten and bruised from the never ending torture of the Carrows.

"Looks like the only ones not here are Karry and Zac." Sassy said.

"Oh I saw them over by the back stairs earlier." Korry said.

"Ooo." Sasporilla laughed. "The snog-steps."

"You don't think?" Korry asked. "I mean. Zac? Karry? He wouldn't! Would he? Karrys my sister!"

"Well every biscuit has its piece of cheese." Sasporilla said.

"Which is which?" Korry laughed.

Something caught the eye of Neville Longbottom. The image of a young woman appeared in a painting on the wall of the room of requirement. Neville swung the painting open and climbed into a secret tunnel behind.

"I'll be right back." Neville said.

"Wonder what that's all about?" Sasporilla mused.

"Probably gone to watch Zac snog my sister." Korry laughed.

"Stop you." Sassy laughed. "It's your go by the way."

"Sorry?" Korry asked looking shocked and embarrassed.

"You're turn to try and disarm me." Sasporilla said surprised. "What did you think?"

"I, oh." Korry stammered as Sasporilla blushed. "Right sorry. I was distracted by Neville."

"Of course." Sassy nodded accepting the excuse and readying her wand. "No problem."

"Expelliarmus!" Korry cast.

A few awkward minutes later Neville returned with three guests.

"Holly cow." Korry said. "It's Harry Potter!"

"Korry go get Ginny Weasley." Sassy said.

"On it." Korry Curtiss sprung to life and ran out of the room to find his fellow Gryphindor.

People surrounded Harry, Hermione and Ron. It seemed like only a minute before Korry returned with Ginny Weasley, his sister and Zac in tow. Ginny ran over and hugged Harry. She had missed him terribly and was always so worried for him.

Sassy started to giggle as she handed Zac a tissue, pointing at the corner of her own mouth. Zac wiped the residual traces of Karrys lipstick from his mouth. Karry blushed and Sasporilla roared laughing.

It wasn't long before loose lips started sinking ships. The news that Harry Potter had gotten into Hogwarts had spread to the ears of the Carrows and Headmaster Snape.

An assembly was called. All students were rounded up and brought to the great hall where they stood in their house groups.

It was no surprise to anyone in the DA when Snape announced Harry had been seen in Hogsmead or that he was rumored to be inside the castle. It was no surprise to anyone when Snape said anyone harboring him, student or staff, would be punished severely as would anyone who knew about it and chose to say nothing. It was no surprise that the Carrows smiled at the thought of all the torture they would inflict during the inquisitions to follow.

The crowd gasped when Harry Potter stepped out of the crowd and called out Snape for daring to even attempt to pretend to be a Headmaster after killing Albus Dumbledore.

Snape drew his wand. Harrys was readied. The Carrows drew their wands. The DA drew theirs. The Order of the Phoenix burst the great hall doors. Minerva McGonagall stepped forward wand drawn. She was not about to let Snape or the Carrows harm any more students.

Spells of light and flame flashed between them. Snape deflected blasts back at the Carrows knocking the unconscious. The next cast by McGonagall broke the center window and Snape made a hasty escape.

Torches were set a light, bring life and warmth to the great hall for the first time all year.

Madrigal Neelander was the first to scream. Then another and another. The hiss of Voldemorts mind touched the people of Hogwarts that night. The hateful alien mind to much for some to grasp.

"I know that many of you want to fight." Voldemort hissed. "Some of you may even think to fight is wise. Give me Harry Potter and I will leave Hogwarts untouched. You will be rewarded. You have one hour."

The Slytherin students demanded Harry be turned over to Voldemort. Professor McGonagall ordered the Slytherins and the Carrows be taken to the dungeons. Sasporilla and Karry pleaded that Zac be kept back as he was a Slytherin but not a supporter of the Dark wizarding way.

Against her better judgement Professor McGonagall allowed him to stay with his friends.

"We're going to need to secure the castle." Professor McGonagall said. "All teachers and members of the Order follow me. Students stay in here and hunker down."

"If it's all the same to you professor McGonagall." Sasporilla smiled. "I'll volunteer to fight."

"All of us in the DA will." Neville nodded. "It's what we've been training for."

"Very well." Professor McGonagall smiled at the brave group of students. "Good to have you aboard."

Professors, & members of the Order of the Phoenix cast protection spells which enveloped the school. Students who chose to stand and fight were placed strategically all around the Hogwarts grounds. There numbers were few and they were spread thin.

Professor McGonagall assigned Neville Longbottom and Seamus Finnigan at the back bridge. Korry and Zac would guard the owlry from attack. Sasporilla and Karry were pulled to one side by Professor Sprout.

"My brave girls." Professor Sprout said with an heir of concern. "Can you please guard the secret court yard."

"Where is that?" Karry asked.

"I'll show you." Sasporilla said. "How many know it exists Professor?"

"Besides you and me, professor Flitwick and them." Professor Sprout said.

"You can count on us Professor." Sasporilla smiled.

Korry and Zac waited on the steps as the girls rushed back in.

"Where are you stationed?" Zac asked.

"Secret area that I know." Sassy said. "You?"

"Owlry." Korry said. "Probably to stop dementors or broom attacks."
"Please be careful." Zac said to Karry as she stepped up and gave him a deep passionate kiss.
"You to." Karry smiled.
"Um... ok wow." Korry said as Sasporilla stepped up him and kissed him softly."
"Something to fuel your patronus." Sassy smiled as the girls ran off giggling.



Chapter 16

"Look." Karry said as her and Sasporilla ran across the great hall to a tapestry that hung to the left side, behind the head table. "All I'm saying is you kiss like a little girl."
"I'm just not ready for more." Sassy said pulling back the tapestry to reveal blank wall.
"I thought there was suppose to be a door here or something?" Karry said as the girls waited for the door to appear.
"If you're comfortable snogging like a slag then good for you." Sasporilla said.
"Like what?" Karry laughed. "Did you just call me a slag, you cow?"
"Moooooo." Sassy laughed as the door appeared and they ran inside.
A paper air plane drifted at Sasporilla who snatched it from the air. It was a letter addressed to her.

Dear Miss Bucket;

If you're reading this I regret to say I've died and the situation is dire. As you are one of the few alive that knows of this secret entrance into Hogwarts, I have asked Professor Sprout to place you in its defence. I offer you one piece of advice on this most dangerous of nights. Trust what you have learned and in your abilities. When all seems lost don't try to defend yourself.... defend yourself!

Albus Dumbledore

Ps. At some point you may find you have no other choice

Karry had never seen the secret court yard as most students hadn't. It was larger than she'd thought it would be but not as big as the largest court yard at Hogwarts. The cobblestones were very old, worn smooth from age but still beautifully ornate.

"How do you know about this place Sassy?" Karry asked.

"This is where the Weird Sisters bus landed at the Yule ball." Sasporilla said looking towards the magical barriers as they formed in the sky above. "They stayed in a room that was right over there. I assume it was the room of requirement that popped up."

Karry looked over to the high stone walls that bordered the court yard. She followed them up to the barriers that glimmered above them.

"This is getting pretty real." Karry said. "Are you scared?"

"Terrified." Sasporilla gulped. "You?"

"Ya." Karry nodded. "Me too."

Korry and Zac freed the owls to go where they would, away from the fight that seemed imminent. From up here they could see everything across the Hogwarts grounds.

"So..." Korry said. "You and my sister?"

"Now?" Zac asked. "We're about be attacked by dark wizards and god knows what else and you want to talk to me about kissing your sister?"

"Did you two... you know?" Korry asked.

"No!" Zac insisted. "It's not like that. We just, kissed."

"Do you love her?" Korry asked.

"I don't know." Zac said embarrassed. "I like her a lot. Ya I guess."

"You guess?" Korry asked. "You better know if you're going to...."

It started with small flames but within a minute the quidditch pitch was an inferno. Spells started bombarding the surface of the magical barriers but they seemed to be holding, for now.

"I got a bad feeling we're not going to see the girls again." Zac said.

"Ya." Korry said looking at the first cracks starting to form in the barrier. "I think you might be right."

The volleys did more than enough damage but it was a sudden burst of terrified rage from Lord Voldemort himself that dissolved the barrier.

An explosion pulled Zac and Korry's attention as they watched a fireball rise from the crumbling back bridge.

"This is it!" Korry yelled as death eaters started swooping in on brooms followed by dementors.

"Expecto Patronum!" Zac cast sending out a burst of white taking on the form of a butterfly driving off the dementors.

Expelliarmus, stupify, and reducto took down many a death eater as the boys fought valiantly. Death eaters bombarded the base of the owlry with explosions until the boys felt the first shake of instability in the owlry.

Korry looked at Zac scared as the final blast toppled the owlry which crumbled and fell and into shattered stone far below.

Explosions, smoke and fire filled the night sky as Sasporilla and Karry held their ground watching the skies, wands drawn. Laughter first caught Sasporilla's attention, then the blaring hard driving sound of a Weird Sisters song cut through the din.

"Cryyyyyyyy Little Sister."

Five wizards on brooms rose above the wall. The Weird Sisters had indeed thought of using this secret place as a backdoor into Hogwarts.

Sasporilla scanned the band members. They were all there. Gideon Crumb held a portable music player with a large ring of silver cones that blared their music. Marlon Wormwood sat in the center in his top hat smiling maddly.

"Look boys." Kirley Duke laughed. "They only left us two little monkeys to play with."

"Three." Marlon insisted pulling Gooseberry out of a canvas bag. A silver chain tied to a collar around his neck.

"Poor little monkeys." Marlon mocked.

"Gooseberry!" Sasporilla yelled pointing her wand. "Let him go!"

Marlon pointed his wand at Gooseberry's head. "No, no, no." Marlon laughed. "No body move or the monkey gets it!"

The weird sisters landed their brooms in the court yard and drew their wands. Marlon pointed his wand at Sasporilla Bucket.

"I've come to kill you Sasporilla Bucket." Marlon Wormwood smiled maddly. "Any last words?"

"I have several." Sassy smiled. "I know it was you who attacked me in Diagon alley."

"I knew that." Orsino Thruston laughed.

"I knew that too." Donaghan Tremlett added holding up his hand.

"Petrificus Totalis!" Karry cast freezing

Donaghan Tremlett who was unaware of her readiness.

"I know who killed Myron Wagtail. Sasporilla said pulling the band's attention back to her as Karry slipped in to the shadows out of sight.

"You do?" Marlon mused.

"I know you stood in the middle of the road beside Voldemort and in the company of four other death eaters. The same ones you stand with today."

"You couldn't possibly know that!" Marlon said a bit rattled. "How do you know that?"

"I told her!" A voice came from behind them.

"Alohamora!" Karry cast on the collar holding Gooseberry.

"Accio Gooseberry!" Sasporilla cast pulling her monkey to her.

A wizard flew on a broom above the wall, he was in a shabby state but Marlon knew that voice.

"Myron." Marlon Wormwood smiled. "You're alive! I was so worried! This is the happiest day of my life. You'll never know how much we've missed you. Because you'll be dead!"

"Avada...!" Marlon began to cast.

"Expelliarmus!" Sasporilla cast knocking the wand from Wormwood's hand. "Gentlemen is it too much to add that you deal with these children while the adults fight!"

The weird sisters turned to cast at the girls but they weren't there.

"Where are they?" Kirley Duke asked.

"Behind you." Sasporilla smiled pointing her wand at his behind. "RectumSempra!"

Kirley Duke fell laughing uncontrollably holding his backside.

"Flippendo." Karry cast throwing Gideon Crumb over the wall to the gorge below. "and I think that was supposed to be Rictuemptra."

"Oops." Sassy Laughed playfully. "Mistake."

Marlon Wormwood dodged a blast from Myron's wand, rolled and grabbed his wand from the floor.

Orsino Thruston deflected spells and hexes from Karry and Sasporilla. With a flick of his wrist his wand turned to whip and slashed the wand painfully from Sasporilla's hand. The whip changed to rope, encircled the pink haired witch and pulled her to him.

Gooseberry jumped from Sassy's story and onto Thruston's shoulder and bit into the Drummer's ear. The wand released Sasporilla who lunged for her wand. Marlon stepped on her wand and painfully her hand. Sassy saw Myron was down. Kirley Duke was back on his feet, twitching but dueling with Karry. He was aggressive and Karry was scared. Sasporilla looked up into the burning mad eyes of Marlon Wormwood.

"Good bye." Marlon grinned. "Sasporilla Bucket."

Don't try to do it... thought, sound, energy, resonance, feeling, emotions. A tingle flowed between her thumb and finger. A spark. JUST DO IT!!!

"Avada," Marlon said as Sasporilla snapped her fingers, "Kedavra!"

The spell blasted into space. A flash of pink appeared behind Karry and pulled her from Kirley Duke's wrath. With a snap of her fingers she was gone. Marlon turned just in time to see Myron vanish. The door to the great hall clicked shut and locked. Marlon laughed, he'd chased the cowardly child away.

"Ok boys." Marlon chuckled. "Let's invade."

Marlon looked around. He was alone. Fingers snapped at his left ear. He turned and cast death at an empty wall.

"Who you talking to?" Sasporilla asked standing atop the wall. She snapped her fingers and her wand returned to her hand.

"Come down here." Marlon demanded.

With a snap of her fingers she appeared behind him. "And fight like a man?"

Marlon turned and cast but she was gone again. And again. And again. Marlon became infuriated screaming "Infernia maxima!" and started blasting the court yard with flame from his wand.

Sasporilla grabbed the flame and spun it around Marlon like a tornado. Faster and faster coming in at him burning his wand and scorching his clothes. Sassy through the flame away into the night sky. Marlon Wormwood stood before her disarmed and alone.

"If you're expecting me to beg for my life." Marlon sneered. "Don't hold your breath."

Sasporilla put her wand away. "Now we both have no wand. So how do you want to end this?"

Marlon started to giggle as he drew two knives from the back of his belt. "My blades will taste your blood tonight."

Marlon moved fast. His blades struck swiftly at Sasporilla who moved on the air. Each blow found empty space. The girl moved too fast.

"Why don't you give yourself up?" Sasporilla said.

"Why don't you stand still so I can kill you?" Marlon screamed.

That's when he saw it. A wand lay on the cobblestone. Marlon threw his blades at the young witch who dodged out of their way easily but that moment she took to defend gave Marlon the chance he needed to grab the wand.

Marlon turned and cast "Avada Kedavra."

The wand Sassy had placed a small weave over the tip of, exploded in a ball of green death and Marlon Wormwood fell by his own hand. Sasporilla pulled her wand and walked back to the door.

"Alohamora." Sassy cast unlocking the door into the great hall where Karry pet Gooseberry and Myron still lay unconscious.

Chapter 17

Sassy and Karry ran to the front of the castle to join the main fight leaving Myron in the hands of Madam Pomfrey who was setting up a triage in the great hall. Professor McGonnagal lead a charge of tables and chairs as giants began to cross the bridge.

Death Eaters stayed back and laughed at the carnage the great beasts did with their clubs. One swat crushed stone and student alike. Giant spiders attacked from behind as the house elves defended. Professors and students were slowly pushed back to the front entrance as the overwhelming force of the giants was more than they could handle. Screams of rage and the pounding of large feet came running down the west mountain. Trolls, specifically mountain trolls, were attacking. Sasporilla was amazed when she realized they weren't attacking Hogwarts, they were attacking the giants! A large troll, nearly as big as the smallest of the giants, slammed his club into a giant's knees causing his legs to bend backwards.

Sassy and Karry cast spell after spell trying to remove the giants. It seemed like nothing less than one of the unforgivable curses would work on these brutes and that was something neither of them was prepared to do.

A giant saw them and singled them out. Something they had done had caught his attention or maybe it was just the bright pink hair. The giant charged at the girls who tried every spell in their arsenal but with no effect. Karry closed her eyes. Sasporilla was panicked and couldn't snap her fingers.

A small mountain troll roared as she jumped on to the giant's neck and bit into it. The giant began to flail wildly its club knocking himself in the back of the head as the troll dodged.

The troll roared the giant as he fell to the court yard unconscious. Sasporilla cheered as she realized the eight foot something mountain troll was Janey Grotnag.

"Hi guys!" Janey waved.

Trolls were known for modesty as much as they were hygiene. Luckily Janey still wore skins top and bottom. Though when the girls hugged her it became very clear she hadn't bathed in quite some time.

"Where birds?" Janey asked pointing at the spot that used to be the Owlry tower.

For the first time the girls noticed that the owlry was gone.

"Isn't that where Korry and Zac were going?" Sasporilla asked.

"Oh no!" Karry started to sob.

Sasporilla took her friend in her arms and held her tight.

Through the smoke and flame walked Zac supporting Korry as they hobbled forward bruised and bloodied.

"They're ok!" Sassy cried.

Karry looked up and laughed with relief. The girls ran to them and hugged them as the boys fell into their arms.

"You're alive." Karry beamed.

"Yes." Zac smiled. "It was quite a ride."

"Ya." Korry said fighting to catch his breath. "The whole owlry was blown out from under us."

"And Korry remembered the Bairus Spell and added Impervious." Zac smiled. "It was brilliant!"

"Like that book you were reading." Korry said. "Make it up as you go."

"Saved us from being crushed mate!" Zac smiled shaking Korry's hand.

"Now the fall from hundreds of feet up should have killed us." Korry said. "But old Zac here levitated the bubble as best he could and slowed us enough to survive the fall."

"It was crawling out through the rubble that banged us up so bad." Zac said. "That and the spiders."

"Bloody Spiders." Korry cursed. "One of them stung me in the leg."

"We have to get you in to see madam Pomfrey." Sasporilla said.

"Yep come on." Karry said struggling to lift the larger boy to his feet.

"Janey got this." The troll girl said picking up the boys in each hand and carrying them inside.

Chapter 18

The school is a mess of broken walls and crumbled stone. Wooden beams lay smoldering on the ground. Sasporilla stayed in the great halls triage attending to the wounded and the dead. Lending any help she could to Madam Pomfrey who appreciated any and all help that was offered. Many she knew lay amongst the dead including Fred Weasley, twin brother of Kay Curtiss' old boy friend George.

Sassy brought over potions to help the wounded heal quickly. Zac and Korry were happy to get them as they lay stretchers being bandaged.

"How are you feeling?" Sasporilla asked handing them a potion each.

"Better now that you're here." Korry said making Sasporilla blush.

"Sounds like you're feeling MUCH better." Sasporilla smiled. "You Zac?"

"Bit sore but keeping a stiff upper lip." Zac smiled.

"That's the lad." Sassy smiled moving on to other injured people.

"I'm going to marry that girl one day." Korry smiled.

Karry brought Janey one of her robes and uniforms. The young witch cast "Engorgeo!" and the clothes grew and grew until they were big enough for Janey to slip on. Janey yelled excitedly as she grabbed the clothes and started stripping off her filthy skins to put the clean robes on. After a second of digging through the sticks and twigs in her hair she found her wand. Just where she'd left it. The wand looked tiny in her the troll girls large hand.

"Looking good Janey." Sasporilla smiled.

"I feel pretty." Janey roared laughing.

"My Lord." Augustus Rookwood said bowing his head to Voldemort. "The beast forces are dwindling and retreating. We need an edge. May I humbly suggest pulling the Dementors from Azkaban?"

"I will do so." Voldemort said psychically summing the dark creatures. "It will take time for them to travel we must offer an olive branch as distraction."

The mind of Lord Voldemort touched those all of those on the battle field and inside Hogwarts itself.

"You have fought Valiantly but in vain." Voldemort hissed. "Many have died, on all sides, I do not wish this. Every drop of pure magic blood spilled is a waste. I now command my forces to retreat. In there absence you have time to dispose of your dead with dignity."

Dementors circled the skies of Azkaban collecting from the depths of the Wizards prison. With a howl they flew off into the night to join with their dark lord.

Several boats and barges uncloaked on the waters below. The first pulled up to a small dock at the base of Azkaban. Nick Owelmore stepped onto the dock followed by a legion of aurors.

The used very old keys yo open the prisons massive front doors.

"Remember lads", Nick called out over the sounds of roaring seas. "Once inside our magic is useless! Stick to your whitts and let's free all the political prisoners.

A loud thump and a growl saw the massive head of a Congolese Black dragon moved forward into the moonlight and filled the doorway with its fiery breath. Nick grabbed Scott Munding and jumped to one side.

The dragon roared as it pulled its chain taught.

A voice echoed from deep inside the cavernous room.

"Get back," the voice demanded, "stupid dragon. You've gone and pushed the doors open again."

"Pull that dragon back!" Nick demanded.

"Who's there?" The voice asked.

"I am DI inspector Nick Owelmore of the Ministry of magic Aurers office." Nick said peeking around the corner.

A small elderly man in ratty clothes walked past and cuffed the dragon in the head as he walked past.

"Get back in your corner." The old man told the dragon and watched as it slink away. "What do you want?"

"We're here to free a large group of innocent people from the prison." Nick said.

"I have no innocent prisoners." The old man said. "Do you have an order of release?"

"Yes of course." Nick lied reaching into his coat pocket to pull out a copy of the Daily Prophet. He held it out to the old man who stepped outside the door to read the orders by moonlight and out of the anti magic field into the open world.

"Petrificus Totalus" petrified the jailer.

"Sorry old timer." Nick said. "But we're trying to undo some pretty big wrongs tonight and we can't afford you getting in our way."

A blast of flame shot from deep inside and seared the night air.

"How we going to take care of him Nicky?" Aurer Mundy asked.

"I have no bloody idea." Nick said.

"He seems pretty tame for the jailer."

"You're brilliant." Nick said waving his wand in front of himself taking on the look of the crazy old man who stood before him.

"Let's hope he falls for a simple glamour."

Nick stepped in the open door way the dragon looked tilting its head like a curious dog.

"Who wants to go out side?" Nick asked.

The dragon perked its head up.

"Do you want to go for a fly?" Nick asked.

The dragon wagged its tale.

"Ok close your eyes." Nick said.

The dragon lowered its head and covered its eyes with its massive claws.

"No peaking!" Nick insisted as he stepped through the door and the glamour was dispelled. Nick walked purposefully across the floor. To hesitate may alert the dragon to the presence of an imposter. He walked to the far wall and pulled down a large lever which released the dragon from his chains.

Nick turned and realized he stood nose to nose with the giant dragon.

The dragon sniffed him and snorted blowing hot air and a few dragon bogies over Nick Owlmore. The large tail started to wag its tail, turned and ran from the huge room jumping out of the large doors and flew away into the night sky.

"You OK Nicky?" Mundy called inside.

"Ya." Nick laughed. "Anyone got a change of pants?"

Nick searched the shadowy corridors of Azkaban lifting the heads of those broken by all the dementor activity. Hardened criminals attacked trying to make their escape. The aurers fought and secured as many of them as they could. They'd found almost everyone of the muggle borns on the lower floors but Nick could not find Lyra Lee-Ashwolf.

"Lyra?" Nick called out. "Lyra!!!"

"Nick?" A voice called out weakly.

Nick Owlmore turned a corner and found a small alcove. Lyra Lee-Aswolf lay on a bench mal nourished and drained of life. Her pale skin reflected the dementors feeding and her miss treatment.

Nick used one of the jailers keys to unshackle her.

"It's so good to see you." Lyra said as she passed out in Nicks arms.



Chapter 19

Bodies of the Wounded and the dead flooded into the great hall. It was all the volunteers could do to try and keep the injured as comfortable as possible until madam Pomfrey could treat them.

Sasporilla held down Madrigal Neelander as Madam Pomfrey set her fractured arm. A giants club had struck a wall near her and falling stone struck and broke the young girls arm. Madrigal cried as madam Pomfrey snapped the bones back in place and mended it with a quick bone mending spell.

"There you go my girl." Madam Pomfrey said. "Rest that arm for 24 hours or we'll be doing this all over again."

"Yes mam." Madrigal said feeling at the place the pain had been just a moment ago.

"Ok." Sasporilla said. "I'll fetch you a cup of cocoa and a sweet bun."

Korry and Zac carried in stretcher after stretcher of wounded as they made there way in from the battle field. Karry never thought she would see the day Hogwarts would become a battle field. Karry and Janey help clear chunks of stone debris looking for anyone who may be trapped below. Many they found, if alive, would not live to see the next day.

"Their coming!" Neville Longbottom yelled. "Death Eaters! Voldemort! Their coming!!!"

Voldemort lead a long procession of men and women dressed in dark robes walked across the front bridge into the Hogwarts court yard. Hagrid was in chains and being forced to carry the still body of Harry Potter.

At Voldemorts side walked Belatrix Lestransge and behind her Billy Bombaduck.

Ginny weasley started to scream as she tried running to Harry but was held back. Sasporilla readied her wand. She knew this wasn't over. Anyone not on their side would be enslaved or killed and Sassy refused either without a fight.

Voldemort boasted about his grand execution of Harry Potter amidst the cheers and laughter of his pack of rabid sycophantic followers.

When he asked for people to step up and join him and his death eaters, Sasporilla was surprised to see Draco Malfoy walk over as she thought all Slytherins were being held in the dungeon. There were audible gasps when Neville Longbottom stepped up.

"What is your name boy?" Voldemort asked.

"Neville Longbottom." The boy said quietly.

The death eaters laughed.

"Well Neville I am sure we can find space for you in our ranks." Voldemort said.

"I'm not going to join you." Neville said proudly. "I have something to say."

Sasporilla smiled at the bravery Neville showed that day. Billy Bombaduck glared at her hatefully wanting to tear that smile from her face.

Neville gave an inspired speech about no one person, not even Harry Potter, being so important to their cause that without them there was little to no hope. They had to go on fighting evil and never give up! Voldemort was insulted and furious but didn't want to kill the boy here and now. That may discourage others from joining their cause. Perhaps he would let Nagini, his snake do the honors.

Harry rolled from Hagrids arms, alive and well and cast fire at the snake. Nagini fell back in pain and hissed at the young wizard as he ran off into the castle. Voldemort bombarded the pillars and walls hair sprinted in and out of.

Death eaters started to leave in droves, abandoning the dark lords side. The Malfoys quick to make their escape on foot across the bridge.

Deflection and barrier spells were cast to assist with the students retreat into the school. Voldemort lead the charge, his loyal death eaters still at his side. The others would be dealt with, in time.

"My lord." Billy Bombaduck asked. "Your permission to kill Sasporilla Bucket."

"Granted." Voldemort said not much caring about the boys personal grudges.

Death eaters flowed into Hogwarts amid a flurry of spells. The Outsiders stood strong against them deflecting spells, dodging curses and covering each others backs.

Sasporilla cast stupify at one deatheater as another pushed past him and cast "Bombarda". Sassy jumped to the side and pulled Karry out of the way as stone exploded beside them.

"That's my sister and my girl friend!" Korry yelled and cast "Bombarda" back at the death eater catching him in the chest, blowing him back against the wall.

"Impedia" Zac cast slowing down the onslaught of dark wizards by turning the marble below their feet to soft goo. Janey beckoned them up the steps to the second floor where they could get a better vantage point tactically, with good cover.

The Outsiders had the death eaters pinned down. There was no way they could climb those steps. Spells flashed but the death eaters missed their marks as the children cast and took cover.

Billy Bombaduck could see Sasporilla Bucket on the second floor landing her pink hair unmistakable.

"Stop." He told two advancing death eaters. "We'll try and get up the back way."

"Ah!" Karry screamed as she took a cutting blast to the shoulder.

Sasporilla kept low and crawled across the floor to her friend. The wound was deep but clean, and bled a lot.

"Vulnera Sanentur" Sasporilla cast on her friend slowing the bleeding and binding the wound.

"Thanks." Karry said.

"Any time." Sassy smiled as she turned from their hiding spots and cast paralyse spells at two death eaters trying to sneak up the steps.

Billy Bombaduck was amazed no one was guarding the back stairs. Many had gone into the great hall and were sealed inside. Cowards sitting there waiting for the dark lord to fall, or praying for his mercy when the battle was over and the light wizards lost. Billy lead the death eaters up the back steps and into the second floor corridors.

"When you see the others just kill them." Billy growled. "Don't waste time on anything merciful but leave the pink haired girl to me."

The death eaters were pushing further and further in. Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley had taken up a position on the steps. Voldemort was in the halls of Hogwarts and his snake was on the prowl.

The Outsiders came into the open and started blasting death eaters with spells, covering Ron and Hermione as they ran up stairs.

"Let's push them back!" Sasporilla yelled as the outsiders cast everything in their arsenal binding, petrifying and blowing up death eaters.

They pushed their way through to the main floor hall way. Another group of death eaters was charging in through the front doors. The Outsiders turned and ran dodging spells as they made their way hastily to the back steps. They all ducked in behind except for Janey who was just to big.

"Janey run!" Karry said firing a blasting spell down the hall.

"Find some place to take cover!" Sasporilla said as she cast a barrier across the hall.

"You go up!" Janey insisted. "Janey not run."

"No Janey." Sasporilla said joining the troll girl. "We stand together."

Korry stepped out beside Sasporilla and Karry then Zac on Janey's other side. Together they would stand against insurmountable odds as death eaters pushed deeper into the school.

By the time Billy Bombaduck had lead the death eaters to second floor landing Sasporilla Bucket and her band of misfits had gone. Billy slammed his fist against a post.

"Where did they go?" Billy growled.

"We tire of chasing after you boy." One of the death eaters said casting death at a young student trying to make her way to safety.

"Good luck to you kid." The other one smiled as they ran back down stairs into spells which knocked them back unconscious.

"Fools!" Billy Bombaduck hissed and turned back to search the second floor corridor.

Things went eerily quiet by the back steps. The Outsiders stood wounded and out of breath. Death eaters hid behind stone pillars further down the hall, trapped between professor McGonagall and the outsiders. Any move the death eaters made would lead to their folly.

"Throw out your wands and come out with your hands above your heads." Sasporilla said. "I heard a police officer say that mums telly once."

Reluctantly the death eaters did just that and Professor McGonagall lead them away. The Outsiders took a deep breath and relaxed for just a second.

"Is it over?" Karry asked.

"I don't know." Sasporilla said.

"Maybe we should head to the great hall." Zac suggested.

"Ya regroup and see if it's over." Korry said.

Janey heard the foot steps running down the second floor hall first. She turned to see the evil glare of Billy Bombaduck as he pointed his wand at her.

"Avada Kedavra!" A blast of green light hit Janey Grotinag square in the chest and the gigantic half troll girl fell over backwards, lifeless. The surprise attack caught everyone unprepared. Janey's body fell back onto Karry and pinned her underneath on the steps. Korry and Zac turned and retaliated with spells that blasted the corridor on either side of the young Death Eater. Billy jumped for cover as Sasporilla checked Janey for any signs of life. She was quite dead. Karry lay unconscious beneath Janey's bulk. Sasporilla levitated Janey off just enough to pull her friend from under the crushing weight.

Sasporilla Bucket saw Zac fall to blasting spell that blew him over backwards. Korry was blown to the side and was knocked out cold.

Sasporilla stood on the steps prepared to cast. Billy Bombaduck walked slowly into her view. He dragged his wand along the wall hissing a vitriolic version of Pretty in Pink.

"Billy Bombaduck." Sasporilla sneered with revulsion.

"I wanted to be the last person you saw before you died Sad-Gorilla." Billy laughed.

"You killed my mother you twisted psychopath!" Sasporilla yelled.

"And now I'm going to kill you." Billy snarled. "Any last words?"

Billy cast Avada kedavra but Sasporilla snapped her fingers and disappeared, reappearing just after it passed her by.

"Ya." Sasporilla sneered as she started walking towards him. "You missed."

"Avada kedavra!" Billy yelled with urgency but Sasporilla snapped her fingers again, and again and again. She disappeared and reappeared on the right, then on the left and then directly in front of him.

"Expelliarmus!" Sasporilla cast knocking the wand from his hand and pointed her wand directly at his head.

"I'm unarmed." Billy smiled. "You can't kill an unarmed boy."

"Reducto ." Sasporilla cast blowing Billy Bombaduck into a pile of ash.



Chapter 20

Sasporilla Bucket helped her friends back to the great hall to get seen by Madam Pomfrey. It took 8 wizards to levitate Janey back into the hall to lay with the dead.

Some sobbed for the loss of their friends or family. Others sat in shock at the death and devastation they'd witnessed. Sasporilla just wanted to make sure her friends were safe.

Harry Potter walked into the great hall, bruised and bloodied, and looked around at the sad starring faces. Hagrid was the first to come up and hug him.

"Harry." Hagrid smiled. "Glad to see yer ok."

"Voldemorts dead." Harry smiled.

Hagrid nodded and walked away past Mr. Filch who attempted to sweep away the rubble. Ron and Hermione appeared in the doorway holding hands.

Harry smiled, happy for the love his friends had found in each other.

"Potter?" Professor McGonagall said coming up to him and giving him a big hug and a motherly kiss on the cheek. "Is it over?"

"Yes Professor." Harry said. "Voldemort is dead."

"Voldemort is dead!!!" People cheered.

Sasporilla sat down between Karry and Korry. It was the first time in what seemed like a very long time that people felt like they could relax.

"Is it really all over?" Sasporilla asked.

"I guess so." Karry said taking her friends hand.

"Maybe now the world will get back to normal. Korry said taking Sassys other hand and smiling at her.

"Anyone else find it cold in here?" Zac asked.

A dementor swooped down from the ceiling and grabbed Sasporills Bucket. The creature pulled her up and away, flying around the great hall dodging the patronuses that bombarded it. Sasporilla pulled her wand as her hand struck a piece of stone rubble.

"Ouch!" Sassy cried as pain rushed through her hand causing her to drop her wand.

The dementor flew with no real aim or direction. It seemed to carry sassy aimlessly around the Hogwarts grounds bashing the young witch into the side of a tower and the side of the bridge.

Sasporilla snapped her fingers, again and again. It was hard to stay calm and focus while being flung around like a rag doll.

A glowing wolf charged the dementor who screamed and dropped Sasporilla. From hundreds of feet up. The pink haired witch tumbled to earth.

"Arresto momentum." Karry cast slowing and stopping Sassy's fall just before she hit the ground.

"Sasporilla!" Korry yelled tossing the young witch her wand.

The dementor flew towards Sassy as the young witch grabbed her wand. She took herself to that happy memory she cherished and cast, "Expecto Patronum!"

A large elephant made of silvery light charged from Sasporilla's wand. The dementor was knocked back as the elephant bashed into it.

Korry ran over and grabbed Sasporilla's hand, "Come on!"

Karry watched the skies as the pair ran up to her.

"Let's get inside." Karry said.

A scream from behind made Sassy turn. The air got very cold again. She saw the dementor floating slowly up to her.

"Stand back." Sassy told her friends. "It just wants me and it's not going to stop."

"Why you?" Karry asked.

"Because I suspect that thing," Sasporilla said, "was my father."

Sasporilla stepped up to the dementor strong and unafraid.

"Sassy no!" Karry said.

"Father." Sasporilla said. "Riddonkulous Bucket if you are still in there, some where, I beg of you to leave me in peace. I don't want to kill you."

"The dementors scream was ear piercing. In a flash the creature was on Sasporilla who placed her wand to her lips and cast "Retrumi Petrollus!"

The dementor applied its kiss trying to suck the happiness and life from the young witch. A bright silvery light shone from the girl's mouth. Sasporilla grabbed the creature as it started to kick and fight against her. She had reversed the dementor's kiss sucking the dark life from the creature. The dementor withered & shriveled becoming a brittle husk that fell to the ground lifeless.

Sasporilla dropped to her knees and began to wretch until she coughed up a glowing silvery sack. It split open as it hit the ground and the black sludge of dementors evil spilled out over the ground. A small black orb sat in the puddle of dementor goo. It began to pull its way out of the muck. A glint of blue light shone through as the muck pulled away from the orb. A glowing blue spark of life was freed and floated up into the air and began to break apart. Sasporilla smiled as the light formed into her father's face, which winked at her, then vanished.

"You crazy wonderful brilliant girl." Korry said grabbing Sasporilla and kissing her passionately.



Chapter 21

Over ninety percent of students went home following the battle of Hogwarts. None of them were penalized for doing so and all were given the credit of the year. Those who had to take O.W.L's or N.E.W.T's would have to report to a special examinations center set up near the Ministry of Magic in June.

Those who stayed behind, like Sasporilla Bucket, the Curtiss twins and Zac all assisted in the clean up and restoration of the castle.

The Daily Prophet was alive with news flowing freely and truthfully for the first time in a year. Headlines like "VOLDEMORT DEAD" and "HARRY POTTER TRIUMPHANT!" Were the news of the day. Many were surprised when an unidentified man with no memory, who's face had been in bandages for months, turned out to be the missing and presumed dead Myron Wagtail all along.

"He was under our noses this whole time and we hadn't a clue." One nurse was quoted as saying.

Saint Mungos was filled to capacity with injured. The wizarding world saw funerals daily for friends and family. Some that had survived the battle of Hogwarts would not survive their injuries. Janey Grotinag was buried on Hogwarts grounds in the robes she'd borrowed from Karry. A simple head stone marked her place, it read "Janey Grotinag of the Ogark. Born May 1st, 1983 - Died May 2nd, 1998. An Outsider - One of us.

The aurors captured ninety nine percent of all death eaters and dark wizarding collaborators guilty of crimes against wizards, witches and muggles alike. The others, still on the run, would be hunted until they were found.

Law suits were launched enmass against the Ministry of Magic for reparations and compensation to for the dead and the injured, the tortured and falsely imprisoned on the orders of a Minister of magic who was complicit with the dark wizard Voldemort. The debate to fight these suits was put down quickly and all agreed on reasonable settlement. Hundreds of millions of Gallions were paid out in compensation.

As Sasporilla carrying Gooseberry on her shoulder, Karry, Korry and Zac stepped off the Hogwarts express they were met with hugs and cheers from strangers, friends and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss ran up and grabbed their children hugging them and not wanting to let them go. Nick, Lyra and Myron walked up to Sasporilla and hugged her hard.

"How did you pull off the hospital trick?" Sasporilla asked. "Memory charms."

"Nothing so common." Myron smiled.

"Ya." Lyra laughed. "We put an under cover man, under the covers."

"It's a muggle trick the death eaters wouldn't have guessed at." Nick said.

A tall thin stern looking man with glasses walked up to Zac.

"Mr. Zacariah Zarcazzian?" The man asked.

"Yes?" Zac asked confused and concerned.

"I have been sent to bring you to our offices by orders of your family." The man said.

"Who are you and what's this about?" Nick asked.

"This does not concern you." The thin man said snidely.

"Oh?" Nick said as he and Lyra pulled their aurors badges and flashed them at the man. "Well, I'm making it my business."

"I am a solicitor from Tanner, Philmore and Potts. This boy is the soul heir to his families fortune as all were killed in the last wizarding war."

"I'm so sorry Zac." Sasporilla said.

"That's rough man sorry." Korry cringed.

Karry took the young mans hand and gave him a sad, concerned look.

"They're all dead?" Zac asked.

"Yes." The man said seriously.

Unexpectedly Zac began to laugh, yell "yahoo!" and dance with carry happily on platform nime and three quarters.

"He's in shock!" Kolleen Curtiss insisted.

"Not at all!" Zac smiled. "They were dark horrible people who did horrible things to everyone around them. Especially me! I'm free of them! Free."

Zac went with the thin man and the Curtiss' drove everyone home to Castle Road. Sasporilla looked out the window of the minivan at the bright summer day. Everything felt fresh and new. The battle she feared would mean the end of everything she knew turned out to be just the beginning.

THE END

Loose Ends & Good Friends

A Harry Potter / Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction

by Darren Kelly

Sasporilla was happy to be home, even if it was quiet with her mum no longer being around and Uncle Nick always off on a case somewhere. She knew he'd be home for tea and he told her not to cook anything because he'd bring home a take away.

Buster snuggled in beside Sassy on her bed as she lay there listening to music on her Audiator. She had gotten it used from Uncle Nick after he bought his new one. Lyra said it was like a muggle stereo, but weirder looking with its vertical disc player and large cones for sound. The best part about this audiator was the fact that it also played muggle media.

Gooseberry climbed up onto the bed and ran up onto Sasporilla's chest. The monkey sat and looked at her intensely for a moment.

"What's wrong Gooseberry?" Sasporilla asked her little monkey. "Feeling left out? Comec and snuggle with mommy."

"No I think it's time we talked." Gooseberry said in very plain english.

Sasporilla sat there stunned. Buster couldn't believe his ears. Gooseberry stood and walked to the edge of the bed.

"You see." Gooseberry said changing into a pretty blue butterfly. "A few years ago I heard a wish, from a very lonely little girl. All she wanted was a friend."

Sasporilla sat up as the butterfly landed on her knee and transformed back into a monkey.

"So I took this form to be your friend and we have had some grand adventures and fun times together but you have real friends now and don't need me around all the time."

"So you're not a monkey?" Sasporilla asked.

"No." The monkey stood and transformed into a pretty young female fairy with butterfly like wings. "I'm a fairy."

"A fairy?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yep." The fairy said.

"So what's your real name?" Sassy chuckled.

"My name actually is Gooseberry." The fairy smiled. "I've been stuck as a monkey from the day Marlon Wormwood attacked you and I went after him. I bit him on the ear and placed that magical collar on me which prevented me from changing into any other form and stopped all forms of magic from effecting me. The chain kept me tied to him."

"That's awful." Sasporilla said. "I was very worried when I came to in the hospital and they told me you'd gone."

"I know." Gooseberry smiled. "But now I really must go."

"Why?" Sasporilla asked. "You can stay. I'd enjoy having a friend who's a fairy."

Gooseberry laughed. "We'll always be friends Sasporilla Bucket but you have many friends now and know how to make new ones. You can defend yourself now. You don't need me to hang a girl by her hair for giving you a bloody nose or turn a miserable witch green to teach her a lesson. My job here is done and frankly I'd like to go back to my glade and see my family again."

"Oh Gooseberry." Sasporilla said. "I will miss you my little friend."

Gooseberry flew up and hugged her on the side of the cheek as she always had.

"I'll miss you too Sasporilla Bucket." Gooseberry said. "But I won't miss your snoring."

"I don't snore!" Sasporilla gasped.

"You bloody do too." Karry said walking up the stairs into Sassy's room.

Gooseberry waved and flew away.

"Was that a fairy?" Karry asked.

"That was Gooseberry." Sasporilla said tearing up.

"What?" Karry said surprised. "No! Wait, what's wrong?"

"I'm going to miss my little monkey." Sasporilla sniffed.

Karry gave her a hug. She felt something underneath her. Karry pulled out a small silver box with a card.

"What's this?" Karry asked handing the box to Sasporilla.

The card on the box read to my friend from GB. Inside was a small silver bell with an inscription that read "If you need me, just ring."

Sasporilla laughed knowing that wasn't really goodbye for her and Gooseberry. They would see each other again.

Zacariah Zarcazzian sat in the offices of Tanner, Philmore and Potts for the fifth day in a row. Every day there were more and more papers to sign after what seemed like endless informational presentations. Zac was the soul heir of his families fortune. All businesses and assets, property and holdings were now his.

"I don't care about any of this." Zac protested several times to his court Ministry appointed Guardian. "Everything my family touched was infected with darkness. They were sick and twisted people who never did anything good for anyone else unless there was something in it for them.

His parents had never wanted him. Normally such a thought would reflect a persons deep insecurities. In this case it was a statement of face. The one thing Zac's parents went out of their way to tell him every day.

Zac had always been a sweet, gentle, loving child with a good mind for academics. He debated going into teaching after school. Perhaps he would even become a professor at Hogwarts.

"Pay attention." The Attorney said as continued to drone on about family holdings.

"There is no need for that tone." Cabbie Patel, Zacs guardian insisted. "This is a lot for a young man to take in."

"This information is important." Mr.Tanner insisted. "If he is to run all of these...."

"Wait." Zac cried. "I don't intend to RUN anything."

"Well managers would actually run the comp..." Mr.Tanner sighed fearing he'd have to start all over again.

"No!" Zac said. "You don't understand. I don't want any of this! Sell everything! All businesses, all assets, all properties, EVERYTHING!"

"That is a rash decision made by the ignorance of youth." Mr.Tanner sneered.

"And that's the kind of closed minded, judgmental hypocrisy that comes with old age." Zac yelled back. "I am young, yes, but not innocent nor ignorant. I fought at the Battle of Hogwarts against over whelming odds and survived. Unlike my family that was like on the other ends of our wands. Now if I'm not mistaken you work for me, right?"

"Well technically yes, but..." Mr.Tanner said.

"Right then." Zac smiled. "My wishes are to sell it all. Put all funds in my account which as you have indicated will be held in trust for me until age 25 correct?"

"Yes master Zarcazzian." The attorney conceded.

"Any funds required for my keep or well being will be allotted with out question correct?" Zac asked trying to bring the tone down.

"Correct." Mr.Tanner nodded.

"Then I want a flat in Essex in which to live, that is close to my friends on the Castle Road. It has to be big enough to house my guardian comfortably while I'm away at school. I need my educational expenses paid and a regular allowance."

He had never gotten an allowance but he thought he'd go for it.

"Other than that", Zac smiled, "I will see you when I'm twenty five."

"Will Five Thousand Gallions a week be a sufficient allowance?" Mr.Tanner asked.

"It will do." Zac said walking out of the office followed by his guardian. That much money every week was one hundred times more than he'd ever spent in his life.

It was about five p.m. when Sasporilla Bucket turned up at the Curtiss house for dinner. Sassy knocked on the front door. She'd been told a thousand times not to knock and just walk in like family does. Sasporilla just couldn't bring herself to do so. Her mother had always said "Barbarians barge in, polite people knock."

Of course they never really went anywhere either.

Mrs.Curtiss answered the door still wearing her apron.

"Oh hello Sassy." Kolleen smiled. "What brings you here?"

"Ummm." Sasporilla stammered a bit confused. "Karry asked me over for dinner?"

"Oh!" Kolleen said looking into the house. "Well it's a bit of a last minute surprise", Kolleen smiled, "but I'm sure we can squeeze in one more."

Sasporilla walked in, the house was quiet and empty but something smelled great.

"Shut that door please dear." Kolleen said waiting for the girl to turn before she stepped through and dispelling the invisibility barrier revealing a living room full of people.

"Dinner smells good Mrs.Curtiss." Sasporilla said turning around to see everyone she loved, standing under a big 'Happy Birthday Sasporilla' banner, as they all yelled "SURPRISE!"

Sasporilla stood there dumfounded as everyone clapped. Karry jumped up and down whooping, cheering and clapping. Zac stood behind Karry. Korry stood to the side beaming at Sassy. Nick and Lyra stood by Mr. & Mrs.Curtiss. Kay was there hanging off her new boy friend, a nice looking young aurer named Gregorious Wellspring. Madrigal Neelander was there in a pretty green dress holding a big present. Myron stepped forward, looking like his old rock star self, and gave Sassy a hug and a kiss on the top of the head.

"Happy birthday Sassy." Myron smiled.

The cake had one tier for every year of her life. Fifteen years celebrated in chocolate with cookies and cream filling. Sasporilla made her wish, knowing in reality it could never come true, but she wished her and everyone she loved could be together forever, then she blew out her candles.

Clothes, music and books on wand making were the most common gifts. Karry got Sasporilla a make up kit with colours that were perfect for her. She was never going to be a girly girl slapping on layers for hours on end but these days she definitely felt like prettifying herself up a bit once in a while.

Myron got her something no one expected. He'd had her moms old guitar restored to good as new. It had a great sound and wasn't to much.

"Do you like it?" Myron asked.

"I love it." Sasporilla said strumming away. "Its a wonderful thoughtful gift Myron thank you."

Madrigal brought over her big wrapped box and handed it to Sasporilla.

"I hope you like it." Madrigal smile excitedly.

Inside the big wrapped box was another wrapped box. Inside that one was another one and another one and another one. At the bottom of the last box was a photo of the outsiders Sasporilla, Kerry, Korry, Zac, Janey and Kay sitting at the table defiant against Umbridge and her Inquisitors.

"I found it in the rubble before I was brought home." I thought you would like it."

"I absolutely love it Madrigal." Sasporilla said. "I just wish you'd been in it."

"Turn it over." Madrigal giggled.

On the back, Madrigal had used a bit of sticky tape to attach a small photo of herself.

Sasporilla hugged the young girl. "I love them thank you."

Korry saved his gift for last. He stepped up and handed Sasporilla a small box. Sassy smiled and opened it up. Inside was a small silver locket.

"Jewelry oooooo!" Kolleen said poking her son in the ribs. "You casanova."

"Mom stop." Korry pleaded. "Can I help you put it on?"

"Please." Sassy said holding up her wild pink hair.

Korry was very careful putting it around her neck. He smelled the light vanilla and strawberry scent of her hair. He clasped the chain on and laid it gently on the back of her neck.

"It's beautiful thank you." Sassy smiled.

"Open it up." Korry insisted.

Sasporilla popped the locket open on the right side was a picture of Sassy at three or four, her mum and dad. It was a happier time and brought back good memories.

The other side was empty. A spot for pictures of future happy memories and special people. Korry hoped he ranked as worthy of that spot.

Sasporilla closed the locket and wagged her finger summoning Korry forward. She kissed him lovingly on the cheek.

"Thank you." Sasporilla smiled. "Thank you. I absolutely love it."

Shopping for school supplies in Diagon Alley with Karry, Korry and their mum was always great. It was nice to be able to afford new robes but having been raised with nothing, Sassy still gravitated towards the used ones. Money was not in short supply. There was plenty in the bank between insurance's and survivor benefits from her parents and the trust for the victims of the Corrupted ministry of magic. Sasporilla had a wonderful nest egg, and she didn't want to waste it all on the whims of youth. Used Robes, books and supplies were more than good enough for Sasporilla Bucket.

The girls favorite part of this day was always shopping in the muggle shops. The young witches relished the selections of clothes and shoes available to them. For the first time Sasporilla had to seriously shop for bras. She was growing quickly now and developing just as her mom had said. She barely recognized herself in the mirror. Everything that was small was getting broad and flat bits were now getting wobbly.

Karry liked the frilly lacey garments but Sassy found them scratchy and uncomfortable. She preferred the ones that just held it all in place with a bit of comfort.

"Get something a bit more girly." Karry said. "Those will make you look like a grand mother."

"No one will see them under my robes and jumper!" Sasporilla insisted.

"Some day some one will!" Karry said playfully making Sasporilla blush.

"Enough you." Kolleen Curtiss said to her daughter. "Sasporilla, you get what you're comfortable with."

"Is Karry right?" Sasporilla asked. "Do we wear frilly things just for boys to look at?"

"No." Kolleen Curtiss said. "And nobody better be looking at you in your under things other than the girls in your dorm room young lady."

Karry rolled her eyes.

"Sasporilla." Kolleen continued. "Sometimes I wear something colourful or frilly to make myself feel pretty. Some times certain under things go with certain types of dresses or clothes better than others. Some day you may feel you want something frilly or need something less functional. Most days I wear things just like the ones you've chosen. Functional and comfortable."

"Now take a couple and go try them on." Kolleen nudged the girl towards the change rooms. It was a time like this that Sasporilla wished her mother was alive. Wished she was here to help her through this.

"Do you want me to come in with you for help dear?" Kolleen asked quietly.

Sasporilla nodded embarrassed.

"Ok dear." Kolleen smiled warmly and turned to Karry. "Ok you should take a lesson from your friend and buy something sensible."

"Yes mother." Karry giggled.

Korry sat outside the shop guarding bags and trying not to look at the racks of the ladies things inside. Frankly seeing his sister hold up under things was to weird so he looked away.

"What you looking at mate?" Zacariah Zarcazzian asked jumping over the back of the bench, landing beside Korry.

"Trying not to see my sister looking at lingerie." Korry laughed.

Zac couldn't help but peek. Korry punched his friend in the shoulder. "That's my sister."

"She sure is." Zac smiled.

The girls came out of the shop carrying small discrete bags. Sassy put hers inside her bag with a new pair of black pants she had purchased.

"Find anything you liked?" Korry smiled.

Sasporilla blushed and punched him in the shoulder.

"Hi you." Karry said to Zac sitting on his lap and giving him a big kiss.

"Hi you." Zac said when she let up for air.

"Ok you!" Kolleen said to Karry. "Up!"

"Mother!?" Korry protested standing and having Kolleen pull her aside giving her a lecture on respectable, appropriate behavior for a girl not yet sixteen years of age.

Korry went home with her mom. Zac hung out with his friends for a bit then headed back in the car that was waiting for him.

"Are you sure I can't give you lift?" Zac asked.

"No." Korry said. "We can walk from here."

Sasporilla looked at Korry curiously.

"I mean if you want to walk with me?" Korry asked.

"I'd like that." Sasporilla smiled.

"Right then!" Zac drummed on the car door. "I'm off like a dirty shirt!"

The walk home was about a mile or so but it was a nice afternoon.

"So this will be your fourth year!" Korry said sucking at small talk when he was nervous.

"I don't like this." Sasporilla said.

"What?" Korry asked the colour draining from his face.

"The nervous walking on egg shells nervous thing." Sassy said. "I don't get why a kiss has made it all so weird between us?"

"I just..." Korry stammered. "I just don't want to do or say anything to make you mad or disappoint you."

"Ya I feel the same way, but we still have to be ourselves." Sassy insisted.

"I know." Korry said. "But when I act like me sometimes you think I'm bit of a jerk."

"Well ya." Sassy laughed. "But your a cute jerk. Not a mean or hurtful jerk. I like you as you are."

"Thank you, I think your perfect as you are too." Korry smiled.

"I'm far from perfect." Sasporilla shook her head.

"To me you are." Korry smiled.

Sasporilla smiled and blushed as she took Korrys hand.

"Weirdo." Sassy said swinging their hands playfully.

As they passed a corner shop Sassy stopped to look in the window at the candy, crisps and Fanta.

"I always wonder how good muggle treats are?" Sasporilla mused.

"You've never tried crisps and an orange Fanta?" Korry asked surprised.

"No?" Sasporilla said. "I grew up in a magic town. We had muggle food but we really couldn't spare money for treats."

"One bonus to having a muggle dad is he introduced us to all of this." Korry smiled pulling her inside.

Korry grabbed 2 cans of Orange and 1 bag of plain crisps and one cheese. They munched and sipped as the walked home.

"The orange is nice." Sassy sipped. "Sweet and fruity."

"What about the crisps?" Korry asked.

"They're so salty." Sassy said. "What are yours like?"

Korry held the bag out and Sassy took one of the cheese flavored. She took a bite and giggled. "It's salty to but it has something else."

"That's what muggles think cheese tastes like." Korry laughed. "My dad loves these."

"Wow!" Sasporilla laughed. "I guess they're an acquired taste."

"Like me." Korry laughed.

"Na." Sassy said. "You're like trifle. Everyone likes trifle. Its sweet and tasty. No one can turn there nose up at it."

"Wow!" Korry smiled proud of himself. "And your like a chocolate frog!"

"A chocolate frog?" Sassy asked.

"Ya." Korry insisted. "Smooth and creamy. I'm just afraid you'll jump away on me."

"I'm not going to jump away." Sasporilla stopped. "I like you. We're neighbors. We go to school together. Your sisters my best friend."

Sasporilla looked in Korrys eyes. Korry looked back at her nervously.

"You're my boy friend." Sassy smiled.

"And you're my girl friend." Korry said back.

They just stood there on the side walk looking into each others eyes.

"For goodness sake!" Karry yelled from the doorstep. "Kiss her already then come in! Mom says teas almost ready!"



Prestadigamania

A Harry Potter / Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction

by Darren Kelly

Wembley Stadium was officially closed to the public for a private affair. Witches and wizards poured in excited about the nights event.

Mr.Curtiss drove the minivan into London carrying the whole gang. Korry and Zac were as excited as Mr.Curtiss was, about going to see the greatest sport in the wizarding world, after quidditch. They found a parking spot not far from the stadium and walked over. Karry and Sassy were not nearly as excited about the event, but a night out with the boys was a night out.

A brilliant magical sign, invisible to muggles, hung in front of the stadium gates.

"Tonight Only, Dueling Wizards Guild presents PRESTADIGIAMANIA!"

"Are there any signs?" Alex Curtiss asked.

"Ya dad." Korry smiled. "This is it."

Mr.Curtiss rubbed his hands together excitedly. Every Saturday night, at seven p.m. sharp Alex Curtiss sat on the couch in the family room and turned on their telly. He would flick a switch on the vivox and he was able to watch the British Bewitchment Channel. Dueling Wizards Guild had a live show called THE DWG UNDERGROUND. Live Wizard Dueling from all over the UK. Now they had the chance to see it live.

The stadium was alive with wizards and witches buying souvenirs, posters, t-shirts and programs. Every one had their favorite Dueler. Korry and his dad liked the underdog Dermot O'Caelighie, known as the Irish Immigrant. Zac supported the Champ! The older Wiley Red Wolf!

Programs in hand they made there way into the stadium. A large dueling stage was set up center field. Best seats in the house were stage side but theirs were a ways back in the stands. From their vantage point they would see all spells cast clearly and be able to make out which wizard was which. Not the most expensive or best seats in the house but they weren't bad seats either.

The lights went down as colourful fireworks bloomed in the skies above. A spot light shone center stage revealing a tall thin man, with white hair, in a finely tailored robe. A microphone was lowered from above. His deep carnival barker voice was unmistakable, it was Mitchel Buffret!

"Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, witches and wizards are we ready to DUE-EL!!!!"

The crowd responded with thunderous applause. Mitchel Buffret circled his wand above his head creating a whirlwind around him culminating in a brilliant white flash. When peoples eyes cleared an entrance stage and Jumbox had appeared at both ends of the stadium while a commentators desk appeared to one side.

"So let me get this right." Sasporilla asked Karry. "This is professional dueling? Like as in the dueling we did in the DA?"

"Yes sort of." Karry said. "In this kind of dueling there is a lot of pomp and pageantry, a lot of posturing, a lot of taunting and general rubbish."

"What about the duels?" Sassy asked.

"It's not like a real duel." Karry smiled. "It's choreographed, like a dance. Don't get me wrong landing after being 'flipendoed' still hurts. It just looks more brutal than it really is but there are risks. You'll see."

"I know it doesn't interest you much." Sassy said.

"Not really." Karry smiled looking over at Zac. "I may watch one or two matches but I brought a book and a boy." Music started playing as images of duels past flashed on the screen. Spell after spell flipped, tossed and knocked opponents back always leaving one wizard Victorious. The Villainous Volkov!

His challenger was a young Wizard billed as the hero of Hogwarts! Christian Jorganson!

Sasporilla and Karry looked at each other. Hero of Hogwarts? Neither of them had ever seen him before. He looked to old to be in Hogwarts. Even for a seventh year left back.

They took their places at either end of the dueling stage. With a salute of their wands they took up positions, and at the ring of a bell, the wizards began to duel. Spells and hexes were cast and deflected. They crashed into the ceiling, the floor and even in front of the stands raising cheers from startled fans.

The duel went on for thirteen minutes. Volkov was hit by a bombardia blast to the chest and was blown back into the stands. Christian Jorganson, the hero of Hogwarts was the winner. The stadium cheered for the young wizard as he walked from the stage waving his wand triumphantly.

This was the first of the fifteen duels that made up Prestadigimania.

Duel after duel. Dark wizard versus light. 20 wizard battle royal, last wizard left standing was the winner. A six man tag team duel, each team have two wizards and a witch. The witches league presented two matches with a dark witch versus dark witch and a light witch versus light witch.

All them were predictable and unrealistic of how duels really ran in the real world, but there was an entertaining nature to it. Sasporilla found it fun to watch. Korry was very into making casting motions with his hand saying which spell he'd have used to combat that last hex. Sasporilla held his other hand while they watched. Zac was enjoying it so much he'd almost forgotten that Karry was sitting next to him, reading her book.

In a whirl of fire and flash Mitchel Buffret reappeared center stage. The mic was lowered from above.

"Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, witches and wizards, it is time for the main event. Two tenacious titans come toe to toe in a test of tenacity!"

A wild Irish wail let out over the stadium speakers. A song started to play called "Wild cats of Kilkeny". Sasporilla recognized it as it was one of her fathers favorites. A large man stood up in the back of floor seats and walked through the crowd to the stage. Dressed in muggle clothes, with a blue workman's shirt, jeans, brown vest a tradesman's cap he took his place on the stage.

The lights started to flash as the harsh beat of drums, the grind of heavy guitar and the howl of a wolf signaled the entrance of the champ! Sasporilla could see he was smaller than the other wizard, an older man with a short white beard and bald head. He was dressed in the uniform of the seventh division sorcerers squad, one of the most famous of England's wizarding army. He had joined up in his youth, despite being a Canadian, and made a career of it until his retirement. He was a crafty old devil who had seen real combat. The Red Wolf won the title ten years ago and seemed unbeatable. According to Korry and his dad, tonight would be the night he went down.

"On this side with an Olivanders 13 1/2 inch Willow wand with a dragon heart string core the challenger. The Irish Immigrant!" Mitchel Buffret announced. "And on this side with an 11 inch, direwolf hair wand said to be carved from the wood of Yggdrasill, the Norse tree of life! The Dueling Wizard Guild champion THE RED WOLF!"

The crowd roared with delight. Sasporilla and Karry had to plug their ears for the noise.

A spell cast a cage made of eldritch energy around the dueling stage.

"This match is an **ULTIMATE SUBMISSION MATCH**. The wizard who makes the other yeild wins the match but understand, the magical cage is harder than dragon scale! It burns hotter than dragon fire and can cut deeper than the sword of Godric Gryffindor! It will not be lifted until the time one of our two duelists submits and a champion emerges."

The officials stood outside the cage as Mitchel Buffret apparated away. The bell rang and the duel began.

Both wizards cast at once. Expeliarmus knocked the Red Wolfs wand to the side but not before he cast "Miscueratque!" turning his opponent into a shriveled white haired old man.

The Red Wolf dove for his wand before it rolled beyond the eldritch cage. He grabbed it as he straightened but grazed his shoulder leaving a bad burn. The champ winced in pain as he was hit by "Coactus!" Which pulled him up in front of now aged Irish Immigrant. Before the champ could react the Irish man Levitated him ten feet above the stage, singing the Ref Wolfs head on the cage above, and slamming down hard onto his neck and back.

"Flippendo." Through the Irish Immigrant back into the side of the cage where he twitched and struggled against the eldritch energy. The Irishman fell to the stage, out of breath, as the champ pulled himself to his feet and cast

"REPENTE!" bouncing his opponents head off the stage repeatedly as the crowd counted along with each strike of the skull.

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten!!! Woouoooo!!!"

The Red Wolf grabbed the Irishman by the hair and pulled his face up.

"Do you yield?" The Red Wolf asked.

"Has the fight started?" The Irish Immigrant laughed casting "Concuso" knocking the Red Wolf onto his back, clear across the stage. The crowd cheered, especially Korry and his dad as the Irishman turned his wand on himself and cast "restro" returning himself back to his original age.

The Irishman centered himself and cast "Gutta Vitae!" It was obvious he had come to duel. The Red Wolf lifted up and slammed down repeatedly.

"Gutta Vitae Maxima!" Caused the Red Wolf to hit with even greater impact.

"Ultima Gutta Vitae Maxima!" The Irish Immigrant yelled and the Red Wolf hit the top of the cage leaving a burned waffle pattern on his face and then slammed him so hard down to the stage that it snapped beneath him.

The stage collapsed out from under the duelists knocking them both to the floor.

The Irish Immigrant, Dermot O'Caelighie, picked himself up and ran to the Red Wolf.

"Do ya yield?" The Irishman asked.

The Red Wolf didn't move.

"Do ya yield!?!!" The Irishman yelled as the champs wand rose and blasted old Dermot across the rubble into the cage bars.

It was obvious now both men had come to fight. Hexes and counter hexes flew back and fourth in brilliant illuminations until a simultaneous cast created Priori Incantatum! Streams of energy flowed between the wands. Eldritch plasma formed a ball between them and dripped energy to the ground.

"Wow!" Mr.Curtiss yelled. "Have you ever seen the likes of that?"

Sasporilla had heard of this happening between the wands of Voldemort and Harry Potter but had not witnessed it as she'd had her hands full with Billy Bombaduck. His name still made her sick to her stomach.

Both duelists broke off their attack and looked at their wands then each other. Both cast "Bombarda!" The spells striking each other and exploding mid-cage. It was clear they were evenly matched and neither was prepared to surrender.

A dark figure entered through the crowd. Sasporilla saw the man stalking the challenger as he came up from behind and drew a wand.

"Look out!" Sasporilla said drawing her own wand.

"Nope." Mr.Curtiss said grabbing Sasporilla's wand hand. "It's ok. It's all part of the show."

"Irish Immigrant." The man yelled pointing his wand at the challengers back. "Turn to face me."

"Malk." The Irish Immigrant said turning to face the dark wizard thug. "What do you want?"

"You aren't worthy of being champion!" Malk yelled.

The Red Wolf was not one to attack a man when he wasn't looking. Unless it was all on the line like it was tonight. A spell hit the Irish man dead center of his broad back, spinning him around to come face to face with the Red Wolf.

"Fight me, not your girl friend." The Red Wolf yelled.

The two men started exchanging punches. Noses bled and teeth flew. This was becoming brutal! Mr.Curtiss loved it. Wizard dueling remind him the professional wrestling him and his father watched when he was a child. Sasporilla thought she saw the challenger give an almost imperceptible nod and he ducked as the Red Wolf pointed his wand at the same time Malk pointed his. The big Irishman ducked and rolled as both men cast spells. Malk was petrified and fell over backwards stiff as a board. The Red Wolf was thrown back to the other side of the cage. His wand thrown clear. The Irish Immigrant walked over to the downed champion and grabbed him by the head and pushed his face into the burning eldritch energy cage bars.

"Do you yield?" The Irish Immigrant yelled at the champ.

"Never!" The Red Wolf cried his face pushed harder and deeper into the energy bars.

"Submit damn you!" Dermot yelled.

"Never!" The Red Wolf struck at the larger man who held him firmly.

The Irish Immigrant stepped back and raised his wand levitating the Champ into the air and shoving him hard into the eldritch energy.

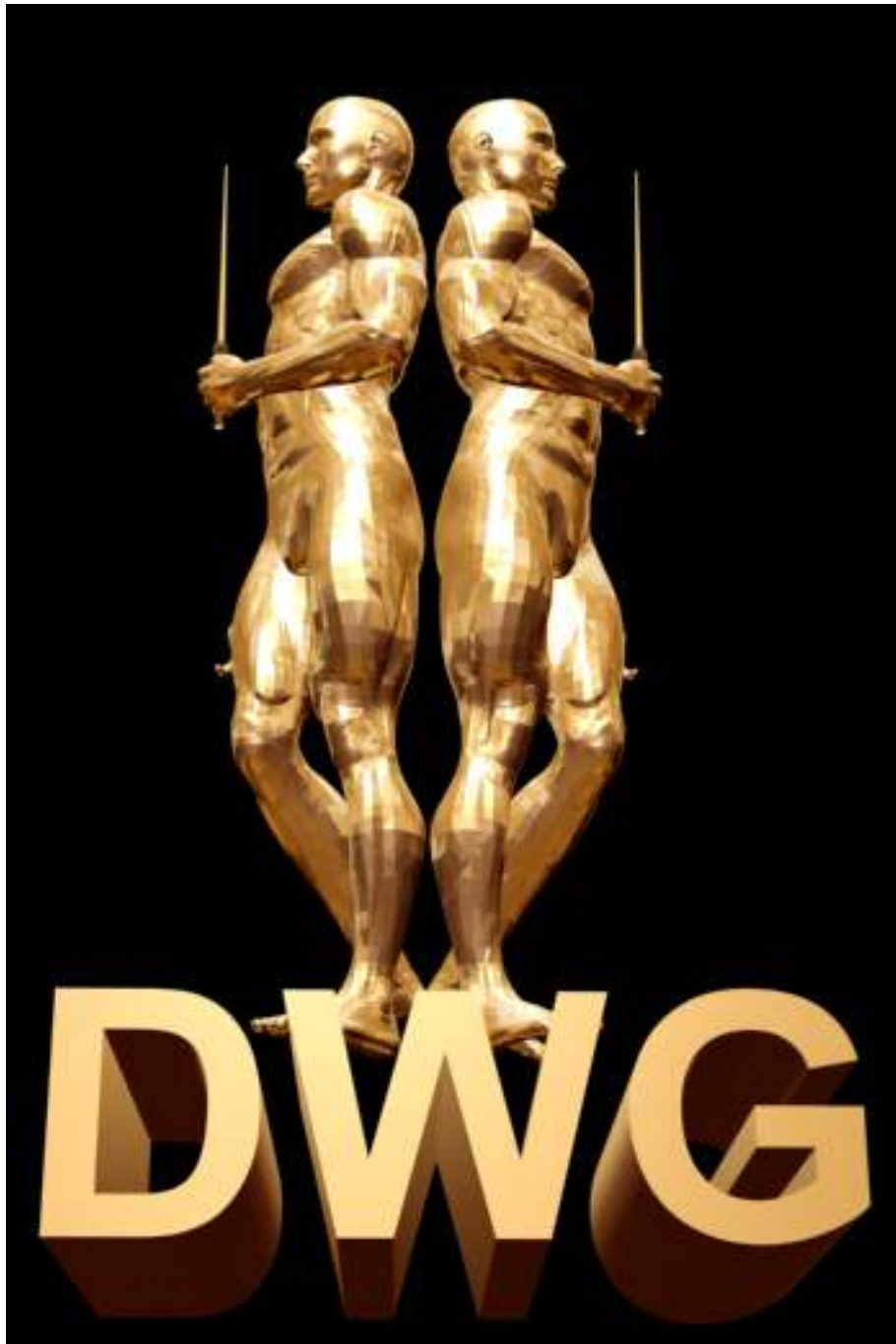
"Please man." The Irishman pleaded. "For the love o' God man just yield."

The Red Wolf screamed in pain. Sasporilla had to hide her eyes. She had experienced this kind of brutality in her life and the memories were still all to fresh.

"I yield!" The Red Wolf cried.

The bell rang and the champ fell to the ground as officials brought out the DWG duelist trophy. The Irish Immigrant raised it triumphantly above his head then walked over to the Red Wolf and cast healing spells on him. The big Irishman raised the ex-champ to his feet and helped to support him as they walked away back stage.

On the way home it was all the boys could do was to talk about the match. Doing a blow by blow recap that seemed to get more embellished every time they went over it. Karry read her book, still very disinterested. Sasporilla sat with her arms folded and her head back just trying to clear the thoughts of the violence that had been done to her which now ran clearly in her mind.



Sasporilla Bucket

The Girl With Pink Hair

In Through The Out Door



By Darren Kelly

A Harry Potter Universe Fan fiction

In Through the Out Door

A Harry Potter / Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction
by Darren Kelly

Chapter 1

The Hogwarts Express chugged along the track as the Outsiders headed back to school. Sasporilla Bucket laughed as Korry and Zac reenacted moments from the dueling event, the night before. Pointing their wands and pretending they were hit by spells.

"Yield!" Korry yelled.

"Never!" Zac yelled back.

Karry sighed and went back to reading the fourth chapter of this years potions text book. The door to the compartment opened and Madrigal Neelander popped her head inside.

"Room for one more?" Madrigal asked.

"Of course!" Sassy said patting the spot between her and Karry.

The boys stopped as Madrigal stepped inside and closed the door. She had grown, a lot over the summer. She had gone from little girl to lovely young woman in a summer.

Sasporilla and Karry both took notice of the looks they gave her then looked at each other and rolled their eyes.

"How was your summer Madrigal?" Korry asked.

"Guys you can call me Maddy." Madrigal insisted. "My summer was great!. How was yours."

"Fantastic." Zac smiled.

"Great!" Korry said.

"I read a lot!" Karry smiled.

"It was great." Sasporilla said wondering why she was feeling jealous?

"Wow you've really grown!" Zac said.

"Ya." Korry agreed. "Your the most beautiful woman I've ever seen."

Now Sasporilla new why she felt jealous before and now she felt threatened.

"Ahem!" Karry said glaring at her brother who didn't seem to care to look back.

"Well thank you sir." Maddy laughed. "In my family the girls turn into women almost over night. It's kind of weird."

"I have to use the loo." Sassy said.

"Think I'll come with." Karry said.

"Oh me too!" Maddy smiled innocently.

The girls left the car and walked off to the washroom. Every boy stopped and stared as Madrigal walked by.

"Hi Madrigal!" On boy said.

"Hey there Maddy!" Another boy called out. Sassy and Karry were effectively invisible.

The door to the washroom was thin like you'd expect on a train but inside the loo was absolutely huge. Twelve marble stalls with heavy ornate oak doors and brass handles. There were as many sinks and mirrors.

Sassy went into a stall and slammed the door a bit harder than she intended. She hadn't felt quite this way before. Angry, jealous and upset all at once.

"Ok Madrigal." Karry said folding her arms in front. "You went through the Asensionmorphosus Ritual didn't you?"

"Yes." Maddy said. "It's a standard rite of passage in our family. All of Neelander women go through it."

With a flush Sassy came out of the stall and washed her hands. "What does the ritual do?"

"It's how some families avoid the physical growing pains of adolescence." Karry shook her head. "Sort of like a butterfly in a cocoon. It goes in a caterpillar and comes out a butterfly."

"Is it painful?" Sasporilla asked curiously hoping the answer be yes.

"Not at all." Maddy said. "I climbed into the Chamber, there was a lot of bright white light and when I climbed out it was fifty seven days later and I had grown about four years worth."

"Yes you most certainly have." Sasporilla said.

"Yes fifty seven days!" Karry said with an accusatory tone. "Yet just a few days ago you still looked younger at Sasporillas birthday."

"It didn't quite take." Madrigal said. "So I have to wear this pendant for another two or three months. Then it should be permanent."

"What if it doesn't take?" Sasporilla asked.

"Then I return to being a 12 year old and have to go through it all

"Look." Maddy said. "I know the boys are showing me all kinds of attention but It's not my fault."

"No." Sasporilla said. "I agree. It's theirs."

"Well you don't have to be so friendly to our boy friends." Karry said.

"Zac and Korry?" Maddy said. "Their yours?"

"No one is anyone's Maddy." Sassy said drying her hands. "I like Korry and he likes me but I don't own him. You're are friend and I'm not going to stop being your friend because the boy I like shows you a bit of attention."

"That's very mature." Karry said. "But if you flirt with my Zac, you and me are going to have a problem. Understand?"

"Yes." Madrigal gulped.

Karry and Sassy fixed their make up in the mirror. Maddy put on a drop of perfume from a small blue bottle onto her wrist.

"What perfume is that?" Sassy asked.

"A special family blend." Maddy smiled. "It only works with the Neelander body chemistry."

"Oh...um", Karry said sniffing it. "Maddy that's ghastly!"

"Really." It smells fine to me.

Sasporilla smelled Maddy's out stretched wrist. It smelled almost as bad as Janeys socks after a long day had.

"Ya." Sassy said. "I think that's gone off."

Madrigal took a sniff of her wrist. "No that's how it smells. I think it's lovely."

The boys all surrounded Maddy, helping to carry her things as they left the train and headed up to the castle. Sasporilla was happy to be back in the Hufflepuff common room. It had strangely felt mor like home, than home itself.

This year Sasporilla was rooming with fourth years like herself. Kelsey Yeltson, a quiet girl with dark brown hair that was extremely socially awkward. Fredrica Simonz, a pretty red headed girl, who came from a large clan like the Weasleys. Last was Pauline Chibbi, a short fat girl who always had a smile on her face and light in her heart. Sasporilla changed into her robes and went to find the new headmistress, Professor Minerva McGonagall. Not surprising the headmistress was seeing to the final arrangements for the sorting ceremony in the freshly rebuilt great hall. Though there were some improvements the great hall still looked basically the same. The house elves filled the tables with every sort of food imaginable. It looked as if the tables were a tad longer so there was to be a bigger enrollment this year.

"Headmistress?" Sasporilla said from behind professor McGonagall.

professor McGonagall "Turned around a bit startled. "Yes? Oh Miss Bucket. You should be in your dorm room until called for."

"I know professor." Sasporilla said. "But it's urgent I talk to you. It's about my classes."

"Well I'll tell Professor Sprout you have an appointment with me after dinner and you can come up to my office and we'll chat."

"Thank you Professor." Sasporilla smiled running back to the Hufflepuff dorms.

Minerva McGonagall would do everything within her power to help any student, but she held a special place for the heroes of the battle of Hogwarts.

The sorting ceremony was very long. There were a lot of new young first years. Some looked like they could be second or third years. Chances are they'd been held back by parents who had escaped England when Voldemort returned.

"Boys and Girls." Professor McGonagall addressed the crowd. "This year will prove to be the best year we've had at Hogwarts for a long time. We have a new and improved quidditch pitch, expanded building and living spaces

with an updated infirmary, a new owlry and we are bringing back competitive dueling for the first time since the 1950's!"

Students applauded politely. Some were ecstatic to hear quidditch and dueling were back.

"I'd like to take a moment to introduce you to a few new professors you'll be learning from this year. Professor Porche Spinoli,"

Professor McGonagall held out her hand to introduce the lovely dark haired Italian witch, "who is our new professor of transfiguration."

The children and staff applauded.

"I'd also like to introduce Professor Lyra Lee-Ashwolf, our new Defence against the Dark arts teacher!"

An old witch who sat at the head table stood suddenly and waved her wand dispelling her disguise. It was indeed Lyra Lee-Ashwolf. Sasporilla went insane with hoots and applause.

"No I think I need to address one more thing." Headmistress McGonagall said. "Last year we suffered a horrible attack by very evil people. We lost both students and staff in that fight. Their names will forever be remembered in the main hall where a memorial statue has been commissioned, to reflect the events of the May the 2nd last year."

There was thunderous applause for the announcement. Everyone had been saying how a statue or plaque or something should be put up.

"And I don't want to leave out those who fought bravely against Voldemort and his death eaters and are still here with us to tell the tale. Through out dinner I will be calling out names of those being awarded with Hogwarts Meddal of Excellence for their bravery, ingenuity and compassion while dealing with the worst crisis in Hogwarts history. Now," professor McGonagall said waving her wand making all the food appear on the table. "Let the feast begin!"

Throughout dinner people were called up alphabetically by last name to the head table to receive a medal and a scroll of recognition. Sasporilla Bucket, Karry and Korry Curtis all the way to Zac Zarcazzian were called. At the end of dinner they were asked to gather for an official portrait which would also appear on the front page of tomorrows daily prophet.

"Look at you! Big hero!" Lyra said walking up and hugging Sasporilla.

"Professor!" Sassy laughed. "Who would have thought!"

"Ya well we caught most of the bad guys and it's just for one year." Lyra said. "Not to mention this way I can keep my eyes on you incase anything Hinkey starts going on."

"Hinkey?" Sasporilla asked.

"Weird, not right. It's an American term." Lyra said.

"Ah that explains it." Sassy said.

"And what is that suppose to mean young lady?" Lyra laughed. "Would you like a years worth of detention?"

"With you?" Sasporilla smiled. "Sign me up professor!"

Lyra walked with Sassy to the Headmistresses office and escorted her up.

"Professor McGonagall." Lyra said. "I found this miscreant lurking outside your door. I think we should frisk her for dangerous magic items."

Lyra began tickling Sasporilla who laughed so hard she could barely breathe.

"Professor Lee-Ashwolf." Professor McGonagall said sternly. "Remember what I said about Fraternization!"

"Yes mum, sorry." Lyra said trying to appear contrite and serious. Sassy and Lyra burst into laughter.

"I'll deal with this pupil from here." Professor McGonagall said shaking her head.

Lyra nudged Sassy as she turned and left.

"What is your concern Miss Bucket?" The Headmistress asked.

"The year I was off," Sasporilla began, "When I was in a coma. I fell behind a year."

"Yes I'm aware." Professor McGonagall said.

"I was wondering if there was any way to make up the classes of my fourth year and finish my fifth year classes now? So I can write my O.W.L.s with everyone else my age."

"Oh dear." Professor McGonagall said. "I can only think of one way to do that, and that sort of magic is highly frowned upon."

"What is that?" Sasporilla said.

"Time magic." Professor McGonagall said. "Though it has been used successfully on very few occasions. If used irresponsibly the results can be devastating."

"What about some sort of memory charm?" Sasporilla asked. "Like copying a fourth years memories so I can do my fifth year?"

"No." Professor McGonagall shook her head. "Implanting someone else's memories can be even more dangerous to the individual than time travel."

"Well I guess I'm stuck." Sasporilla said. "I guess I can't just come back at the end of the year and copy my own memories. I'll have to walk in the front door like everyone else and do the classes."

"Hold on." Professor McGonagall said. "That gives me an idea!"



Chapter 2

Sasporilla returned to the dorms just before bed time. Karry was waiting for her in the common room. Sassy came in and sat beside her best friend.

"Where have you been?" Karry asked.

"I was trying to work out a class schedule that would let me take both fourth and fifth year classes this year, so I can write my O.W.Ls with you and Korry."

"Did you manage to get it sorted." Karry asked.

"Sort of." Sassy said. "It's going to be a very long year. I'm not really allowed to talk about it."

A strange young dark bushy haired witch in very used robes and a floppy tattered hat walked through the common room and through the door into the girls dorms.

"Who was that?" Karry asked.

"No idea." Sassy said changing the subject. "Look at that."

Sassy motioned over to the far side of the Hufflepuff common room. Madrigal Neelander was the center of attention, surrounded by almost all of the Hufflepuff boys. She laughed and twirled her hair as they fawned over her.

"I know." Karry said. "They started to gather around after dinner."

"Oh well good for Maddy." Sasporilla said. "Personally I never want to be the center of more than one boys attention."

"I have a theory about all this but I need to do some research first." Karry smirked.

"I just keep hoping this doesn't change her from the sweet young girl we knew into something else." Sasporilla said.

"We all grow up in our own time." Karry said. "I can't see how trying to force it could make anything any better."

"Yes she looks 16 and beautiful but inside she's still only 12." Sasporilla said. "She hasn't matured enough in her mind to deal with all of this."

"You're right." Karry said.

"Maybe we should be better friends and save her from herself?" Sasporilla said determined.

Sassy and Karry barged through the crowd of boys, saying excuse us as they went. They stepped up on either side of Maddy and each grabbed an arm.

"Right then young lady." Sasporilla said.

"It's past your bed time." Karry smiled.

The pair pulled their friend off with them as they went into the girls dorm. The boys all yelled after her wishing Madrigal sweet dreams, hoping she had a wonderful night and reassured her they would see her tomorrow.

"Guys!" Madrigal protested. "I'm just having a bit of fun!"

"Maddy." Sassy said. "We're your friends. We see you surrounded by all those boys and we worry about you."

"Worried there won't be enough to go around?" Madrigal asked.

Sasporilla and Karry stopped and let their friend go.

"Excuse me?" Karry asked.

"That was not very nice Madrigal." Sasporilla said.

"I'm sorry." Maddy said ashamed. "I just have all these new mixed feelings and things I'm just not sure."

"That's because your body matured but your mind hasn't." Karry smiled compassionately.

"Maddy," Sasporilla began, "the boys are showing you attention. I know that when a boy you like notices you it feels really good. Right?"

"Yes." Maddy agreed.

"Right now all the boys, not just the one or two you like, have turned their attentions to you. Has your mum explained boys and girls to you?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yes." Maddy said.

"Well right now," Karry said, "you're like a big dinner bell ringing COME AND GET IT to a pack of hungry wolves. You know what they want. Is that what you want?"

Madrigal stood and stared at Karry and Sasporilla. She looked down ashamed.

"I never thought..." Maddy said and started to cry.

"Maddy", Sasporilla hugged her young friend, "we just don't you making a mistake that might effect the rest of your life."

"I want you to be honest with me." Karry said. "Are you using any sort of love potion or something?"

"No." Madrigal said.

"What about that ghostly perfume." Sassy asked smelling the scent of it.

"My mom gave me that as a gift." Maddy said.

"I have a feeling it may be more than just a perfume." Karry said. "I suggest you wash it off and not wear it for a couple of days. Let me see if I can learn anything about it."

"Ok." Maddy agreed. "Thank you. You're good friends."

"Now off to bed with you young lady it's long past your bed time!" Sassy smiled.



Chapter 3

"Vampires!" Professor Lee-Ashwolf said. "Fact or fiction?"

The fourth year defence against the dark arts class was proving to be the best class of the year for Sasporilla Bucket.

"They're a myth." Bradly Dumtage said.

"No." Gerald Windsom responded. "My uncle swears he fought one once."

"Your Uncle drinks a lot." Bradly laughed.

"True." Gerald chuckled.

"So no one knows for sure?" Professor Lee-Ashwolf asked. "That is correct, IF you believe the text books. The books, all of the books, say that there is evidence that they may have existed but there is no evidence that they exist now."

The class sat stunned as she engaged them with her entertaining gravitas.

"I am here to tell you that vampires are very, very real." Lyra said. "They aren't the romantic figures some muggle books and movies make them out to be. They don't wear tuxedos. They do not sparkle in the sunlight. They aren't romantic creatures. They are guttural, bestial creatures of hunger that see us as food. They look some what like us, but their skin is pale, unless they've just fed. They emit heavy levels of Pheromones to attract unwitting members of the opposite sex. They can not come out into the sun or moon light. The light will destroy them. Any questions so far."

"How do you know this if no other witch or wizard can confirm it?" Sasporilla asked.

"Thank you miss Bucket, always remain skeptical at what your told because not everyone in your life will tell you the truth!"

The class laughed relieved that this was obviously a lesson in gullibility.

"Not only have I seen them." Professor Lee-Ashwolf said. "I've Hunted them and dealt with them. I have even met their master. "

The class gasped in unison as she pulled out a glass box containing a vampire skull. It's razor sharp fangs very prevalent.

"I killed this one in a brothel in Istanbul." Professor Lee-Ashwolf said pulling out another glass case with vampire jawbone.

"This one I blew to pieces during the new moon less than a month ago in Liverpool."

"They're in England?" Bradley asked terrified at the thought.

"How did you discover them?" Penny Lane-Warrol asked.

"Would you all like me to tell you a story?" Lyra smiled.

Ministry of Magical Justice

Case #MP 6370119 -V-C

Lyra Lee-Ashwolf and her partner Nick Owlmore were working yet another missing persons case in Liverpool. They had worked a lot of them Voldemort and his gang death eaters broomed the skies but lately it had been quiet. Two days ago a young woman name Angel Affenell had disappeared after attending a concert in the Horns and Whistle pub in Liverpool. Her boy friends band, yet another Weird Sister cover band called the Weed Sisters were playing that night and she didn't want to miss it.

The boy friend and his band mates alibis all checked out. Wouldn't be the first time a group of dark wizards in disguise sacrificed an innocent for fame, glory and power. This case would probably have been treated as a run away except it was not in her character, and she was the daughter of the new head of investigations for the M.O.M.J. Edward Samples Jr.

Lyra and Nick had received a tip that the girl had been seen near the corner of Harlow and Mill street in Toxteth. Nick new the area and was afraid of what they might find. There was an alley known as the feed. It was an urban legend that anyone who dared walk into the alley on a moonless night would never walk out. Few had dared. Fewer were ever seen again and Nick knew why.

Vampires were the biggest guarded secret in the ministry of magic. They were a terror that most muggles feared half as much as most Witches and wizards did. There was a small nest of them that served an old Vampire Lord named Malachai. It was said he was three thousand years old and impossible to kill. If anything had happened to the girl caused by one of his own Malichai would know about it.

It was midnight on the start of the third day when Lyra and Nick arrived at the entrance to the alley way. Some ladies of the night hovered by the entrance to the alley and attempted to summon the officers in.

"Vampires?" Lyra asked.

"Yes." Nick said. "Don't pull your wand. We have to use tact here i'm affraid unless things go south."

"Then what?" Lyra asked.

"Wands out and Lumos Solem anything that moves!" Nick smirked.

The vampire women of Liverpool moved in closer. Lyra could smell the rot and death on them, even through their cheap perfumes.

"We seek audience with your master." Nick said sternly.

The vampires backed off. One disappeared into the darkness of the alley. It was less than a minute before she emerged. A large pale hand extended from the darkness, summoning the aurors forth.

"This is it rookie." Nick said. "Head down, walk in backwards and say nothing unless it asks you specifically and directly."

"Anything else boss man?" Lyra asked.

"Ya no wise cracks and what ever you do don't look at the damn thing. It will kill you on sight."

Lyra and Nick walked backwards, heads down into the alley which seemed unnaturally dark considering their proximity to the street light in front. This was a very old custom showing fear and respect to the master vampire. The air felt still and the dank smell of rotting flesh hung in the cool night air.

"You show me honour in the old ways." A voice hissed around them. "You are magical but do not carry wands. A foolish sign of trust. You, the fat man, who are you and what do you want?"

"I am Senior Detective Inspector Nicholas Owlmore of the Ministry of Magical Justice aurers division. I am assigned to the case of a missing girl named Angel Affenell. I have reason to believe she was in this vacinity a few nights ago and need to know if your minions took her."

"Show me the picture you have of her." The voice said.

Lyra pulled the picture from her pocket and held it up high above her head. Long pale claws, the length of four wands laid end to end, picked the photograph from Lyras hand.

"Ah." The master vampire cooed. "Yes. I remember her. She is with us now but not here. She works as bate in a nest in Turkey."

"I was afraid of that." Nick said.

Vampires began to slip from the shadows to near for comfort.

"We have come in peace with respect for the old ways." Nick called out. "We ask you let us leave the same way."

"Request denied." The master vampire hissed.

Nick and Lyra slipped their wands from the sleeves of their coats spinning the wood in their hands so as to point them back and to the sides.

"Lumos Solem!" Both aurers cast heavy streams of sun light beaming from their wands.

Vampires screamed as they burst into flame. Lyra turned the spell forward burning every vampire in sight. Nick cast Bombarda behind as he ran attempting to hold back the vampire master.

Lyras feet reached the side walk. Vampires reached from the sides and grabbed her. Even through the sleeves of her long coat, their touch was like ice.

Lyra blasted one group with light. Another vampire came at her mouth open ready to bite. Lyra struck the creature hard to the side of her elbow breaking its jaw clean off. The light blasted from her wand frying the jawless vampire as Nick reached the pavement. The pair turned and started casting brilliant light into the dark alley way. The master vampire had fled.

"So." Lyra said. "I brought back the jaw to the ministry. We were able to give a sample to the muggle police for identification closing an old missing persons case."

"What about the girl?" Gideon Barnswoggle asked.

"I'll bet that's her skull in the other case." Penny Lane-Warrol laughed.

"Tonight's assignment." Lyra said writing on the chalk board. "Read chapter 22 of your DADA text books. Then find me three other ways vampires are classically killed."



Chapter 4

Sasporilla and Kerry went out to watch Korry and Zac try out for the Quidditch teams. With Harry Potter gone Gryffindor needed a new seeker as well as keeper and a beater. Slytherin required people for almost all positions. In a word they were horrible, but were very happy to see Maddy had come out to cheer them on.

Kerry had her nose firmly in a book on potions she'd gotten from the library. It was very informative with a large section on love potions. Most them were consumed aurally but a few were worn as perfumes. The only problem was they all were said to have a pleasant aroma, where as Madrigals did not.

"Looks like the boys are still flocking around Maddy." Sasporilla said.

"Ya." Karry said. "I walked past her and said hi when I got here. I could barely smell that perfume but it's still on her."

"I would imagine that stink is hard to wash off." Sasporilla laughed. "It's so pungent and gamey."

"Like a wet dog." Karry laughed.

"Like Janeys feet." Sassy howled.

"Like Limburger cheese that's gone off!" Karry added.

"Oh like Busters pee after he ate that plate of your mums asparagus!" Sasporilla said drawing a very close comparison.

Karry stopped laughing for a second as an epiphany struck.

"You are bloody brilliant Sasporilla Bucket!" Karry said. "I've been looking in the wrong direction."

"So is Korry." Sasporilla sighed watching the boy she liked moon over Madrigal Neelander.

Sasporilla and Karry signed up for dueling club. Some of the members of Dumbledores Army signed up, but most had their fill during the battle of Hogwarts. Korry and Zac were the last to sign up and the last to arrive the day of try outs. Sassy and Karry had chosen not to talk to them to teach them a lesson but it seemed as if both of them had forgotten they were even alive.

The Headmistress, Professor McGonagall was one of the only teachers in the school that still remembered when Hogwarts had a dueling team. She arrived with several old trunks full of equipment. Professor Lee-Ashwolf the new defence against the dark arts teacher and Professor Slughorn head of Slytherin house.

"Ladies and gentlemen." Professor McGonagall called. "Please come gather round."

The young men and women gathered around.

"This room, will now officially be reserved as the official Hogwarts dueling club room." Professor McGonagall said.

"How many of enthusiastic duelers have watched professional dueling like the DWG?" Professor Slughorn asked as several put up their hands. "Well this is nothing like that so if that is what you were expecting, I'm sorry this sport is not for you."

Sasporilla was surprised by the dozen or more boys that left.

"Now for those who wish to duel competitively." Professor McGonagall smiled. "We will have three dueling stages set up as well as a practice stage and target practice area."

"The rules are not simple." Lyra said levitating a bunch of official wizard dueling rule books and passing them out. "You win or loose based on the number of points you score. You score points by casting, spells, hexes, curses and charms and by counter spells, counter hexes, counter curses and counter charms. Forbidden spells are still of course FORBIDDEN!"

"Everyone will be given an official uniform to wear including protective gear." Professor Slughorn said holding up an example. "You will be expected to wear it at every meeting of the dueling club."

"Now ladies and gentlemen please come up and get your gear." Professor McGonagal said. "As of next week we will be having try outs for the team. There are only twelve slots. Six boys and six girls. Please read the rules manual over the next week, and bring your gear, your wands and yourselves! Anyone who doesn't make the team will be asked to return the book and the gear so please keep them in good condition."

Sasporilla was fascinated by the rules of the sport. This really was competitive dueling and not a staged entertainment. As much "fun" as professional dueling was, this looked like much more fun.

"Hi." Korry said as he slipped in beside Sasporilla to get a uniform. "I think we need to talk."

"Do we?" Sasporilla asked coldly.

"Yes." Korry said. "Can we meet after dinner?"

"Can Maddy spare you for that long?" Sasporilla asked.

"I know I deserved that." Korry said. "I just. I don't know. We'll talk after ya?"

"Fine." Sasporilla said. "Seven p.m. at the back stairs."

Zac was having just about as much luck with Karry as she ignored his pleas.

"I don't even like her." Zac said. "I don't know why I feel like I have to be near her when she's around. She's bewitching."

Karry turned and slapped Zac hard across the cheek. Zac stood there shocked as the two girls joined arms and walked away.

"Looks like you two are in some serious trouble." Lyra said.

After dinner Sasporilla went and waited on the back steps. She waited until nearly seven thirty before she decided to give up on Korry. Perhaps he'd been delayed, or something came up. More than likely that something was Madrigal Neelander.



Chapter 5

Saturday was a perfect fall day. The sun was shining, there wasn't a cloud in the sky and leaves were turning colour. Sasporilla decided that today was a good day for a broom ride. Karry was still very busy in the Library and Zac was either with Karry apologizing or with Maddy fawning.

Sasporilla took her broom out side onto the lawn. She set it at her optimal height and mounted it. One of these days she might read over the manual, that still sat in her saddle bag.

She pushed off from the ground and took off into the blue sky flying high above Hogwarts castle. This was the first real time she had ever flown her broom in free flight around the grounds since she had gotten her certification last year. She flew above the tree tops and along the surface of the lake. She made rings from the water and flew through them like on the obstacle course. Francis the giant squid grumbled hello as she flew by. Sasporilla roared hello back.

She flew around for about an hour before she landed by the lake and sat down under a beautiful old oak tree. Sassy pulled the brooms manual from the saddle bag and started to read it. Most of the manual was about care and maintenance. In many ways it was similar to wand care and maintenance.

The part of the manual she found most interesting concerned the special features, contained in the brass tip, at the front of the broom.

Sasporilla pulled her broom to her and popped open the cap. Inside was a small dial with 8 different settings. The manual said you could turn the dial while in flight by pointing your wand at the tip of the broom and casting 'Occasum' + the name of the setting you wanted or you could turn the dial manually. Not recommended during flight.

Setting one, 'Celare', was a standard cloaking spell to hide the broom and rider from muggle eyes.

Setting two, 'Fieri' + Location, sounded like it could be really useful. It was a colored light that beamed from the tip of the Triumphant and showed a basic path to follow to where you wanted to go.

Setting three, 'Sequor', sounded amazing. You land and choose this setting and a Caravan appeared that you could camp in comfortably.

"Hi there!" Penny Lane-Warrol said as she brought her triumphant in for a landing. "I can't believe you have the 1200x! Mines just the 700."

"It was gift from my mum and my uncle." Sasporilla said.

"Cool." Penny smiled. "Who do they ride. with?"

"Sorry?" Sassy asked.

"Who do they ride with?" Penny repeated. "What club?"

"Oh a broomer club you mean?" Sassy smiled. "No, neither of them are in clubs."

"Really?" Penny said surprised. "That's a great choice of Broom for a person not in a club."

"Are you in a club?" Sassy asked.

"No!" Penny laughed. "Most of family are Azkaban Angels. My father lets me ride, but forbids me from joining a club."

"Well that's a good thing though isn't it?" Sasporilla asked.

"Not all broomer clubs are gangs." Penny said. "Some are civic minded, helpful groups of like minded people who just like to ride brooms. They raise money for charity, help out at soup kitchens, etc. Not every broomers an Outlaw!"

"I didn't mean any offence." Sassy insisted. "I'm afraid I simply don't know much about the subject."

"Well at least your honest about it." Penny smiled. "I'm flying back. Care to join me?"

"Sure." Sassy said putting her manual back into the saddle bag and mounting her broom. "Lead the way."

The young witches flew their brooms back to the castle and landed on the south lawn.

"That was fun." Sasporilla said.

"It's nice to ride alone." Penny said. "But it's nicer having someone to ride with. Safer too, in case of accidents or trouble."

"Yes it's nice." Sasporilla said.

"See you in class." Penny waved as she headed in.

Karry came bursting through the front into the court yard carrying a large book. "Sassy! I've found it!"

"Found what?" Sasporilla asked.

"The perfume." Karry said pulling Sassy over to a stone bench. "It's much more than just a perfume and now that Madrigals worn it, it may be to late!"

"Slow down, take a breath and start at the beginning." Sasporilla said.

"Ok." Karry began taking a deep breath. "The perfume is a potion. It's a secret part of the Asensionmorphosus Ritual. It's made from some very rare ingredients including a drop of unicorns blood and distilled dragons urine and some of Madrials own spit."

"Ewww." Sasporilla said shocked.

Karry picked up the book and started to read. "The Asenamourus potion is the final phase of the Asensionmorphosus Ritual. It will smell pleasant to the wearer and the opposite sex, but will smell foul to those of the same gender. A drop of the potion is applied until a mate is chosen and bonded to the wearer by a kiss."

"So you're saying if Korry kisses Maddy then..." Sassy began and Kerry finished. "Then he's hers forever!"

Karry and Sasporilla searched the castle and feverishly for any sign of either of them. They weren't in any of Hogwarts known make out spots. They weren't in their common rooms and they weren't in the library. The girls found the pair of them down by the lake, laying on thier backs holding hands, watching the clouds and talking.

"Korry!" Sasporilla yelled.

Maddy looked back and waved but Korry seemed not to hear her, or possibly just not care.

"Kormorind Ewan Curtiss come here this instant!" Karry yelled sounding a lot like her mother.

Korry jumped to his feet and ran over to her. "What?"

"You're under the bewitchment of a type of love potion." Karry said taking his hand and pulling him away.

Sasporilla walked up to Madrigal who was getting to her feet.

"What's wrong?" Maddy asked concerned.

"Madrigal," Sassy said holding out her hand. "Give me the bottle of your perfume."

"It's in my trunk in the dorm." Maddy said. "I haven't worn it since you guys asked me to stop."

"Ok next question is personal but it's important you answer honestly." Sassy cringed. "Have you and Korry kissed?"

"No!" Maddy said shaking her head. "I'm not allowed to kiss a boy. The tradition in my family says I can only let a boy kiss me, once I've decided he's the one I want to spend the rest of my life with."

"Maddy." Sasporilla said breathing a sigh of relief. "The perfume is a potion. It's part of the ritual! It's meant to attract your mate."

"What?" Maddy said wide eyed. "I guess it makes sense. My mom and dad met at school, my grand parents, my great grand parents... OH MY GOD! I'm stealing your boy friend!"

"No Maddy it's the perfume," Sasporilla reassured her young friend, "it's not your fault, but we need that perfume. Karry needs it to brew an antidote."

Karry took her love sick brother to the Gryffindor dorm.

"We're going to get you help brother." Karry said. "I just hope we aren't to late."



Chapter 6

It wasn't easy to keep them apart but Sasporilla and Karry kept company with Maddy while Zac and some of Korrys Gryffindor house mates watched him. Karry was working hard brewing an antidote to combat the potion. The formula was complex but manageable for the skill level of a fifth year. The only problem was it was going to take six months to brew! Maddy wanted nothing to do with any of the boys bewitched by her perfume so she spent a lot of time in the girls dorm with Sassy and Karry.

Dueling team try outs had been put off for almost three weeks as the headmistress had problems registering the school with the department of Magical Education sporting division. Some one there kept loosing the application.

The dueling room looked amazing. Three bright spotlights shone down on each of the stages. Lines were painted on the floor showing where official referees stood to monitor the matches. The practice area was big with plenty of room for everyone. Of all the people who came to the first meeting only seventeen remained. The others had lost interest because of the required reading, the time commitment or for whatever other silly reason. They'd all returned their gear to a disappointed Professor McGonagall.

Sasporilla and Karry stood dressed in their dueling uniforms. Karry said they weren't far off the fencing uniforms muggles wore but had more style. Every one was excited to get started. Zac was standing near, in behind Karry. He didn't really find Maddy attractive anymore, and attempted to apologize to Karry several times. She seemed to be warming up to him again because today she didn't move away from him or tell him off.

Korry stood away from them. Sasporilla was really worried because he looked so lonely and confused. She hated seeing him this way.

"All right ladies and gentlemen let's get started." Professor McGonagall smiled dressed as a referee. "I trust everyone has read the rules and has a basic understanding of how the sport works. When I call your name please step up onto the dueling stage in the center. Korry Curtiss & Zacariah Zarcazzian. Zac wasted no time and leapt onto the dueling stage wand drawn saying "Ooooooo Yeah!" like one of his favorite professional duelists. Professor McGonagall looked around

"Korry Curtiss?" She said a bit surprised as she looked at the boy who was staring off into space.

"Mr.Curtiss?" Professor McGonagall said.

"Kormarind Ewan Curtiss." Karry yelled sounding like her mother again. "The Headmistress is talking to you!" Korry shot to attention. It seemed as if the only thing that could snap him out of his trance was his mothers voice. Korry looked at Professor McGonagall who motioned for him to take the stage.

Korry hopped up behind Zac and the boys stood back to back wands drawn. Professor McGonagall took her place at the side of the stage.

"When I blow my whistle you will walk ten paces to the end of the stage, turn and face each other. Salute and take your first positions." The Headmistress said and blew her whistle.

Zac and Korry walked purposefully to the end of the stage and turned to face one another. They placed their wands up before their faces and swung them down and to the right. Both boys then stood, left foot forward, their wands raised above their heads.

"When I blow the whistle again you may begin. Use your best spells and counters. I want to see just how good we are." Professor McGonagall blew her whistle.

"Retrogena." Zac cast.

"Expeliarmus!" Korry cast half heartedly and far to late.

The knee reversal spell that Zac cast made Korry's legs bend backwards and he collapsed painfully banging his face on the stage.

"One point!" Professor McGonagall said holding a flag out in Zac's direction.

Professor Lee-Ashwolf reversed the spell on Korry who stood up and started taking off his gear.

"That's it." Korry said. "I'm done."

"Korry it was a duel." Zac said. "I didn't mean anything by it."

"Ya whatever." Korry said brushing past him. "You and me mate, we're done to."

"Mr.Curtiss!" The Headmistress called. "There is no need for that sort of behavior. You're clearly not cut out for competitive dueling but I will not abide that attitude. Ten points from Gryffindor and you will sit over by the window until after the try outs. I want to speak to you!"

Korry walked over to the window and sat in a huff. He didn't want to have to duel anymore. He only signed up to have a laugh with Zac. He'd rather be with Maddy.

"Now two girls." Professor McGonagall smiled. "Karry Curtis and Penny Lane-Warrol."

Karry and Penny took the stage and walked to their positions. When the whistle blew the fight was on.

"Flippendo" Penny attacked.

"Retrumactare" Karry defended.

"Rictusempra!" Penny attacked.

"Retrosemptra." Karry defended.

Penny's moment of hesitation was all Karry needed.

"Stupify." Karry attacked knocking Penny back and off the stage.

"One point!" Professor McGonagall smiled pointing her flag to Karry.

Professor Slughorn cast a counter curse and brought Penny back around. He helped her to her feet as she shook of the spells effects.

"Good shot!" Penny pointed at Karry.

"Thanks." Karry smiled.

The two took up dueling stances again and the whistle blew.

"Expeliarmus." Both girls cast at the same time knocking their wands out of their hands and off the dueling stage.

"No point." Professor McGonagall said holding up a yellow flag.

The girls were handed their wands back, they took up positions and the whistle blew.

"Petrificus to..." Karry Began but never got the chance to finish.

"Confringo!" Penny cast blowing Karry backwards off the stage.

"One point." Professor McGonagall pointed a flag towards Penny Lane-Warrol.

Karry was winded but ok. Lyra helped her to her feet and checked her over quickly. Karry returned to the dueling stage determined to get the final point.

"Nice one." Karry smiled.

"Thanks." Penny smiled.

The girls took up their positions and the whistle blew.

"Okrenise" Karry attacked as she spun Penny backwards her "Expeliarmus" disarming Zac in the crowd.

"Expeliarmus." Karry cast disarming the girl.

Professor McGonagall called for check of the rule book on this one. Distraction spells were very clearly deemed unsportsman like but the book said nothing on spinning your opponent around to face the other way. It just seemed a bit of a shady win but it was apparently legal.

"Match point Karry Curtiss winner!" Professor McGonagall called.

People applauded as Karry and Penny walked to the center of the stage and shook hands.

"You're good." Penny smiled.

"Thanks." Karry said. "You too."

Pair after pair of students were called up to the stage. It was very clear that some didn't have the skill but had the heart and sportsmanship needed to be duelists while others had skill but were very poor sports indeed. Zac volunteered for a second duel to make up for the odd number of students they had.

"Last up we have Sasporilla Bucket and Jamie-Lynn Campbell." Professor McGonagall smiled.

Jamie-Lynn was a small third year girl from Slytherin with dark hair and pale almost white eyes. The girls took their place on the stage back to back.

"I'm looking forward to hurting you." Jamie-Lynn said quietly as the girls stepped apart and walked to their ends of the stage. The girls turned, saluted and took up dueling positions. Sasporilla looked at the girl who glared at her with hateful glee and wondered what she ever did to her?

The whistle blew.

"ossaconteram!" Jamie-Lynn cast the bone breaking curse.

"Flectere." Sasporilla deflected it easily.

"Gelaebri!" Jamie-Lynn cast the jelly brain jinx.

"Revbasiorum" Sasporilla dispelled the jinx.

"Bombarda!" Jamie-Lynn cast.

"Deflecto!" Sasporilla knocked the explosion into the ceiling and striking a protective barrier.

Jamie looked up in disbelief. She had planned to use the falling debris to help strike her opponent.

"LEVIGRAVASS!" Sasporilla yelled striking the girl lifting her into the air quickly and slamming her hard onto her back.

"One point!" Professor McGonagall help up a flag towards Sasporilla.

Jamie-Lynn stood up and glared at Sasporilla.

"I'll kill you!" Jamie Growled.

"What did I ever do to you?" Sasporilla asked still prepared to defend herself.

"You killed my boy friend!" Jamie-Lynn yelled. "You killed my Billy."

"Billy?" Sasporilla asked lowering her wand for a split second. "Billy Bombaduck?"

"Positions ladies!" Professor McGonagall called.

"Bombarda!" Jamie-Lynn cast through clenched teeth.

"Deflecto." Sasporilla deflected.

"Ladies, decorum!" Professor McGonagall insisted.

"Sectumsemptra!" Jamie cast.

Sasporilla knew no counter for that spell. It cut deep across her abdomen and sliced through the protective suit and left a deep gash in Sassy's tummy.

"Exple..." Sasporilla started casting but was silenced by "Shpeesh!" Sassy had no voice to defend herself. Jamie-Lynn took up her wand and pointed it hatefully at Sasporilla Bucket.

"Avada K..." Jamie-Lynn began but she was hit by seven spells at once silencing her, petrifying her, blowing the girl off the stage into the wall where she fell broken and unconscious.

Professor McGonagall, Professor Slughorn, Professor Lee-Ashwolf, Karry, Zac, Penny and Korry all looked at each other, their wands still raised from defending the wounded Sasporilla.

Lyra walked over and picked up Jamie-Lynn's wand and snapped it half. Professor McGonagall protested as Lyra put hand-cuffs on the girl.

"Sorry Headmistress." Lyra said as she lifted the girl to her feet. "The new D.M.O.M.J. laws are very clear. Under age or not, the use or attempted use of an unforgivable curse is punishable by law. No exceptions."

"Ok everyone the dueling club is over for this week." Professor McGonagall said going over to Sasporilla who lay on the floor. The headmistress cast a quick healing spell to stop the bleeding but the wound was too deep to bind. "Results will be posted Monday at lunch."

Madam Pomfrey made quick work binding the wound in Sasporilla's abdomen but she would have to stay in bed for no less than three days in case it came open again and to cure any unseen internal damage.

Karry and Zac took Korry to the headmistress's office. Korry was unreasonably angry at them.

"Now." Professor McGonagall said. "Just what is going on with your brother Miss Curtiss?"

"He's bewitched by a love potion Professor." Karry said.

"Well that's an easy fix." Professor McGonagall said pulling her wand.

"No wait." Karry tried to stop her.

"Negatamori." The Headmistress cast.

A white light glowed around Korry and lifted from him. Then it took almost human form. The shape of a girl, of Magrival Neelander, and it screamed. A blast of light and hot wind blew everyone from their chairs as the glowing apparition fell back to surround and sink back into Korry's body.

"That is no love potion." Professor McGonagall said. "I've seen this once before, a long time ago, here at Hogwarts. Madrival Neelander's Great Grandmother. This is the Asenamorous potion. Our young Madrival has been forced to undergo the Asensionmorphosis Ritual hasn't she?"

"Maddy says it's a rite of passage in her family." Karry said.

"Maddy." Korry smiled.

"Were you not affected Mr. Zarcazzian?" Professor McGonagall asked.

"Yes mam I was." Zac said. "But a few days ago it just stopped for me. I didn't care anymore. I like Karry, a lot. I was even thinking of asking her to go steady until all of this mess."

"Really?" Karry beamed.

"Ya." Zac said. "I really like you."

"I really like you too." Karry blushed.

"I only know of one way to break this bewitchment but it takes time." Professor McGonagall said worried about the boy.

"I have the antidote brewing." Karry said. "But the book says it will take another few months."

"You are a clever girl." Professor McGonagall smiled. "How is Miss Bucket taking all of this?"

"Who cares." Korry smirked.

"Not well but you know Sasporilla, stiff upper lip." Karry said slapping her brother in the back of the head.

"I will have to have a chat with her." The Headmistress sighed. "I'm afraid I know exactly what she's going through."



Chapter 7

Sasporilla lay in the infirmary, sharp pains coming from the bound wound on her abdomen. She had never heard of any of the spells Jamie-Lynn used. They certainly weren't amongst the ones from the spell book or the dueling manual.

"Hello Madam Pomfrey." The Headmistress smiled pushing a cart with some books on it. "Would it be all right if I visit miss Bucket for a few moments."

"Of course Headmistress." Madam.Pomfrey said. "Just don't let her sit up! Any more movement from that wiggle worm and I'll have to administer a sedative!"

The Headmistress pushed the cart over to Sasporillas bed.

"Good after noon Miss Bucket." Professor McGonagall said. "Please don't sit up. You need your time to heal. I just thought since you are in here for pretty much the rest of the week, that I would bring you some home work from your classes so you don't fall behind."

"Thank you Professor." Sasporilla said. "I mean Headmistress."

"Both are correct so say whatever you're most comfortable with." Professor McGonagall smiled. "How is your stomach."

"Just a bit tender." Sasporilla smiled. It will be much better after a few days."

The Headmistress pulled a vase of flowers out from under the cart. "Thought I'd bring these to brighten up your day a bit."

"Oh my thank you." Sasporilla smiled. "I love Daisies. Thank you that was very thoughtful but you didn't have to."

"Well I wanted to." Minerva McGonagall said taking off her hat. "You were hurt on my watch and I fear we now share a common bond."

"Were you injured dueling mam." Sassy asked.

"Well." Professor McGonagall said taking a deep breath. "Yes many times but that's not what I'm referring to. You see many years ago there was a girl named Bonnaville Crump. She was my best friend and dorm mate when we were in School here. I had a boyfriend named Earl back then. He was my first love."

"Did you marry him?" Sasporilla asked.

"No." Professor McGonagall said. "But, and this is our little secret, he was the first boy I ever kissed. To this day, that memory is my strongest and happiest memory."

"Do you use it for your Patronus?" Sassy asked.

"I do!" The Headmistress smiled shyly.

"It was mine too." Sassy sighed.

"Well dear this is why I'm telling you this story. When we came back for second year I was still a small mousy girl but Bonnaville came back nearly grown. I thought she'd just had the greatest growth spurt in history but it turns out she underwent the Asensionmorphosus Ritual. She was tall and buxom and beautiful and all the boys couldn't get enough of her. I remember she wore this ghastly perfume."

"The Asenamourus potion." Sasporilla said sadly.

"Yes." Professor McGonagall said. "Back then we didn't know what it was or how to counter it. I wish I'd had a friend like your Karry back then. I lost Earl Neelander to Bonnavilles bewitchment. It broke my heart at the time. I've gotten past it now, but it took a very long time."

"Did Bonnaville know what the Asenamourus potion did?" Sassy asked.

"Yes she did." Professor McGonagall nodded. "She didn't care which boy she bewitched, or who's boy friend she stole. She only cared that she found a boy to kiss and cement her transformation."

"What?" Sassy asked.

"Oh yes." The headmistress said. "The Asensionmorphosus Ritual doesn't just cause you to develop quickly, it also causes you become beautiful. At least on the outside. The boys they ensnare become their mates for life. Unable to leave the relationship they become slaves to their love."

"Is it possible Maddy knew none of this?" Sasporilla asked. "Could her mother have kept the truth from here?"

"It is possible." Professor McGonagall said. "Though I don't know why her mother would hide it from her?"

"What happens if Madrigal doesn't kiss a bewitched boy?" Sassy asked.

"She will become a twelve year old girl again but rather than growing up pretty she will grow ugly and age quicker."

"That's horrible." Sasporilla said.

"That is why the Asensionmorphosus Ritual is also known as the Asensionmorphosus Curse."



Chapter 8

Saturday was one of the big days everyone waited for. It was the day everyone with permission could go to Hogsmead.

Sasporilla was excited to be out of the infirmary. She went back to the Hufflepuff dorm and got dressed for the trip into town. She wanted to start her Christmas shopping and maybe pick up some sweets. She loved chocolate and Honeydukes had some of the best.

Sasporilla met Karry and Maddy in the common room. Karry was trying to console the girl who was visibly upset.

"So you're saying." Maddy asked. "That if I kiss a boy who likes me I enslave him and stay beautiful but if I don't kiss him I'll go back to being twelve and grow up ugly?"

"And age much faster and die younger." Karry said.

"This is an absolute nightmare!" Maddy cried and ran off to her room.

"Poor thing." Sasporilla said. "I was really mad at her at first but now?"

"I know." Karry said. "I feel for her, but I'm more worried about Korry."

"Is he still crabby?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yes but I'm hoping that will be over once the antidote is brewed." Karry smiled.

"Is he coming with us?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yes." Karry said. "Korry and Zac are escorting us to town."

Korry and Zac met Sassy and Karry in the court yard where the students gathered.

"Hi you." Zac smiled.

"Hi you." Karry smiled back.

Looked like everything was back to normal with them. Sasporilla was genuinely glad for her best friend.

"Hi." Sassy smiled at Korry. "Can we talk?"

"Why not." Korry said walking off with her.

"I just want to see how you are?" Sassy asked.

"I'm fine." Korry snapped. "I wish people would realize that I'm not under any spell! I just like Maddy now ok? I don't want to be your boy friend any more! Actually, I want you to give me back the locket. Maddy deserves it more than you."

"Ok." Sasporilla said reaching up behind her neck and unclasped the chain. She let it drop from her neck and into her hand. Sassy handed Korry the locket.

"What the?" Karry yelled. "What are you doing?"

"It's ok Sassy said sadly walking back to Karry. "Your brother was very clear. He doesn't like me anymore and wanted his locket back."

"That was a birthday present!" Karry yelled.

"Do you think Maddy will like it?" Korry asked.

"I hope she loves it as much as I did." Sasporilla said.

Karry was furious with her brother. She screamed at him the whole way to Hogsmead. Zac tried to hold Karry's hand as they walked to Hogsmead but she was far too animated. Sasporilla walked behind starting to wonder if Myron was wrong. It seemed it could rain all the time.

Hogsmead was alive with activity as students from Hogwarts flooded the town. Honeydukes was too full to even get inside of. Zac and Karry decided to window shop. Best way to hold hands and walk around without having

people try to push between them. Korry went off with Paul and Harold Bean, two brothers from Gryffindor who he'd started to hang out with. Sassy was curious to visit some of the small shops she had never been in. Skylar's Broom Shoppe was just a tiny little hole in the wall but it was crammed with new and used brooms and riding equipment. The shop bell rang as Sassy walked in. The pungent sent of old exotic woods and leathers filled her nose.

"Hi!" Penny smiled and waved from behind the counter.

"Penny?" Sasporilla smiled. "What are you doing here?"

"My uncle owns the shop." Penny said. "He never gets a day off so I said I'd work in the shop for him while he went out for a ride."

"That's nice of you." Sassy said looking at some of the new and used jackets.

"Thinking of buying some riding gear?" Penny asked.

"Thinking of getting on my broom and just going far away." Sassy said.

"Why?" Penny asked. "What's wrong?"

Sasporilla burst into tears as she told Penny all about her troubles. Starting with the deaths of her parents all the way to the Korry taking the locket back. Penny sat Sasporilla down behind the counter on her uncles stool. She made them a warm cup of tea.

"I know life can be hard." Penny said. "My family is in and out of jail. I've lived with more relatives and been to more schools than I can count. So when you say you just want to hop on your broom and ride away from it all. I get it! I really do!"

"Thanks for listening." Sassy smiled a bit.

"Come with me." Penny smiled as she pulled her sad friend over to a rack of used leather gear. "I saw these this morning and I thought they were just about your size."

Penny pulled a leather jacket and chaps off the rack. They were used but well cared for black leathers with pink fringe and wild pink adornments.

"Wow those are nice." Sassy said. "But I don't think they're quite me."

"Are you kidding?" Penny laughed. "These scream Sasporilla Bucket!"

"Just mean I'm not really a leather person." Sassy said.

"Helps to protect you against wind and weather." Penny said. "Plus they can keep you warm and protect you from skin damage if you crash. Broomers don't just wear them for style. They're important protective gear. A set of these and a pair of goggles are standard."

"You don't wear them." Sassy said.

"Not for riding around the Hogwarts grounds." Penny smiled. "That's just a fun jaunt. Not real broom riding."

"I'll think about them." Sassy said. "How much are those?"

"Let's see." Penny said looking for the price tags. "9 Gallions 5 Knuts and on the fifty percent off rack so 4 gallions 7ish?"

"That's actually a good deal." Sassy said. "Maybe I'll try them on."

Thirty minutes and ten gallions later Sassy emerged from Skylar's Broom Shoppe wearing a new pair of pink denims and riding boots, her leather jacket and carrying her chaps and a pair of goggles in a bag. She walked along feeling a bit better. Mrs. Curtiss was right. Sometimes retail therapy was best. She could stow the gear in her saddle bags. They had a lot of space. More than they appeared to have. Magic was so cool.

"Sassy?" Karry couldn't believe her eyes when she saw her friend. "Is that really you."

Sasporilla posed and turned. To show off her out fit. "How do I look?"

"Like a broomer chick." Karry said. "What were you thinking?"

"I needed some protective gear in case I go for a good long ride. Lately I've been thinking about that a lot."

Sasporilla said.

"Oh no!" Karry said taking her friend by the arm. "You're staying here with me."



Chapter 9

Monday lunch found Sasporilla Bucket, Karry and Zac standing amongst the crowd of students awaiting the dueling club try out results. As promised a scroll appeared on the wall outside the dueling club room. It unrolled and presented them with the twelve names of the successful duelists chosen to represent Hogwarts in this years inter school competitions.

Hogwarts Competitive Dueling Club

TRY OUT RESULTS

The Names listed below are the successful applicants to join this years Competitive Dueling Club. Thank you everyone who tried

BOYS TEAM

Zacariah Zarcazzian - Captain

Gideon Barnswagbe

Adam Lasheedah

Maxamillian Shaw

Owen Holland

Flunko Jippsum

GIRLS TEAM

Karry Curtiss - Captain

Penny Lane-Warrol

Jillian Hoodwink

Robyn Sizzamore

Sasporilla Bucket

Ginger Marjolaine

"Whoooo!" Sasporilla smiled. "I made it!"

"I can't believe they didn't make you captain!" Karry protested. "Why me."

"Because you're brilliant!" Penny said. "You beat me very creatively."

"Yes!" Sassy said. "You think fast on your feet. Look at me, I got cut open and shut down."

"You were being attacked for real by a psycho." Karry said. "Maybe we should approach dueling from that mind set."

"How do you mean?" Penny asked.

"Always assume your opponent is trying to kill you." Karry smiled.

"You are brilliant." Sassy said. "If I thought that of her I'd have fought differently."

"Me too." Penny said. "That Karry, is why they made you Captain."

Lunch consisted of American treats. Hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken and a selection of rich barbequed foods. Professor Lee-Ashwolf was in heaven as she munched away on the familiar foods of her homeland up at the head table.

Sassy walked up to the head table and addressed her friend. "Excuse me Professor Lee-Ashwolf."

"Sup Sassy." Lyra said with her mouth full.

"Dude if you keep eating like that you're going to need a larger wardrobe with a hole in your pants for your curly tail to stick out!"

"Go sit down you nut!" Lyra laughed.

As Sasporilla walked away laughing she felt a chicken leg hit her in the back of the head.

Sassy turned as Lyra looked away as if she was trying to see who through it.

"Oh ho ho." Sassy smirked. "It's on!"

Sasporilla grabbed a hamburger from the pile and flung it at Lyra. Lyra ducked and tossed her piece of pecan pie at Sasporilla, who dodged. The pie struck Karry in the side of the head. Karry looked at Lyra and waved her wand hurling the contents of a crock of baked beans at Lyra which locked on to the Professor like a heat seeking missile.

Someone yelled "FOOD FIGHT!" and the battle was on and no one was safe. This food fight would become legendary leaving stains in the great hall for generations.

It started with a piece of fried chicken and ended with a piece of fried chicken. The Headmistress entered the great hall and gasped at the sight of food flying in all directions. A piece of fried chicken hit her right in her gaping gob. Professor McGonagall was not impressed. She placed her wand up to her neck as she spat out the chicken.

"Stop this at once!" She ordered nearly deafening the children.

"Oh shoot." Lyra said.... sort of.

"What is going on here?" Professor McGonagall screamed. "Your behavior is UNACCEPTABLE! You're like a mob of marauding monkeys making mischief, oblivious to your own obvious offences! I expect each one of you to go change into clean robes and report here for detention after classes to help clean up this mess."

A donut fell from the ceiling and landed on the tip of Professor McGonagall's hat. Nobody dared laugh but Sasporilla and Lyra who found it hilarious.

"As for you Ms. Lee-Ashwolf I believe I will be reinstating the five thousand nine hundred and seventy two hours of detention you owe me!" Professor McGonagall growled. "You will report here every afternoon until I find nothing left for you to clean!"

"Headmistress I have something to say." Lyra said leaning in. "It was worth it just to Sasporilla smile for the first time all year!"

Zac walked Karry to Defence Against the Dark Arts class. The young friends were officially a couple again. They held hands as they walked down the Hogwarts hall towards class.

"I'm glad we made up." Zac said.

"Me too." Karry smiled.

"I just wish we could fix Korry." Zac said concerned for his friend. "This Asenamorous potion is pretty powerful magic."

"I'm hoping we're not too late." Karry said. "I feel it's probably already too late for him to fix the damage he's done to Sasporilla."

"She knows it's not his fault." Zac said.

"Yes," Karry agreed, "but the things that have been said, the things that have been done? Spell or not they leave scars, break trusts, sever bonds."

"Well this is it." Zac smiled outside the Defence against the dark arts room. "Have a good class."

"I plan to." Karry said giving Zac a kiss.

The frumpy girl who lived alone in the dorms pushed passed into the class room.

"She's a weird one." Zac said.

"I know." Karry said. "I've never heard her speak. Don't think I've ever even seen her face. She's always got that mess of dark hair in front of it."

"People say she's a deaf mute." Zac said.

"I've heard that rumor." Karry smiled. "Well I have to go."

Zac waved as he walked off to class. Karry watched him walk away. As she turned to go into class she dropped a small piece of paper. Karry didn't recognize it or know where it came from. She picked it up and read it. "Old magic, the most powerful magic."

Karry went in to class. The weird girl sat in her usual seat at the back of the room in the far corner. Karry walked over to her desk.

"Excuse me." Karry said.

The girl turned to look in Karry's direction, but her face was well hidden behind that mane of dark hair.

"If you need to push past someone you need to say excuse me." Karry said.

The girl put her head down on the desk but remained silent. Karry through her hands up and walked away in frustration. The strange girl with dark hair made a kissy sound. Karry stopped and turned but the girl was still head down on the desk.

"Are you kissing your desk?" Karry asked very weirded out. "You are strange."

"Ok take your seats." Professor Lee-Ashwolf said.

Karry took her seat and looked up seeing the professor was still covered in food stains.

"Good to see everyone has changed into clean robes." Lyra said. "As you can see I have not as message from the Headmistress not to encourage you to act like the little animals you are."

Karry covered her wide smile. There were still brown baked beans in the professors hair and a mustard stain on her right cheek.

"Today's lesson," professor Lee-Ashwolf began, "silent spell casting. There is actually no need to announce your spell. The verbal element of a cast spell can just as easily be by thought as you wave your wands."

The professor swished and flicked her wand and a crock of baked beans levitated from behind her desk and across the class and came to a halt over Karry's head.

"The secret of course like all spells is not to lose your concentration." Lyra said smiling. "Who talked to the girl in the back? Everyone is to just leave her alone. Do you all understand me?"

The class nodded.

"Good now where was I?" Lyra asked, the crock of beans teetering over Karry's head. "Oh yes. I better bring those beans back. Wouldn't want them dumping on anyone's head would we."

Karry was finally able to take a breath as the crock removed itself from above her head and floated back to the professor's desk.

"Now everyone practice levitating your text books, without verbalization!" Professor Lee-Ashwolf said.

Books raised from desks. The professor was most impressed few could achieve silent spell casting first time out. Most of these students fought in the battle of Hogwarts, so they knew what spell focus was all about. Lyra turned her back for one minute to wipe some of the mustard from her face before it became crusty.

The crock of beans lifted silently from the desk and hovered above Professor Lee-Ashwolf. Karry turned to see the weird girl with dark hair was the student levitating the beans. Karry shook her head no. The girl nodded her head yes. Karry tried waving her off, but the weird girl's mind was made up. The crock dumped over and poured baked beans onto the head of professor Lee-Ashwolf. Lyra looked up as the crock dropped to the floor and broke. Karry sat there stunned. The weird girl dropped her head back down to the table.

"Miss Curtiss!" Professor Lee-Ashwolf said. "Did you find that funny?"

"I didn't..." Karry said.

"Well I'm impressed, I found it funny!" Lyra laughed. "But you get to stay after class with me! Detention!"

After class Karry stayed in her seat and pondered the note she'd found before class. "Old magic, the most powerful magic."

"Professor?" Karry asked. "What is the oldest most powerful magic?"

"That is a very good question." Lyra said. "I'll answer it by asking you what is the one thing witches, wizards, and muggles alike all feel and share. You see it in a mother's eyes and her baby's eyes alike. It is carried on a word, felt in the heart and sealed with a kiss?"

"Love?" Karry asked.

"Love!" Lyra said. "Why do you think so many old dark spells are undone by a kiss?"

"Oh my god!" Karry yelled. "Of course. It's worth a try! You're brilliant professor!"

Karry gathered her things and got up to leave.

"Where do you think you're going miss Curtiss?" Professor Lee-Ashwolf asked. "You're in detention remember."

"Excuse me professor but I might have hit on how to break my brother's bewitchment." Karry said standing to leave.

"I'll do a full week of detention if you let me leave now."

"Go!" Lyra smiled. "I'm sick of you all ready!"

Karry ran faster than she had ever run before. She knew everyone would be in the great hall serving detention for the great food fight. Sassy was nearest the hall wiping barbecue sauce off door frame.

"Sasporilla!" Karry yelled. "Sassy!"

Sasporilla turned around to see her best friend running down the hall at her. Karry stopped and put her hands on Sasporilla's shoulders.

"Where's Korry." Karry asked.

"Inside cleaning." Sasporilla said concerned.

"I may have figured out how to break the spell without the antidote." Karry smiled.

"Tell me how." Sasporilla asked.

"Tough Question." Karry asked. "Do you love my brother?"

"I really like him." Sasporilla blushed.

"Sasporilla I need you to be honest with me!" Karry insisted.

"Ok!" Sassy said throwing her head back dying of embarrassment. "Yes I love him. I have from the day we met. Ok?"

Karry hugged her friend. "I need you to kiss him. A loving kiss."

"What?" Sassy said. "He won't want that."

"It's old magic." Karry said. "Your love just might break the bewitchment."

The girls walked over to Korry who was busy pulling bits of hot dogs out of the candelabras.

"Korry." Sasporilla said.

Korry turned around exasperated. "What?"

"Don't talk just listen." Sasporilla said. "I need you to hear what I have to say. I believe you when you say you don't like me any more. I just need you to know that I love you. I have since the day we met and will until the day I die. This will either be a hello or it will be a goodbye."

Sasporilla took his head in her hands and kissed him lovingly. Korry struggled at first and then he melted into the kiss and kissed her back. Sassy pulled away slowly eyes closed. When she opened them Korry was looking at her a bit confused but smiling.

"Sassy?" Korry shook the cobwebs from his head. "I... what happened?"

"Hi." Sasporilla said.

"Hi." Korry smiled and kissed his girl friend again.



Chapter 10

Dueling club was something Sasporilla Bucket looked forward too every week. The new spells and the study of strategy combined with Karrys leadership as team captain made it an exhilarating experience. The fifth years started having a bit of trouble as all spells had to be announced when dueling yet they were learning to cast without verbalizing. It was a hard to keep it all straight.

Though Sassy was a fourth year Karry explained a couple of things she had learned about defending against silent spells.

"The tip of your opponents wand will glow a certain colour once the spell begins to cast." Karry said. "Charms are white, Hexes purple, Jinxes are blue, curses are green.

Spells can be any colour but the commonality is attack spells are green and defence spells are red. If you can see the colour of the glow on the wand tip then you have a better chance to cast a counter. Oh and Sassy."

"Yes?" Sasporilla was surprised to be singled out.

"Do you remember what you did that time in dueling club?" Karry asked. "You know where you moved so fast!"

"Yes." Sasporilla hung her head still ashamed. "That was when I hurt Ron Weasley."

"Exactly!" Karry smiled. "Practice that quick draw but try and tone down the intensity in the end."

'Okie dokie, I'll try but I won't make any promises." Sasporilla smiled.

"Students!" The headmistress called walking in waving a piece of paper. "I have an announcement!"

Everyone gathered around Professor McGonagall who grinned brightly from ear to ear.

"We have just received an official invitation to the European School Wizarding Duel Round Robin. It is being held in Geneva Switzerland on March fifteenth. You'll need to each take a permission slip and have your parent or guardian sign it so you can attend. Now lets get in some good practice before Christmas break!"

Karry and Sassy were dueling partners. Sassy concentrated on the fabric of magic as it gathered at the end of Karrys wand. She saw it change to a purple. A hex! Sassy cast a general counter hex and deflected the spell as it left the tip of Karrys wand.

"Wow!" Karry said. "That was fast but I barely heard the counter hex."

"It's like time slows for me." Sasporilla said. "Once I'm in that state I just do everything fast."

"Ok." Karry said. "Try to deflect all of these. I'm going to go as fast as I can."

Karry cast Jinx after hex after spell. Sasporilla deflected everything cast at her. Professor McGonagall couldn't believe her eyes. Sasporilla Bucket was moving so fast.

"That is very impressive." Professor McGonagall said. "Is that one of your elven gifts Miss Bucket?"

"I think so Professor." Sasporilla said. "Karry asked me to practice it."

"I can see why." The headmistress said. "But the use of elven magic or abilities are illegal in competitive dueling I'm afraid."

"Really?" Karry protested. "That wasn't in the book?"

"No it's not in the guide but it is in the official rule book." Professor McGonagall said.

"May I borrow the book over the Christmas break professor?" Karry asked. "As girls team captain I feel it would be advantageous to know all the rules."

"I agree." The headmistress smiled handing Karry the very large and heavy official competitive dueling rule book. Karry pressed her nose firmly into the rule book and was only half way through as they took the Hogwarts express home for Christmas break. Sassy sat next to Karry on the train and Zac sat across from her next to Korry. Maddy walked past the compartment and looked in sadly but didn't dare come in.

Korry stood up and slid the door open. "Maddy, you can come in."

"Are you sure?" Madrigal asked.

"Yes." Korry insisted. "The bewitchment is broken."

Maddy walked in and waved shyly.

"Hi Maddy." Sasporilla said. "Lool I don't want things to be weird with us. We're friends. I don't blame you for any of this."

"That's nice of you to say Sasporilla but I don't know how you can't hate me." Maddy said. "I almost stole your boy friend."

"No." Korry said. "Yes I was bewitched but I read the chapter from Karry's book and I've been think on this for a short while. That spell is directed for you not just to find a mate. It's to find your soul mate."

"Really?" Maddy said surprised.

"Now I'm not bewitched anymore but I still feel really close to you. I really like you Maddy and I really like you Sassy."

Maddy and Sasporilla just stared at Korry. Karry slammed the rule book closed.

"What are you saying my stupidest brother?" Karry asked.

"I'm saying now that my head is clear," Korry sighed, "I need to make a decision. Maddy or Sasporilla."

Maddy stood up. "I'm sorry Sassy. I must still be bewitching him. I don't want this."

Maddy left the car and Korry went after her. "No Maddy." Korry said. "I am not under your spell. I am thinking very clearly. I am not going to kiss either of you until I make my choice. If I was bewitched I would want to kiss you more than life itself."

"So you mean you really like me?" Maddy smiled.

"I do." Korry smiled. "And I like Sassy. I need to figure out in my heart which one of you I truly love."

Mr. And Mrs. Curtiss picked the kids up at Kings Cross station. Zac walked Karry to the car. Sasporilla was surprised to find both Buster and Porridge in the van. She climbed into the back with the dogs and giggled as she got kisses. Korry walked Maddy to her parents car. They were very pleased to meet him. Maddy had written about Korry in her letters earlier in the year. She hadn't mentioned him in a while so they were glad he was still in the game. He seemed like a nice boy. He would make their little Madrigal a good husband.

Karry kissed Zac and wished him a Happy Christmas then he helped her into the van. Everybody buckled up.

"Where is your brother?" Mrs. Curtiss asked.

"With his new girl friend." Sasporilla said.

"What?" Kolleen Curtiss asked. "What happened?"

"It's a long story mom." Karry said. "I'll fill you in at home."

Sasporilla just cried quietly. The dogs tried to comfort the sad girl but it was of little use. They just lay in her lap and let the sad girl pet them.

Korry jumped in and buckled up. "Ok I'm here."

The Curtiss women glared at him.

"What did I do?" Korry asked cluelessly.

The Curtiss' dropped Sassy and Karry off at number four Castle Road and went on home. Sassy had to pick up a few things. Uncle Nick was out of town on a case and had arranged for Sasporilla to stay with the Curtiss family over Christmas.

"I can't believe my stupid brother." Karry screamed.

"I said it before." Sasporilla said. "I don't own him, and he doesn't own me. If he needs to decide between Maddy or me then let him make his decision. What he needs to understand is would Maddy or I want a boy that had to make a decision? I mean he should know in his heart."

"Oh Sassy." Karry said. "I keep hoping this is part of the bewitchment. Maybe once the antidote is ready in a couple of months all of this will change."

"Maybe." Sasporilla said packing some delicacies in a bag with some clean clothes and her make up kit. "Ok, ready to go."

The girls walked down the street to the Curtiss household. Kay was out front trying to build a snow man with what had fallen. She needed to borrow a bit of snow from a few yards but was well on her way to making a nice snow man.

"Hey there Outsiders?" Kay smiled. "How are girls?"

"Business as usual." Sasporilla chuckled.

"Why what's wrong now?" Kay asked.

"Might as well come in." Karry said. "I need to talk to mom about it anyway."

Kay, Karry and Kolleen went into the kitchen to discuss what had happened at school. Sasporilla sat on the floor by the Christmas tree wrapping the last of the gifts she had for her friends.

"Hi." Korry said coming in and sitting on the couch. "Want to talk?"

"Go ahead?" Sassy said continuing to wrap. "I want to finish this."

"I just want you to know I do really like you Sasporilla." Korry smiled.

"I know." Sassy said.

"I just need to be honest with both of you and myself." Korry insisted.

"I appreciate that." Sassy said coldly.

"I know you're mad." Korry said.

"I'm not mad." Sassy said putting the last of the gifts under the tree and putting the gift wrap, sticky tape and scissors under the tree. "I'm bloody heart broken Korry Curtiss."

"I'm sorry." Korry said.

"Look." Sasporilla said. "You take as much time as you need to decide. Just promise me you won't make any decision until Karry finishes the antidote. Just to make sure."

"Fair enough." Korry said. "Will you still be there by then?"

"Well." Sasporilla said. "That's my decision isn't it."



Chapter 11

No one saw Sasporilla slip out of the house with her broom. She cast "Ocasum Celare" and activated the brooms cloaking. She took off into the cold night sky and flew around the city dipping down onto quiet streets to see the Christmas lights going by. Sasporilla was sad and taking her broom for a ride cleared her head, usually. Sassy stayed out until she was cold then came back to Castle road.

Sasporilla landed her broom and canceled the cloaking spell. When she walked in Korry was sitting with his parents talking quietly. Karry was sitting on the stair case.

"Where have you been?" Karry asked. "We've been worried sick!"

"I went for a ride." Sasporilla said. "Looked at the Christmas lights."

"Alone?" Karry asked.

"I needed to be alone for a bit." Sasporilla said.

"Sassy thank god!" Kolleen said hugging the girl. "No matter how stupid my son is please don't run ofc like that again. If anything happened to you I don't think I could deal with it."

"I'm sorry Mrs.Curtiss." Sasporilla apologized. "I just needed to go for a ride to clear my head."

"Yes I understand." Kolleen said. "Ok up to bed the two of you. I'll fix you some hot chocolate and bring it up."

"Thanks mom." Karry smiled.

"Yes thank you Mrs.Curtiss." Sassy smiled.

Kolleen watched the girls go upstairs as she was joined by her Husband.

"This is an awkward situation." Alex Curtiss said hugging his wife.

"I'm grateful to Sasporilla for breaking the spell on Korry but how do we tell her we have to support our sons decision, No matter what. Am I a bad person for caring more about our sons happiness over hers?"

"Yes." Alex said. "You're positively horrid."

"I see some one wants a lump of coal in his stocking." Kolleen Curtiss smiled flicking her husbands nose.

Karrys room was very girly, done up in pinks and frills. Karry collapsed on her bed and Sassy sat on the edge of the day bed. Porridge and Buster followed them in and jumped up on the beds of their girls.

"What did you get Zac for Christmas?" Sasporilla asked her friend.

"He's coming to dinner tomorrow." Karry smiled. "We'll exchange gifts after dinner."

"Cool." Sassy smiled rubbing Buster insisting he was the best boy. "But what did you get him?"

"We're giving each other promise rings." Karry said. "We picked them out in Hogsmead."

"Oh my God!" Sasporilla said running over and giving her friend a hug. "I am so happy for you."

"Thanks." Karry said. "It just seems like a bad time what with you and Korry."

"The world doesn't revolve around me." Sasporilla said. "I'll have bad times and good times. I'm just happy to have a good friend like you to share them with."

"You sappy sod." Karry laughed. "Give me a hug."

Kay walked in on the two girls hugging. "Hey I know your man's done you wrong but no need to switch teams."

Kay laughed. "Moms bringing the hot chocolate so I thought I'd come up and get in on it."

"Ok here we go." Mrs.Curtiss said bringing in a tray of mugs. "Fresh hot chocolate for girls only. The boys can fend for themselves!"

Everyone grabbed a mug. Mrs.Curtiss' hot chocolate was legendarily good. One did not just sip it but slide into it like a warm bath. It warmed the insides like a hug for your soul.

Idle chit chat and girl talk turned to affairs of the heart. Karry regaled her mother and sister with the intimate details of her relationship with Zac. It had not gone past kissing which made Mrs.Curtiss very happy but she knew her daughter was nearly sixteen and that seemed to be the age when the girls in her family started to take relationships further.

"So any way Zac and I have gotten each other promise rings for Christmas." Karry said. "So after tomorrow we'll be officially going steady."

"Woohoo!" Kay yelled. "My baby sisters going steady. With a boy! You owe me 5 pounds mum."

"Shut it you!" Kollen laughed.

"What about you Sasporilla?" Kay asked not thinking.

"No." Sassy said. "I'm not interested in going steady with Karry."

Everyone burst into laughter.

"It's good to see you can laugh." Kolleen said.

"Might as well." Sasporilla said. "We've all cried enough for one life."

"Yes we have." Kolleen said. "You are an old soul Sasporilla Bucket. It's moments like this you remind me very much of your mother."

"Thank you." Sassy said. "I miss her."

"Me too." Kollen smiled.

"I don't want you all to feel sorry for me." Sasporilla said.

"No we don't." Kay said as Karry kicked her sister. "Ow!"

"And I don't want you giving Korry a hard time over this. He's entitled to make his choice in love, same as any of us." Sasporilla said stiffly.

"The heart wants what the heart wants." Kolleen Curtis agreed.

"And," Karry said, "the foot gives what the arse deserves."

Sasporilla burst into laughter and fell back on the floor laughing so hard she couldn't breath.

"Grand mothers favorite line." Kay said. "Nice. You're going steady for one day and you're turning into our grandmother."

Karry lashed out at her big sister who grabbed her and started tickling her baby sister.

"Don't make her pee!" Kolleen yelled. "I just cleaned the rug!"

Sasporilla was still laughing, begging for them breathlessly to stop making her laugh.

"All right!" Kolleen said. "Wash, brush, jamies, bed."

Sasporilla and Karry got ready for bed. Karry snuggled into her bed while Sasporilla fought with Buster for one foot of bed space. "Buster move! Don't be a bed piggy!"

Buster got up and moved with a disgruntled huff of objection. Sassy jumped into the day bed quickly before the dog changed his mind.

The girls talked late into the night. They compared their hopes and dreams. Critiqued each others ambitions and laughed about the subtleties of cluelessness in boys until in a moment of silence both girls drifted off into slumber.



Chapter 12

Sasporilla and Karry walk up late Christmas morning. By the time they came down stairs everyone was sitting there waiting for them.

"Good morning sleepy heads!" Mr.Curtiss smiled kissing his youngest daughter on the top of the head. "Happy Christmas honey."

"Happy Christmas dad." Karry smiled. "Happy Christmas mom."

"Yes dear happy Christmas." Mrs.Curtiss said. "Happy Christmas Sasporilla."

"Thank you." Sasporilla smiled. "Happy Christmas Mrs.Curtiss, Mr.Curtiss, Karry, Korry, Kay."

"Ya, ya, ya." Kay said. "Happy Christmas everyone let's get into the prezies!!!!"

New Clothes, hats, mittens and coats seemed to be the most common gifts. New make up kits for the girls. Socks and ties for the boys. Mrs.Curtiss got a new dress that she'd had her eye on for months and new necklace with matching earrings. She was ecstatic.

Karry got a big surprise box that she unwrapped next to the tree. Zac climbed out of it and handed her a small box. Karry reached into the tree branches and pulled out a small box for him too.

Zac and Karry opened them. Zac slipped Karrys promise ring on her finger and Karry slipped Zac's onto his finger.

"Happy Christmas my love." Zac smiled.

"Happy Christmas darling." Karry said.

They sealed the symbolism of their commitment with a deep passionate kiss.

"Oh get a room." Kay laughed.

"No!" Mrs.Curtiss objected. "Do not get a room! Stay exactly where I can keep my eyes on the pair of you!"

Korry got his dad 4 tickets to an DWG event in Bristol. Mr.Curtiss was gleeful at the sight of them. The show was in a few days so he would have to make plans to go.

Sasporilla gave Korry a gift that he never expected. The new Chocolate frogs were out with wizard cards celebrating the heroes of the battle of Hogwarts and the second Wizarding war. She got him a case of unopened chocolate frogs, cards inside but she also got him the official display book for the cards. Inside, on the front page was a card depicting him and another depicting Sasporilla.

"Oh my god!" Korry yelled. "I can't believe you got your hands on these early! They don't come out for weeks? How did you get them???"

"Mr.Honeyduke made a special order for me." Sassy smiled happy Korry liked her gift. "A distributor friend of his owed him a favor."

"Well I love it thank you." Korry said.

A knock came at the window. The Curtiss' looked over to see an owl at the window carrying a package. Korry went over and opened the window. The owl dropped the package into his hands and flew off.

"Who's it for son?" Mr.Curtiss asked.

"It's for me." Korry said. "It's from Maddy."

Korry pulled off the shiny foil gift wrap. Inside was a picture of Madrigal Neelander in a very nice frame.

"Wow!" Korry said showing everyone the picture. "Isn't this thoughtful. Just beautiful."

"Absolutely lovely." Mr.Curtiss smiled awkwardly.

"Yes dear very nice." Mrs.Curtiss said trying to avoid a scene. "Wait, what is that she's wearing?"

"That's the locket your son took back from his real girl friend to give to his floozy." Karry said.

"Oh Korry you didn't?" Mrs.Curtiss asked disappointed.

"Yes but that was when I was still bewitched." Korry defended himself.

"Then why haven't you asked for it back?" Karry insisted still very angry with her brother.

"Please stop." Sasporilla said. "I don't want people fighting because of me."

Sasporilla stood up and walked up stairs. She packed away the few of her things that were out and leashed up Buster.

"Sasporilla." Mr.Curtiss said from behind her. "I'm sorry for all this drama."

"I'm sorry for causing it sir." Sasporilla said.

"Look." Mr.Curtiss smiled compassionately. "Mrs.Curtiss and I think of you like one of our daughters."

"Thank you sir." Sasporilla said politely.

"We don't want you to go but if you want to go home I then I understand."

"Thanks." Sassy smiled sadly.

"But you're too young to stay alone. I'm sending Karry and Kay with you until I can contact someone to stay with you. Ok?" Mr.Curtiss asked.

"Ok." Sasporilla agreed.

As Alex Curtiss got up to leave, Sasporilla plucked up the courage to speak frankly. "Mr.Curtiss. Korry is your son. Whether he decides he loves me or Maddy, I want you to support his choice. Please."

"Strong girl." Alex Curtiss admired the young Pink haired witch. "I have to support his choices. I don't have to agree with them."

Once into the hall Mr.Curtiss had to yell, louder than the yelling coming from downstairs, so they could be heard.

"Karry, Kay! Pack an over night bag! You're staying with Sassy at her house tonight!"

It took a few moments to get their things put away. Karry and Sassy would be sharing a bed, Kay would be sleeping in the master bedroom. Zac sat down in the living room giving the girls a chance to get settled. There were a few gifts under the small Christmas tree in Sassy's house. Kay brought the rest of Sassy and Busters gifts back to put under the tree with the other few.

There was a big box from Uncle Nick. Inside was a long purple hooded cloak with wide pink Celtic knot work trim. Sasporilla tried it on. It felt a bit small at first and she adjusted to fit her perfectly.

"That's a O'Brien life cloak!" Kay said. "It will adjust to your size and last for as long as you live. They're really expensive."

"I absolutely love it!" Sasporilla said spinning around in it. Buster chewed on his new ball.

"Who's the big one from?" Karry asked.

Sasporilla walked around the tree and pulled the wrapping off a well worn old brown leather trunk. The tag read 'To Miss Bucket from Mr.Olivander. please open outside!'

Sassy levitated the trunk into the back yard. Buster was happy to get outside for pee. Sassy popped the latch open and the trunk lid flew back. A small market stall appeared around the trunk. It had a counter, a series of racks and shelves a desk for.... wand repairs.

"This must be Mr.Olivander's original wand stall. He said he sold in small markets before he got the shop!"

Sasporilla smiled as she looked under the counter finding a sign meant to be hung up.

"What does it say?" Karry asked.

"Bucket Wands!" Sassy smiled.

When the trunk lid was closed the stall disappeared back inside. Sassy took the trunk back inside and placed it back under the tree. The last gift was from Korry. Sasporilla picked up the small box and looked at it. She placed it back under the tree.

"Aren't you going to open it?" Zac asked.

"No." Sasporilla said. "Not right now."

"I think you should." Kay said. "He obviously got it for you and I know your head over heels for the brat, even if he is acting stupid!"

"Maybe later." Sassy said.

"Ya why rush." Karry said. "He'll just demand it back after dinner."

Sasporilla started to cry.

Sassy, Karry and Kay were escorted by Zac and Buster back to the Curtiss house for Christmas diner. The family table was full of food but the usually lively table was quiet, despite Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss trying to boost the conversation.

Zac and Karry sat on one side of table. Korry and Sasporilla sat on the other. Mr. And Mrs. Curtiss sat on one end of the table while Kay sat on the other. An empty seat, Kandys seat, sat off to the side of the table against the wall. Korry reached over and tried to take Sasporillas hand. Sassy pulled her hand away. "What are you doing?"

"I just wanted to hold your hand." Korry sighed.

"Did you?" Sassy said. "Just like before. Sit and hold hands. Go for a nice walk. Maybe even a quick snog when no ones looking? Oh wait no that's what you want with Maddy."

"Get him Sassy." Karry encouraged her friend.

"Karoline Kamile Curtiss!" Kollen snapped. "You aren't helping."

"Did you at least open the gift I got you?" Korry asked.

Sasporilla pulled the small box out of her jumper pocket and placed it on the table, still wrapped, bow still on it.

"Not yet." Sasporilla said. "I need to know you really want me to open it and you really want me to keep it?"

"I really do." Korry said. "I'm sorry I've made you feel this way about me."

"I only feel one way about you doink." Sassy said. "I love you. It's just hard because you don't feel the same way about me."

"Open it." Korry insisted.

Sasporilla pulled off the ribbon and bow. Inside the box was her locket. Cleaned and sparkling like new.

"I never gave your locket to Maddy." Korry smiled. "The one she's wearing is a different one. I want you to have this one!"

"Thank you." Sasporilla said.

"There is something else as well." Korry smiled. "It wouldn't do to give you the same gift twice."

Sasporilla pulled the locket out and put it on. She opened it and was happy to see the pictures were still inside.

She lifted up the little pad the locket had sat upon. Underneath was a pair of silver earrings with rose quartz inset. Sassy smiled.

"I love them thank you." Sasporilla said and kissed Korry on the cheek.

Sasporilla shut the box and went back to her Christmas dinner. Korry sat there looking at her perplexed.

"Why don't you put them on?" Korry asked.

"Because her ears aren't pierced." Karry said. "Maddys are."

Green flame shot from the fire place as Lyra appeared.

"I came as soon as I could." Lyra said. "I'm your new baby sitter for the Christmas break miss Bucket! Prepare to party!"



Chapter 13

Lyra walked Sasporilla back to number four Castle Road. Sassy was happy to be home and away from the uncomfortable atmosphere at the Curtiss house. Lyra set her bags near the table and kicked her boots off. She tossed her long coat over to the door hook and missed. The coat fell to the floor in a crumpled pile.

"Pick your coat up you slob." Sasporilla said.

"Ah ma!" Lyra protested. "I'm suppose to be the adult here!"

"Good luck with that." Sasporilla laughed grabbing a can of Fanta from the refrigerator and sitting on the couch. Buster jumped up beside her and snuggled in trying to warm his cold back side.

"So things still pretty tense on the boy friend front?" Lyra asked sitting down beside Sassy and grabbing the can of soda from her and taking a sip. "Thanks nerd get yer own."

"Excuse me." Sassy laughed. "Give me that back or I'll ..."

"You'll what?" Lyra asked threatening to drink it all.

Sasporilla tried grabbing the can away from her but Lyra moved it playfully taunting her friend.

"I'll give you thumping!" Sasporilla yelled.

"Ok." Lyra said handing her the Fanta. "So you'll fight for a can of soda when some one tries to steal it from you but you won't fight for your boy friend when a girl threatens to steal him from you? Curious!"

"It's not the same thing." Sasporilla said sipping her orange soda.

"No?" Lyra asked.

"No it's not." Sassy insisted. "It's more like I want the Fanta and you want the Fanta but the Fanta hasn't decided who it wants to drink it. I can't exactly just force him to love me more."

"Do you think fighting with him and making things tense at his home over Christmas is the way?" Lyra said.

"I didn't want any of that." Sassy said. "Karrys my friend and she's just defending me."

Lyra looked at her friend. "Ok play times over. Let me get serious for a second."

For what ever reason both of them burst into laughter.

"Come on I'm serious." Lyra insisted. "Did your mom ever have the talk with you?"

"The talk?" Sassy asked.

"You know about the birds and the bees?" Lyra asked.

"Yes." Sasporilla said embarrassed. "And I would really rather not have it with you."

"I just wanted to ask if you and Korry ever...?" Lyra asked.

"NO!!!" Sasporilla said. "I'm not old enough for that."

"People start at different ages." Lyra said. "I started early."

"Well I'm not ready and won't be for a long while." Sassy said. "I'm still to young."

"You're nearly sixteen." Lyra said. "Not an uncommon age to...:"

"Well it is to early for me." Sassy said.

"Ok." Lyra smiled. "I'm just saying its a pretty important thing for most boys. What if the other girl is ready?"

"Then that's her decision." Sasporilla said. "I won't let anyone or any situation dictate when I'm ready!"

"Good girl." Lyra said. "You be you. That should be enough for any young man who deserves your love!"

"Thank you." Sassy said finishing her can of orange.

"Want another?" Lyra asked.

"No." Sassy said getting up to put the can in the recycle. "One is my limit."

That is truly what Lyra feared. If Sasporillas heart was broken now at this age, she may just shut down and opt out of love for the rest of her life.

Karry had disappeared upstairs. Zac and Korry were sitting in the living room watching professional dueling with Mr.Curtiss.

"Oh come on ref!" Mr.Curtiss yelled. "You didn't see that?"

"So tell me what's going on mate." Zac said to Korry.

"Going on with what?" Korry asked.

"Don't play thick." Zac said tersely. "You have a good girl friend in Sasporilla, who actually loves your ugly mug, and you want to throw all that away for a magically altered twelve year old who is basically a lie."

"You can't understand." Korry said. "I like Sassy, I really do, but there's a deeper feeling with Maddy. I think she may be my soul mate."

"I think you may still be bewitched." Zac said concerned.

"I may very well be." Korry smiled. "But I've promised not to make up my mind until Karrys antidote is ready."

"Fair enough." Zac nodded. "I just want to quote you, your own words. You looked at Miss Sasporilla Bucket and told me you were going to marry that girl one day."

Korrry sat there hearing the words echo in the distant fog in his brain.

"I wonder what's keeping Karry?" Zac asked. "I'm going to go check on her."

Lyra and Sassy sat on the couch watching her mums telly. They watched a show about a funny Vicar in a small English town. It felt good to laugh.

A knock came at the window. Lyra pulled her wand nervously. Sasporilla looked up and saw a white owl. Sassy went to the window and opened it.

"Delivery for Sasporilla Bucket." The owl said.

"I'm her." Sassy smiled as the large owl passed her an envelope of pretty red and gold foil. "Thank you very much."

The owl looked at her curiously. "No witch has ever said thank you to me."

"Well everyone should." Sassy smiled.

She watched the owl fly off into the night sky. Something moved in the shadows. Sasporilla tried to see what it was. It almost looked like the shadowy figure of a person. Nothing moved. It must have been just a trick of the shadows she decided and closed the window.

"What did you get?" Lyra asked.

"Don't know." Sassy said. "I haven't opened it yet."

"Well who is it from." Lyra asked.

"Doesn't say." Sasporilla looked at her friend with equal parts playful amusement and frustration.

"Well open it?" Lyra insisted.

"Maybe in the morning." Sasporilla said. "I'm a bit sleepy."

"Open it you brat!" Lyra shouted laughing.

Sasporilla carefully ripped off the foil paper. Inside was a lovely Christmas card showing Myron throwing a snow ball at the camera. She opened it to reveal a lovely message. "Miss your warm smile every day my darling Sassy. I hope you have a happy Christmas and I hope to see you soon."

Inside the card six back stage passes appeared for a concert Myron was putting on at the Albert hall in a few days time. Sasporilla had read about the concert in the Daily Prophet. He was performing old Weird Sisters songs, some of solo bits and some new original material.

"Lyra?" Sassy asked. "Can we go?"

"Are you kidding?" Lyra said. "Back stage passes and a personal invite from the star! Hell ya we're going!"

Sasporilla danced around ecstatic. Lyra joined her just happy to see her friend smile.

"Ok now you." Professor Ash-Wolf said seriously. "I do believe it's time for bed. We've a big couple of days ahead of us."

"Really?" Sasporilla's eyes gleamed.

"You bet!" Lyra smiled.

It was around one a.m. when Sasporilla heard the tap at the window. She looked over but didn't see an owl. She laid her head back down until she heard another tap on the window. She looked up just in time to see a hand, delicate and pale with long sharp finger nails pull away from the glass.

Sasporilla grabbed her wand. Something large but light skittered across the roof above her.

"Lyra!" Sasporilla yelled running through the bathroom and into the master bedroom.

Lyra sat up in bed her wand drawn, light glowing lightly from the tip. She waved to Sasporilla to come to her. Lyra's gaze never left the cold dead face of Khyron Jipsum, the aurer who was working the Vampire case with Nick Owlmore, as he rocked in the old wood rocking chair in the corner of the master bedroom. If Khyron had been turned and made it here then something was very wrong.

"It's nice to see you again aurer." The vampire said, not in the voice of Khyron Jipsum but in the voice of the Vampire Master. "I've taken your Nicks new partner as my own. Now I have come for you."

"You leave her alone!" Sasporilla said pointing her wand at the creature.

"This does not concern you little witch." The Master said raising his hand. Sasporilla saw the fabric of dark magic that flowed around his hand. Gathering power for something. The vampire flicked his hand a ball of dark energy flowed towards her. Sasporilla knew no counter for this kind of use of magic so she bent back as the ball of force flew over her and crashed into the wall.

"A girl of elven blood." The master said breathing deeply. "Your blood will be as sweet as spring honey."

"Lumos Solem!" Lyra cast.

The vampire turned to dust in the chair. Other vampires skittered down the walls and ran. Lyra and Sasporilla leaned out the window and filled the night air with brilliant sunlight. No place was safe for the vampire minions that shuddered with fear, and burst into flame at the sunlight's touch.

"Thanks for the diversion." Lyra said. "You'd make a fair aurer."

"Thanks but I really want to be a wand maker." Sassy smiled.

"Still?" Lyra said surprised. "I don't know many girls your age who know what they want to do and stick with it."

"Yes well I'm special." Sassy laughed.

"You have no idea Sasporilla Bucket."

Chapter 14

Lyra spent the next couple of days casting every protection spell she could think of on to the house number four Castle road. It was obvious the Vampire Master knew where Lyra had been and came for her. It wasn't clear if he knew who Sasporilla was. If he was looking to hurt Nick, going after Sassy would definitely be the right way. As if the poor kid hadn't seen enough tragedy and danger in her young life.

It was busy afternoon. The girls all wanted something special to go to the concert in. The boys were not invited as they had the DWG dueling event go to anyway. Sasporilla looked at some new things but was perfectly happy with clothes she had. She wasn't getting all dressed up. She picked out a nice pair of black jeans from her closet, put on a warm cable knit jumper with a camisole underneath and her leather jacket and boots. As they were all flying in by broom she thought it only appropriate.

"I don't understand why the boys need the minivan?" Karry protested. "It's too bloody cold to fly!"

"You know very well your father can't fly a broom because he's a muggle." Mrs.Curtiss said. "So suck it up my delicate little butter cup. Bundle up and you'll be fine."

Sasporilla invited Lyra and Mrs.Curtis, Karry her best friend in the world, Penny Lane-Warrol who said she would meet them there, and Madrigal Neelander.

"And I can't believe you invited Maddy!" Karry yelled at Sasporilla who was checking over a couple of special features of her broom.

"I invited Madrigal because she is still our friend and none of this is really her fault is it?" Sasporilla said.

"I personally think you have chosen to be very mature about it Sasporilla." Mrs.Curtiss said. "I for one am proud of you."

"Ya besides," Lyra smiled. "Six of us go to show, five come back, who's to say what can happen."

"Stop it Lyra." Sasporilla said. "Honestly, you're encouragable!"

Sasporilla saw in her manual that settings

4. Calor which created a lovely constant bubble of heat around the broom at a lovely twenty two degrees Celsius & 5. Tempest which created a protective bubble to repel inclement weather, could be cast together!

Madrigals two older brothers flew their baby sister to the Curtiss house. The others were outside waiting for when she arrived.

"I hope I didn't keep you waiting long?" Maddy appologized.

"Not at all dear." Mrs. Curtiss said. "I'm Kolleen Curtiss, Karry and Korrays mother."

"Nice to see you again mam." Madrigal smiled. "We met at Sasporillas birthday party last summer."

"Oh my that was you?" Kolleen laughed. "Well you really have blossomed haven't you?"

Madrigal smiled politely but felt a bit uncomfortable.

"Look." Maddys older brother said. "We know there's a bit of tension with our sister and one of you. We just want to make sure there's no trouble. So we'll ride along with ya if that's ok?"

"Sure is." Sasporilla said. "Long as you can keep up! Occasum Calor Tempest"

The brooms took off into the night air and headed for London. Sassy was warm and comfy in her bubble but Karry did not look happy. Lyra cast a warming spell on the frozen young witch and it helped a bit. Mrs.Curtiss' broom had the same map direction feature as Sassys so they all followed along straight to the Albert Hall.

The witches landed in a lot for broom parking. The attendant gave each of them a ticket to claim their brooms after the show.

"T1200x." The attendant said. "Nice ride for a young lady."

"I like it." Sasporilla said wary of the shady looking fellow.

"Yes she has a great ride." Penny Lane-Warrol said. "These are my friends. Understand cousin Michael."

"Crystal clear." The attendant smiled. "You ladies have a great night."

"Michael Warrol?" Lyra asked.

"Who's askin'." Pennys cousin asked.

"JDI Lyra Lee-Ashwolf." Lyra said. "You still ride with Casey Reese?"

"Ya." He said carefully.

"Say hi for me." Lyra smiled. "Been a few years since we've, touched base."

"Right." The man said quickly moving on to help the next customers.

"Ok now that the brooms are sorted and everyone's here." Sasporilla said. "Here are your back stage passes and tickets."

Maddys brothers smiled at her as they flew off. "They're so over protective. I told them I'd be ok."

The girls were so excited. They were going to get to go to a real rock and roll show and see what happens behind the scenes.

They went to the front doors and a roadie for the band whisked them away back stage.

The wings were a flurry of activity. Last minute changes, fixes for problems and general chaos abounded as they were taken back to Myron Wagtails dressing room.

The roadie knocked on the partially open door. "Myron. Everyone decent in there."

"Ya." Myron Wagtail shouted back. "What's up."

"Girl guides to sell you some cookies." The Roadie laughed.

Myron opened the door and hugged Sasporilla tight. "I am so happy to see you."

"I'm happy to see you to D... Myron." Sasporilla smiled.

"So introduce me to your friends." Myron Wagtail smiled.

"Oh I'm sorry." Sassy smiled. "These are my friends Karry Curtis, Lyra Lee-Ashwolf, Maddy Neelander and Penny Lane-Warrol and Karrys mum Mrs.Kolleen Curtiss."

Everyone said hi and accepted a kiss on the hand from the most gallant performer.

"Ok I have to finish getting ready for the show." Myron said. "You can leave your coats and things in here and my assistant Marjorie will take you out to your seats. We'll get together after the show for a chin wag ya?"

"You bet." Sassy smiled.

"Enjoy the show ladies." Myron smiled.

The ladies were treated to the best seats in the house, front row center. Lyra sat between Sasporilla and Penny quite purposefully.

"So your Pensive Lane-Warrol?" Lyra asked.

"Yes." The young witch answered. "But I prefer Penny professor."

"You can drop the Professor tonight." Lyra smiled. "I'm just one of Sassy's friends here to rock and roll."

"Ok." Penny said.

"You know I put some of your family in Azkaban?" Lyra said. "Well me and my partner Sasporilla's uncle Nick."

"I didn't know that." Penny said stiffening a bit. "Did you know, that though most of my family are Azkaban angels and more than half of them are in prison for their despicable deeds, that I hold no illusions of who and what they are and am nothing like them?"

"That," Lyra smiled, "is really good to know."

Karry sat on the other side of Sasporilla beside her mother and Maddy on the far end.

"I'm glad we have this chance to talk Mrs.Curtiss." Madrigal said.

"I'm happy to dear." Kolleen smiled. "What's on your mind?"

"I really like your Korry." Maddy said. "But so does Sasporilla, and I don't want to come between them... but."

"Well." Kolleen said. "My son has the right to date who he wants and love who he wants. I know Sassy very well and loved her mom better than my own sister. I don't really know much about you but I'm sure I will get to know you. You seem like a nice girl, as nice as Sasporilla but not quite as mature."

"Well I under went the..." Maddy began.

"Yes dear I know all about it!" Kolleen smiled. "So I know upstairs your still very much twelve while the rest of you sixteen or so."

"Yes mam." Maddy said. "And I don't want any boys love if it's the result of bewitchment."

"The Asenamourus potion doesn't exactly bewitch the boys dear." Kolleen said quietly. "It only boosts your own natural attractions. It is meant to weed out the boys who aren't right for you and find your soul mate. You see that's why less and less boys followed you around as the weeks past and why only my son stayed. According to the potions effects, you and Korry may be meant to be together."

"Really?" Maddy smiled then looked over at Sasporilla sadly. "But that will break my friends heart."

"Saddly yes." Kolleen said. "And it may end your friendship with her. That depends on how you two handle things."

"You really know a lot about this Mrs.Curtiss." Maddy questioned.

"Yes I do." Kolleen said looking to see if Karry was listening. "Let's just say I met Mr.Curtiss in the summer before my second year."

The lights dimmed and the a voice quietly announced. "Ladies and gentlemen, Myron Wagtail."

Myron walked out on to stage in a suit and tie wearing glasses. People were noticeably shocked at the transformation. He started off with his first solo hit before the Weird Sisters, Modern People. It started soft and quiet and by the end the entire Albert hall was on their feet dancing.

After dancing for three or four songs Sasporilla found the concert hall warm and took off her jumper. The camisole she wore was not sheer and really more of a crop top anyway. It made her look very rock and roll.

"How many people here liked the Weird Sisters song 'Pretty in pink'?" Myron asked.

The audience cheered.

"How many of you saw that it was dedicated to my good friend Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket!" Myron asked.

The audience cheered again.

"Who would like to meet her?" Myron smiled holding out his wand.

The crowd erupted with thunderous applause. Sassy turned beat red and shook her head as Myron nodded levitating the pink haired witch up onto stage. Sassy covered her face.

"She's a bit shy." Myron said.

"Wow she's hot!" Some random boy yelled.

Sasporilla peeked out and the crowd erupted with applause again. Sassy waved and smiled. Myron started to sing. Karry was loosing her mind so excited for her friend. Myron started levitating the girls up onto stage.

"Her best friends!" Myron said.

Sassy and Karry danced joyfully on stage as the others joined them.

When it came time for the chorus Myron encouraged the girls to sing with him. Everyone beamed at Sasporilla Bucket, for tonight, she was the luckiest girl in the world.

After the show there was a party back stage that threatened to go until the wee hours of the morning. Myron got a second to speak with Sassy alone and he seized it.

"My gosh you're growing up so fast." Myron smiled. "You remind me so much of your mother."

"Thank you." Sasporilla said. "I do miss her."

"So tell me what's happening with this Korry situation. Is the girl Maddy with you tonight the same girl?" Myron asked concerned.

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "If Korry hadn't been busy with his dad I'd have asked him to come but he was so I asked Maddy."

"That's very nice of you." Myron smiled.

"Yes very mature I'm told." Sasporilla sighed. "These days the spell might be broken, we're not quite sure. He says he likes us both a lot but needs time to see who he loves."

"Sasporilla listen to me." Myron smiled. "Any young man who needs to think about whether to love you or another girl, has already made up his mind." Myron frowned.

"I'd say cut him loose and move on."

"Problem is I love him." Sasporilla said teary eyed.

"Oh my dearest Sasporilla." Myron said hugging the young witch. "The first love is the hardest to get over. Especially an unrequited one."

"Did you get over yours?" Sassy asked.

"As it was your mother I can safely say the answer is No." Myron said. "I never did."

As the party became a little less child friendly Mrs.Curtiss announced to the girls it was time to get going. Penny was escorted home by members of her family. The girls flight home was colder than the flight in. They were escorted for a while by Maddys brothers who broke off near there home.

"See you at school!" Maddy waved.

"Have a safe ride home." Sasporilla smiled.

Karrys gesture was most unlady like but nobody but Lyra saw it who burst into laughter. It was around Eleven P.M. when they landed on the Castle Road.

"We had a great time Sassy thanks!" Karry said hugging her best friend.

"You're welcome I wouldn't have wanted to go with out you." Sasporilla smiled.

"Yes thank you Ms.Bucket!" Kolleen smiled. "That was a most enjoyable evening."

"It was great wasn't it?" Lyra said. "Girl you got some seriously good friends around you. I know you don't always feel it but you are blessed."

"Blessed and cursed at the same time." Sassy smiled holding up her wand. "I'm a Conflicator, just like my wand."



Chapter 15

The Hogwarts Express pulled out of Kings cross station on schedule as usual. It chugged along the tracks through London unseen by muggle eyes. Karry, Sasporilla and Zac had taken a compartment about halfway down the train. Lyra walked by and looked in.

"Hey there Sassy girl." Lyra said. "Is it ok if I ride with you guys or would sitting with a Professor cramp your style?"

"Well..." Sasporilla began.

"Great!" Lyra said walking in and planting herself next to Sasporilla. "Shift over lard butt."

"Lard butt!" Sasporilla gasped and laughed. "You say that to me? The girl who looks like she has too dwarves fighting for space in the back?"

"Did I forget to let them out again?" Lyra asked looking back.

A first year named Melvin Lazarus was walking by and saw their compartment still had space.

"Excuse me?" The boy said nervously. "I know I'm just a first year but can I sit with you."

"Well we let bubbles here," Karry said pointing at Lyra, "sit with us so I guess we'll let just anyone in."

"Don't mind her." Sassy laughed. "Please come in and join us. We don't subscribe to the first years not allowed business."

"Thank you." The boy said stepping in and sitting down.

"Ladies this is Melvin Lazarus." Lyra said. "Gryffindor first year class."

"Yes thank you Professor Bubbles..." Melvin Blushed as the three young women erupted with laughter. "I mean Professor Lee-Ashwolf. Oh dear, I'm so embarrassed."

"Melvin", Lyra said, "these are my good friends Karry Curtiss, her very attractive and amazingly rich boy friend Zacariah Zarcaxian and Sasporilla..."

"Bucket." Melvin smiled. "I know, I saw you at the concert the other night. At the Albert Hall. I think it's incredible you know Myron Wagtail. I love his music. I'm a big fan."

"I'll tell him, next time we write. Maybe he'll send something for you." Sasporilla smiled. "He loves his fans."

"Thank you so much." Melvin said.

Penny Walked up and looked in.

"Hey guys." Penny said as she walked in and sat next to Melvin. "Trains pretty crowded. To cold to fly back on a broom so I put my ticket to use."

"You have to get a heater function for your next broom." Sasporilla said. "They are awesome!"

"Your broom has heat?" Karry said surprised.

"Yes." Sasporilla smiled.

"You brat!" Karry said. "I was debating getting a jacket like yours because you didn't seem cold when we flew to London. Now I know why!"

"Oh!" Sassy laughed. "I didn't realize you didn't know."

"Ya sure." Karry laughed.

"Hey!" Korry said peeking his head in to the compartment. Maddy waved from the window. "Room for more?"

"Room for one more." Karry said smiling.

"Yes." Sassy agreed. "Come on in and sit Madrigal!"

"Thanks!" Maddy said pushing past Korry and sitting down.

"Hey?" Korry said. "What about me?"

"Sorry." Karry said. "Only room for one and we had to make a decision."

"Oh I get it." Korry laughed.

"No I really don't think you do." Sasporilla said. "I can't speak for Maddy but I'm not waiting for you yo make up your mind between us. If a boy asks me out, I'll go."

"Everyone in Hogwarts knows your MY girlfriend." Korry insisted getting looks from both Sassy and Maddy.

"Made up your mind have you?" Maddy asked.

"No I..." Korry stammered.

"I would ask you out in a heart beat." Melvin said to Sasporilla. "You're the most beautiful girl I've ever met." Sasporilla, Karry and Lyra all looked at Melvin amazed. Melvin blushed. He couldn't believe those words had just come out of his mouth.

"There you go Sassy!" Korry laughed. "You have a taker."

"And you know what?" Sasporilla said leaning in to Melvin smiling. "I would more than happy to go out with you sometime Melvin."

"What?" Korry said. "You're just saying that to get under my skin!"

"I think he's pretty cute." Madrigal smiled. "Maybe Sassy will have to make up her mind between the two of you!"

"Zac?" Korry barked. "Want to go hang out in the back car?"

"No I'm good here." Zac smiled taking Karrys hand.

Korry grumbled the whole way down the corridor. The girls laughed until he was gone.

"That was most gallant of you Melvin." Sasporilla said. "Stepping forward to offer yourself in my time of need."

"Oh ya, sure." Melvin said a bit nervously. "I could see you were in a spot and needed some assistance."

"You're my hero." Sasporilla said kissing the boy on the cheek. "Loo run anyone."

"I'm in." Was the general consensus from the young ladies.

"We'll stay and save the seats." Zac smiled.

"Yes." Melvin said. "Of course."

The girls piled out headed for the loo. Melvin watched as Sasporilla left. "I meant every word I said."



Chapter 16

"All I'm saying, " Zac said to Karry, "is that Melvin Lazarus is head over for our Sassy."

"Is he really?" Karry asked surprised. "Poor kid. I mean be's nice but he's just a boy. He's eleven and Sasporilla's almost sixteen."

"I know." Zac sighed. "Maybe there's a spell to make Sasporilla younger, like the one Madrigal used to get older."

"Even if there was," Karry smiled, "I can't imagine her wanting to go back to eleven years old."

"I know I wouldn't." Zac said.

"Me either." Karry laughed.

The dueling club room was already a buzz with activity. Sasporilla Bucket was on the dueling stage with Penny. Sassy wasn't trying to use her ability to see the fabric of magic but by the lightning fast reactions she showed, it was pretty obvious she was.

Karry pulled the Official Competitive Wizard Dueling rule book from her bag and handed it to the Headmistress.

"Did you find it useful Miss Curtiss?" Professor McGonagall smiled.

"Yes professor I did." Karry nodded. "But I found something that concerned me as well."

"Oh?" Professor McGonagall said curiously. "What would that be?"

"Page seven hundred twenty four, appendix Y, subsection 3b 'Concerning Elf Bloods.'" Karry said with an air of concern.

The Headmistress put the book down on the equipment table and skimmed through from the back, as the rule was on one of the final pages.

"Concerning Elf bloods." Professor McGonagall read. "As 'Elf Bloods' are a stain on our community and taint our sport with special abilities and talents beyond those of normal wizards, any known elf blood wishing to compete must be fitted with an Iron Conflux bracelet to block all elf blood abilities and ensure the purity of our sport."

Professor McGonagall pursed her lips thinking. "I really don't like this ruling."

"I certainly don't!" Karry said. "That's blatant racism right out of the Death Eater mentality."

"Miss Bucket!" Professor McGonagall called. "A quick word please."

Sassy raised her wand to salute Penny and hopped down off the stage. "Yes Headmistress?"

"I'm afraid we've discovered a rule that may cause a problem." The headmistress said a bit worried digging through the equipment bag. "I need you to try on a bracelet for me."

"A jewelry problem?" Sasporilla laughed amused.

"Not exactly." Karry said pointing at the book. "Here read this."

Sasporilla read the section Karry had pointed to and couldn't believe her eyes. The rules were racially biased against her.

"Ok so I have to wear a Conflux Bracelet?" Sasporilla asked. "What exactly does it do?"

"We don't EXACTLY know." Professor McGonagall said.

"I'm hoping it doesn't do much." Karry said as the headmistress pulled out a small box from the bag. Inside the box was what appeared to be a simple iron bracelet but Sasporilla could see the truth of it. The bracelet was woven by weaver elves. It broke the fabric of magic around it.

Sasporilla grabbed it from the box and clamped it around her wrist. Sasporilla watched as the fabric of magic around her vanished.

"Do you feel any different." Karry asked.

"No." Sasporilla said.

"Try a spell on the target dummy." The headmistress encouraged the young witch walking her over to the practice area. Sasporilla stood tall and pointed her wand dead center of the target dummy.

"Flippendo!" Sasporilla cast with no reaction.

"Stupify!" She tried again.

"Bombarda!" Sassy cast but with no effect.

"I was afraid of this." Professor McGonagall said. "I know you draw your power from the elven ways. You've used it to fuel the way of magic we teach you here. That's why we had you work with the house elves for a year. So you could learn their way."

Sasporilla held it her hand, calmed down and snapped her fingers, once, twice, three times. Nothing. She looked at the large pitcher of ice water on the counter. She tried to feel the water, to move it and call it to her. She was cut off from nature as well.

"This bracelet is designed to block all of an elves power." Sasporilla said. "With it on, I'm just a normal person. A muggle."

"This is outrageous!" Karry protested. "They can't do this can they professor?"

"I most certainly intend to lodge a formal protest!" Professor McGonagall said. "Now take it off dear."

Sasporilla moved to take it off and there was an audible click locking it in place. As Sassy struggled with the bracelet the dividing seam between the two sides of the conflux bracelet sealed closed and turned black.

"It's locked itself on." Sasporilla said unable to remove it. Smoke started to pour from under the bracelet and Sasporilla screamed in pain. The young witch pushed her hand and wrist into the water pitcher.

"It burns!" Sasporilla screamed.

Professor McGonagall pulled Sasporillas arm from the ice water and tried to cast a spell on her to deaden the pain. The magic fizzled out when it got near the bracelet. The head mistress poured the ice water into a towel trapping the ice and wrapped around the arm of the pink haired witch.

"We need to get you to the infirmary."

No magic worked on or near the conflux bracelet. Spells could not remove it nor would potions to heal the wearer would not sooth or comfort. No professor had seen this sort of magic before. Everyone was at a loss. The bracelet had burned a number onto Sasporillas wrist. "EB3717"

The minister of magic Kingsly Shackbolt was summoned and came immediately. When he arrived Headmistress McGonagall lead him to the infirmary.

"Kingsly." The headmistress said. "I can't help but feel our miss Bucket was targeted."

"I promise you Minerva I will get to the bottom of this out rage!" The minister said.

He burst into the infirmary and rushed to Sasporillas bed side. She was surrounded by her friends. Lyra inspected the bracelet, while Korry held her hand. Karry was busy trying to find any reference to this kind of magical item being used before. Kingsly Shackbolt inspected the bracelet.

"How do you feel?" Kingsly asked.

"My wrist hurts from the burn." Sasporilla said. "Other than that, I feel helpless."

"We'll do everything we can to remove it." The minister of magic smiled. "And we will bring the person who did this to justice."

"Minister?" Sassy asked. "It have me a number. Does that mean there's been 3716 others branded this way?"

"Yours is the first case I've heard of." Kingsly said. "But that does beg to ask, if others have been stripped of power and branded, where are they?"

A young man carrying a very lovely bouquet of hot house grown Daisies walked into the infirmary and over to Sasporilla's bed. Melvin Lazarus wore his best school robes and even combed his hair.

"Hello Sasporilla." Melvin smiled not showing his disappointment that Korry held her hand. "I heard you were hurt in dueling club. I brought these for you. Professor Sprout let me pick some."

"Thank you Melvin they're lovely." Sassy smiled as Madam Pomfrey brought over a vase.

"If I thought I'd spend half my career fetching vases for flowers I'd have become a florist!" Madam Pomfrey chuckled.

"I'm sorry." Melvin apologized. "I didn't mean to make more work for you madam Pomfrey."

"Don't be silly lad." Madam Pomfrey laughed.

"That was very nice of you Melvin." Karry said.

"Yes it most certainly was a thoughtful gift." Sassy said. "I do love Daises."

Hagrid burst in carrying a large pair of bolt cutters he got from the grounds shed.

"This'll cut tha' thing off!" Hagrid said placing the bracelet into the steel jaws. He pushed the handles with all of his might. A quick flash from the bracelet and Hagrid flew back across the infirmary and crashed hard into the wall.

"Apparently it doesn't intend to come off quite so easily." Kingsly Shackbolt said.

"I'm afraid you may be stuck with it until we can figure out how to get it off of you."

"I have an idea who may know." Sasporilla said. "But contacting them might be very dangerous."



Chapter 17

Crinklesunpin, the light weaver elf, was summoned to the Headmistresses office at Hogwarts. It took several hours before the older elf arrived. Not that it took that long for the message to find her or for the weaver elf to respond. The fact that she had been summoned encouraged her to simply keep them all waiting.

"Who dares SUMMON me?" Crinklesunpin demanded.

"I did." Minister of Magic Kingsly Shackbolt said. "I want to know about an item woven by one of your kind."

"Why should I help you wizard?" The weaver elf hissed.

"You won't be helping him as much as helping me." Sasporilla Bucket said.

Crinklesunpin turned to see the pink haired witch holding out her arm with the Conflux bracelet on her wrist. The old elf ran forward and grabbed her hand.

"Where did you find this abomination?" Crinklesunpin asked.

"The conflux bracelet was supplied with standard equipment by the ministries sporting division." Headmistress McGonagall said.

"This is not some wizard made Conflux bracelet!" Crinklesunpin spat. "These were woven during the muggle wars by a weaver elf blood wizard named Wolfgang Meyer. They were used by evil muggle men to take away the powers of Witches, Wizards and Elves that refused to join their cause. Those bound by these 'Markebinden' bracelets were put in camps or worse."

"That's awful." Sasporilla said. "What kind of evil muggles could do such things?"

"They're called fascists." Professor Lee-Ashwolf said. "They're sick bullies that spread fear and hatred. No different from Voldemort and his mindless sycophantic thralls."

"They come around in the muggle world of politics all the time." Professor McGonagall said. "They leave a wake of corpses and destruction as they pass."

"But they do pass?" Karry asked.

"The same way Voldemort passed." Kingsly Shacklebolt said. "When they are beaten back down by good people."

"Anyone who tells you lies and says believe them because I say they're true." The headmistress began. "Anyone who tells you what you can and can't say because it goes against the way they want you to say. Any one who tells you one group of people are worse than another because of their religion or colour of their skin or their country of origin, Anyone who encourages violence and death in the name of purifying the blood line is a fascist."

Sasporilla looked at the bracelet on her arm and pictured the hate that went into its weave.

"How do I get this off me?" Sasporilla asked.

"With a key." Crinklesunpin smiled evilly.

"Do you have one?" Karry asked.

"Yes and no." Crinklesunpin laughed.

Kingsly Shacklebolt rushed the weaver elf and grabbed her firmly by the shoulders. "Do not toy with us weaver, when a child is involved you will find I am in no mood for it!"

Crinklesunpin snapped her fingers and vanished. Her laughter echoed through the halls of Hogwarts.

"Well at least we know what we're dealing with." The headmistress sighed. "Perhaps there is a mention of them in books written about the great muggle war."

"Which muggle war was that?" Sasporilla asked.

"They called it world war two." Kingsly Shacklebolt said gruffly, frustrated by the vexing situation.

In the following weeks Sasporilla was put to work as dueling club equipment manger. She was replaced by Angela Dumpfry, a Slytherin that didn't originally quite make the team.

The news of the Markebinden bracelets spread through the schools and the ministry of magic. Several had been sent out with dueling equipment kits as well as provided for other sports where rules stated conflux bracelets must be worn. A grand total of nine more incidents of elf blood students being branded were reported from other schools. One professor at a smaller school in the south insisted they were fine and placed it on his own wrist. He too was now trapped and branded W77198.

Stories of the "War Shackles" as the Daily Prophet had termed them, graced every issue of the wizarding news every day but no one seemed to have the answer as how to take them off.

"I don't understand it." Karry pondered. "Why are there no references to these kind of bracelets being used, in any history book?"

"Maybe we need muggle history books?" Sasporilla said. "After all it was their war."

"I've tried those too." Karry said pulling out a book on world war two from her bag. "My father sent me this from home. It chronicles the war but there's no mention of magical peoples. Although the atrocities these muggles did to others in the name of blood purification is by and far worse than the damage done by death eaters."

Sasporilla flipped through the book and found something horrible but relevant in a picture of prisoners of the death camps. Amongst the emaciated muggles dressed in tattered striped uniforms was a man with a "W" on his shirt. The other muggles had six pointed stars or triangles on their shirts.

"Look at this." Sasporilla said pointing to the person in the picture.

"I didn't notice the 'W'!" Karry said. "Too busy reading the words to see the pictures right in front of my face!"

Karry peered at the photograph and pulled out her wand. "Magnify." The picture grew to the size of both open pages of the book.

"That's it!" Karry said. "Look at the wrist."

Sasporilla looked at the wrist of the person marked with the "W" and sure enough they were wearing a Markebinden Bracelet.

"Well there's our proof Crinklesunpin was telling the truth." Sassy said. "But why doesn't any book talk about it?"

"Maybe because no one remembers?" Karry mused.

"A mass obliviate spell?" Sassy asked.

"It would be a mercy on those who had to undergo such horrors." Karry said.

"Then why do the muggles remember?" Sasporilla asked.

"The magical community would care about the muggles for the most part." Karry said. "I imagine the witch trials were still very much in the witching memory."

"I am disgusted by the horrors people do to each other." Sasporilla said. "Magical and muggle alike!"

The girls brought the book to the headmistress' attention at dinner time. She was amazed at the photograph. Not just because the diligent girls had found evidence of magical people being imprisoned in camps during the war, but she knew the face of the person in the photo. That man was Elloton Stravinski.

"He was a professor of Muggle studies here at Hogwarts for a number of years." Professor McGonagall said. "I never heard him speak of this."

"We have a theory on that Headmistress." Karry said. "We think every witch or wizard was subject to some sort of memory charm."

"I was alive during the war." Professor McGonagall said. "I was a child but... maybe you're on to something."



Chapter 18

Elloton Stravinski lived in a small house in Hogsmead. Like many retired professors who had spent the better part of their lives teaching at Hogwarts, they enjoyed living near by. They liked seeing the students when they invaded the town and enjoyed the quidditch matches. Three witches approached the darkened door way. Minerva McGonagall, Lyra Lee-Ashwolf and Sasporilla Bucket.

Professor McGonagall knocked on the doot and then waited for a few moments. It was a bit late in the evening and probably past the old fellows bed time. Professor Lee-Ashwolf stepped up and pounded om the door. "This is JDI Lee-Ashwolf of the MoMJD. Open up!"

The door opened. "All right, all right, I am not deaf!" The old man said standing there in his night shirt and cap, putting on his glasses. "Minerva! How wonderful to see you! I take it something is drastically wrong for you to disturb me in the middle of the night! What do you need?"

The old man showed the three witches into the parlor and asked them to sit while he made some tea.

Elloton Stravinski carried a fresh pot of tea in on a nice silver tray with four china cups.

"It's not very often I get visitors these days but I'm always prepared. Who would like some tea?"

"Yes please." The ladies said politely as he poured out the cups.

"Now that the pleasantries are over Elloton," Headmistress McGonagall said, "we need to talk to you about what happened to you during the war."

"Nothing." Elloton Stravinski said. "I stunned a few death eaters in town but other than that?"

"No Mr.Stravinski." Sasporilla said. "We mean the great muggle war, world war two?"

"Oh I see!" Elloton Stravinski said. "I was a sick in St.Mungos for those years. I had Shizmositic Aphasia. Nearly killed me."

"No." Minerva McGonagall said. "You were a prisoner in a camp we have a photo."

Sasporilla opened the history book and pointed out the picture. Headmistress McGonagall walked over and stood behind his chair, leaning in to show him the photo.

"Do you see Elloton, that's you!"

The old man adjusted his glasses then pulled them off and cleaned them on the hem of his night shirt. He put them back on. "It does look like me but it's not."

Professor McGonagall stepped back pointed her wand at the old wizard quietly casting a spell to undo obliviate.

"Are you sure?" Lyra asked.

"Positive." The wizard said.

"Could we have been mistaken?" Professor McGonagall asked.

"Does this look familiar?" Sasporilla asked holding out her arm to reveal the Markebinden bracelet.

"Keep it away from me." Elloton Stravinski said terrified.

"So you have seen them before?" Minerva McGonagall asked.

"No," the old man said covering his eyes, "I have no memory of seeing one before, and yet the sight of it terrifies me. Please put it away, please."

Sasporilla tucked her arm back into her robes. "It's away."

"Thank you." Elloton Stravinski said. "What is that thing?"

"Let me see your wrists Elloton." The headmistress asked.

The old man held out his arms and Professor McGonagall examined them. There were no marks on either of his wrists but as she turned his right hand over it came loose and fell off.

"It does that some times." Elloton Stravinski.

"How did you lose your hand?" Lyra asked.

"I lost it to the Shizmositic Aphasia." Elloton smiling politely as he put it back on.

"Elloton." Professor McGonagall said. "Shizmositic Aphasia is caused by a bad memory spell and effects ones speech centers. It couldn't have hurt you or caused you to lose your hand!"

The old man stood up and walked over to his desk. He rummaged through the drawers for a moment grumbling something about how no one listens to the elderly, occasionally emphasizing his frustrations with wild verbal expletives.

"Ah!" Elloton Stravinski said pulling a piece of paper from the drawer. "Here it is!"

Minerva McGonagall put her glasses on and read the paper. It was a certificate of release from St.Mungos dated 1945. It stated that Elloton Stravinski had been released having been cured of Shizmositic Aphasia which had reduced his weight and taken his hand.

"It looks like whatever procedure was done," the headmistress said, "it happened at St.Mungos."

"Now that we've cleared all that up," Elloton Stravinski said. "Would you three young ladies kindly leave and let an old man get some sleep!"

Once back at Hogwarts Professor McGonagall sent an owl to the Minister of magic stating what they'd found and put the ball back into his court. It was about four a.m. when the owl made its way to London and into the hands of Kingsly Shacklebolt.

In less than an hour the minister burst through the front doors of St.Mungos followed by his assistant and some trusted researchers and historians.

"I need access to the records room." Kingsly told the night attendant.

"I need the directors authorization for that Minister Shacklebolt." The young man said shyly.

"Then get the director, and the whole board of directors out of bed and down here!" Kingsly demanded. "We have a mystery to solve and I suspect the answer is in your records room!"

By six a.m. every member of the managerial staff of St.Mungos poured into the hospital. The Minister of Magic and his staff were quickly escorted to the records room and all of the hospitals resources placed at their disposal. After three days of intense searching of the St.Mungos records, nothing was revealed. All they found were copies of release forms like the one Elloton Stravinski had for Shizmositic Aphasia. Everyone was shocked that though there were release forms, there were no files of treatment to go with them.

Every time they thought they found an answer they hit yet another vexing dead end.

"Minister." Clairinda McGutchins, Kingsly Shacklebolts executive assistant said. "There is an older gentleman requesting to see you."

"Tell him we're busy and have him make an appointment like everyone else." Kingsly said dismissively.

"I did that sir three days ago but he comes back and asks again." Clairinda McGutchins said.

"Did he say what he wants?" The minister of magic asked.

"He said something about world war two?" Clairinda sighed.

Kingsly Shacklebolt whipped around. "Send him in please. Now!"

Herman Wellington was just another little old man in the eyes of most, Puttering around London invisible and forgotten. He however was the one chosen never to forget.

"Minister Shacklebolt, I am Herman Wellington." The old man said shaking Kingslys hand. "I read in the Daily Prophet about the Markebinden bracelets being back so I started waiting for the trail to lead here."

"Tell me what you know sir." Kingsly said impatiently.

"I was only a young clerk in the records department when the magical prisoners were released from the camps." The old man said sitting down on a hall way bench. "All of them were brought here to be treated. Those damn bracelets made treating them impossible."

"How did they remove them?" Kingsly asked.

"Well you see nothing worked." Herman said. "No spell, no tool, no key worked on them. So the victims suffered one more torture. They had their hands amputated just above the wrist. The bracelets stayed on the severed wrists

with the hands. We couldn't get them off! Like most appendages destroyed by dark magic they couldn't be magically healed. We had to resort to muggle methods of healing and replace the hands with enchanted prosthetics."

"What about the memories and the history?" Minister Shackbolt asked.

"That I would rather show you." The old man said holding up an older key.

In the back of the records room stood a large old cabinet that held thousands of files. Herman Wellington shuffled over to the cabinet and searched the side with his fingers.

"What are you feeling for?" Kingsly asked.

"The keyhole." The old man said.

"We have been over this room with a fine tooth comb over the last few days and we saw no keyholes!" The minister of magic said.

The old man's fingers stopped and he put the key into the side of the cabinet. Herman turned the key fully around once and there were a series of clicks.

"Of course you didn't SEE any key hole." The old man said sliding the cabinet to one side revealing a secret entrance. "It's goblin made."

Herman Wellington led the minister and headmaster down a set of stairs that led to a huge basement. The old man pulled his wand "Lumos!" The light from his wand set off a series of magical lights which popped on illuminating tens of thousands of jars on shelves. Some contained the original severed hand and wrist, which still had the Markebinden bracelet on them. Other jars were filled with silver strands in clumps floating in fluid.

"We removed all memory of the camps and the bracelets from their memories. Once they were healed enough to restart their lives we released them as survivors of some made up disease."

"Shizmositic Aphasia." Kingsly Shackbolt said.

"Yes." The old man nodded. "The rest of the magical population was subjected to a mass obliviate spell which removed all memory of the horrors of the great muggle war. The rest was a matter of destroying records and logs. You might say it was a lie of omission."

"Who ordered this?" Kingsly asked afraid of the answer.

"The former minister of magic at the time." Herman said seeking his old memory for the name. "Rudolph Bridges." The emergency owl dispatched from the Ministry of magic to Hogwarts arrived late in the day. Professor McGonagall awaited any shred of good news it may contain. She called Sasporilla Bucket and Professor Lee-Ashwolf to the Headmistress's office. They arrived excited to hear good news.

"I'm sorry." Professor McGonagall said. "The only way those bracelets come off is by amputation."



Chapter 19

"Expeliarmus!" Penny Lane-Warrol knocked the wand from Jillian Hoodwink.

"Point and Win!" Professor McGonagall called.

The dueling club cheered! Everyone was excited and ready for the tournament next week.

"Ok gather round." Professor Lee-Ashwolf. "In three days we go to the tournament."

"We will dominate the tournament!" Zac imitated the Red Wolf.

"Indeed." Professor McGonagall said. "We will be travelling to Geneva by train. I want all of you to gather in the main hall with your gear and a two changes of clothes including your cleanest robes."

"Headmistress may I wish the team good luck before they go?" Sasporilla asked.

"Why miss Bucket?" Professor McGonagall asked. "Do you not intend to come with us?"

"Well I'm not part of the team anymore?" Sasporilla said.

"The heck you ain't!" Lyra said. "You're the EQM! Who do you think's gonna schlep the equipment?"

"As strange as Professor Lee-Ashwolf's statement was," the Headmistress said, "She is very correct. You are a member of this team and we would not be the same with your absence."

"Thank you!" Sasporilla beamed.

The Hogwarts Express had the ability to travel to many places. It played the key role for the travel and housing when attending tournaments at other schools. Secret rail lines crisscrossed the globe and joined with tunnels and muggle rail lines. Many rails deemed out of service were truly used for Magical train transpiration. Travel compartments were converted to births so as each student and teacher had their own room. Of course very few of the team members were in their own rooms studying or resting for the tournament like they were suppose to be.

Sasporilla hung out in the club car with Karry and Zac. Penny danced with Maxamillian Shaw to music Ginger Marjolaine had brought from home.

"You have to be kidding me?" Karry Curtiss yelled when Sasporilla Bucket told her best friend the news. "You are not having your hand cut off!"

"Well I can't go through life with this thing on, can I?" Sassy asked.

Karry walked over and sat next to her friend. "Look, You are my best friend Sassy and I can't just sit back and watch you make mistake like this. Didn't the weaver elf say there was a key?"

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "But no one ever found one and there simply is no other option."

Karry started crying and Sasporilla hugged her. It wasn't long before Sassy was also in tears. They cried for quite a while until they got most of the hurt out.

"When?" Karry asked.

"It's going to be several weeks before uncle Nick surfaces and makes contact with the department. He's in some deep cover thing. They can't do the surgery until he gives permission because he's my guardian."

"So you have a few weeks with your hand anyway." Karry smiled.

"I just want one thing." Sassy said. "To play my moms guitar one last time."

"I'm sure we can get Mrs.Curtiss to send the guitar on." Zac smiled.

"Ya my mom's got the spare key." Karry smiled. "I'll send her an owl as soon as we get back to Hogwarts and ask her to send it."

"Thanks that would be great." Sassy said.

The train passed under the English channel and through to the continent. Sasporilla had never been out of England before. One day she hoped to see every place in the world. For now she was satisfied with seeing Paris passing by her window. The train moved on through the evening and didn't arrive in Geneva until late into the night. It switched from the main line onto a track that lead under ground and onto a secret platform in the SEG Geneva Arena & Palexpo convention center.

When Sasporilla awoke she realized the train had stopped and she peeked past the blind. The platform was alive with activity. Half the team was already awake and off the train. The door to her compartment opened and Professor Lee-Ashwolf stood in the door way.

"Finally up sleepy head?" Lyra said. "Get it together girl, we leave for the first day of the tournament in an hour."

"Give me twenty minutes and I'll be ready." Sasporilla said.

"There's food in the club car." Lyra smiled. "Grab something to eat too, it's going to be a long day."

The Hogwarts dueling team was lead by the headmistress and the two professors to the registration table on the first floor of the convention center. Sasporilla pushed a trolley with all of the clubs equipment behind.

"Hello." Professor McGonagall smiled. "We are the team from Hogwarts."

The woman looked through the book and smiled. "Wonderful! Here are your I'd badges, please don't loose them, you may continue on to the arena."

A young elf appeared at the table. "I am Mabel. I will assist you during the competition. Please come with me."

The arena had several dueling stages set up with a large number of officials preparing for the first days trials.

"This way to the Hogwarts area." Mabel smiled. "Come, come."

The Hogwarts area had fifteen seats, an equipment area and three dueling stages. Mabel showed Sasporilla to the equipment area.

"Thank you very much Mabel." Sassy smiled getting the equipment from the trolley and arranging it.

"You thanked Mabel?" The young elf said shocked. "Witches never thank elves?"

"I am also part elf." Sassy smiled. "I am of the Stilskin blood line."

"Oh!" Mabel smiled. "You are of Royal blood!"

"Royal blood?" Sasporilla laughed. "No, my ancestors were house elves."

"The ones you know yes." Mabel said. "But the Stilskins were eleven royals until the evil one came about."

"Evil one?" Sassy asked.

"Rumple Stilskin." Mabel couldn't believe the young witch knew so little about her lineage.

"I didn't know." Sasporilla said. "My grand aunts name was Daisy."

"Daisy of Avonshire?" Mabel asked. "Princess Daisy was a very gracious woman indeed." Mabel smiled. "So if she was your grand aunt that would make you a Bucket?"

"Yes." Sassy smiled. "Sasporilla Bucket."

"I am very please to meet you Princess Sasporilla." Mabel curtsied.

Sasporilla curtsied in return laughing. "Thank you Mabel but I'm no princess." Sassy said. "I'm just plain old Sasporilla Bucket."

People started to trickle in, but very few were interested in the first day trials. They were essentially just elimination matches designed to find the best duelers from each school to go head to head in the next round of elimination's.

"Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, teachers and duelers to the one hundred and seventy first European School Wizarding Duel Round Robin!" The announcer cheered trying to work up the very small crowd.

"Today's events will see duelists from Hogwarts, Dermstrang, Baux Battons, Droorlily, Velascases, & Değneklerini will face off to see who moves on to the next level in tomorrows competition. The rules are simple, duels are standard best of three point rounds. The losers of each duel are eliminated and the winners move on to the next round and eventually to the finally tomorrow night."

Everyone cheered, duelists, teachers and spectators alike.

"Officials check your lists!" The announcer yelled. "The first round schedules are revealed. Everyone duel safely and have fun!"

First up from Hogwarts were Gideon Barnswagle vs Iggor Marvirock from Dermstrang. Mavirock went down fast, no match for the faster Barnswaggle. Robyn Sizzamore fell to the talents of a younger girl from Baux Battons. Adam Lasheedah, Maxamillian Shaw, Owen Holland, Jillian Hoodwink, Ginger Marjolaine were all knocked out of the tournament first round. Half the duelers were out and the remaining would go on to the main round tomorrow.



Chapter 20

The Hogwarts Express was one big party that night. No matter what happened to who in the first days events, everyone celebrated the fact that Hogwarts was represented in the tournament and better still, they were still in it. The students danced to music in the club car. The professors celebrated with a small dram of brandy each.

Sasporilla sat back in a booth just enjoying the music as she watched Zac and Karry dance. It were times like these she wished Korry had made the team. She wondered what he was doing right now, it wasn't long before her imagination brought madrigal into the picture and she began to worry and get jealous again.

"Whatcha drinkin' there Tex?" Lyra asked sitting down across from her friend.

"It's ice cold butter beer." Sasporilla smiled taking a big frosty swig.

"Still hittin' the hard stuff?" Lyra pouted. "You know you might develop a problem if you keep drinking those."

"Yes." Sasporilla nodded "I could grow a behind you can measure in broom handles, like yours!"

"You miserable brat!" Lyra laughed taking the mug away and chugging the rest down. "I think you've had enough of that! I'm cutting you off."

"I'm not flying man! I'm taking the train!" Sassy laughed.

"Seriously dude." Lyra said. "Get up and work off the three Butter beers you've had and dance!"

"No." Sasporilla said. "I'm not bothered."

"Sassy stop moping and get out there." Lyra insisted. "You're not doing yourself any good staying alone."

"I'm not alone." Sassy said. "You're here, Karry's there and Penny's right over there."

"You're precious to me." Lyra said seriously. "You were the first person to even try to get me. You encouraged me to finish my owls and inspired me to become an aurer! I hate seeing you lonely and heart sick."

"It won't last forever." Sassy said.

"No I want to make your life better." Lyra said taking her friends hands. "Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket, will you marry me?"

The two girls started to laugh uncontrollably.

"Bugger off you nut!" Sassy laughed.

"So that's a no?" Lyra laughed.

"I'll be ok." Sassy said. "I don't need a boy in my life. It's nice but have one or not, it won't stop me from doing what I want in life."

"Ok." Lyra said accepting that.

"I think I'll head off to bed." Sasporilla said. "I want to be up a bit earlier tomorrow."

"Ok kid." Lyra smiled kissing her friend on the cheek. "Have a good night."

Lyra felt odd. She watched her friend walk away then went to get up and move. She felt heavy. She shuffled sideways out of the booth and looked back. Her behind was as wide as two brooms sitting end to end. Lyra saw Sasporilla standing in the door way smiling and waving. Lyra shrugged, walked onto the dance floor and shook her massive booty. Sasporilla tucked the small bottle of Zonkos Bubble Butt potion into her pocket.

A scream awoke Sasporilla sometime in the middle of the night. There was shouting as Sassy jumped out of bed and ran to the door. That was Karrys voice she could hear yelling. The compartment doors all locked. Sassy tried to open it but the door wouldn't budge. The blinds were stuck firmly to the windows as if by magic.

Sasporilla listened at the door and could hear harsh mumbled words from Professor McGonagall and sad ones from Karry.

"Karry? Karry!" Sasporilla shouted pounding on the compartment door. "Unlock this door now!!!"

The door to Sasporillas compartment opened and she ran out into the hall and into her friends room. Karry sat up in her bed weeping. Sassy sat beside her on the bed.

"What happened?" Sasporilla asked.

"We got caught." Karry said weeping.

"Caught?" Sasporilla asked cluelessly but then finding a spark of understanding. "Oh! Really? Oh my god Karry you're to young! How long? Since... when?"

"Since Christmas." Karry said. "I'm so embarrassed! I yelled out as McGonagall walked by and she freaked!"

"Can you blame her?" Sassy said. "You're both too young!"

"I know but we're in love." Karry said. "Really."

Sassy smiled at her friend. "Ok, I get it. I understand. I won't judge. Just know I'm here for you. I'm your friend ya?"

"Best friends forever." Karry smiled.

"Best friends forever." Sasporilla said hugging her friend then pulling away. "You're very sweaty."

"Sorry." Karry said and started to laugh.

Sassy joined her friend in laughter as they talked about the situation long into the night.

Sasporilla awoke beside her friend who slept deeply. It was somewhere around breakfast time as Sassy's stomach growled with hunger. The pink haired witch went back to her own compartment to grab a towel and some clothes and popped off to the loo for a morning pee and quick wash-up.

No one at breakfast talked about what had happened the night before. It was very obvious that something was said as girls now sat at one end of the car and boys at the other with the professors forming a barrier between.

Even the seating in the duelers box was now separated into boys on one side girls on the other.

Karry sat on the far outside corner in front and Zac eight seats away on the opposite side. To simply steal a glance was met with severe looks from the head mistress.

The lights of the stadium dimmed.

"Thirty six duelists remain." The announcers voice cut through the darkness as two giant boards lit up showing the names of the male and female duelists, paired up.

"Half will be gone in round two of the European School Wizarding Duel Round Robin!"

The lights flashed on. The large crowd cheered as the duelists from all six schools stood and approached the stages they were assigned to.

"Today's rules!" The announcer called. "Matches will be five rounds. The winners will have the highest point count. The duelist with the lowest point count in both boys and girls divisions will drop off leaving eight boys and eight girls for tomorrow's final elimination rounds!"

Hogwarts saw a devastating day in the dueling arena. As student after student performed poorly they were knocked out of contention until only Zac and Karry remained.

That night the Hogwarts dueling club returned to the train but there was no party. Dinner was served individually by the trolley witch who went from room to room. There was no traveling between the girls car and the boys car. The professors met in the club car in between to discuss their next move.

"If the Curtiss girl and Mr. Zarcazzian were not moving on to the next round I would expel them both." The Headmistress said.

"Really?" Professor Lee-Ashwolf said. "So because they're still useful they can stay for now?"

"I didn't mean it like that." Professor McGonagall said. "Hogwarts has a zero congenial fraternization policy."

"Didn't stop me." Lyra said. "You're not a prude Minerva! This happens! We need to educate them on safety and responsibility."

"That level of intimacy between students of that age is inappropriate!" Professor Slughorn said. "We have to inform the parents."

"Agreed." Professor McGonagall nodded.

"Fine but as for expulsion," Lyra said. "That would destroy the scholastic career of one of the smartest students we have! Karry Curtiss is a brilliant young witch! To kick her out of school now could devastate her!"

"So could having a baby!" Minerva McGonagall said. The Headmistress took a deep breath and regained her composure.

"My mind is made up. We will inform the Curtiss' and Mr. Zarcazzian's guardian immediately of what took place. We will not directly expel the students for their indiscretion BUT I will warn them that any further canoodling will find them both sent home!"



Chapter 21

"Seventy two duelers started sixteen remain!" The Announcer said into the mic to the fully packed crowd. "And today we will see who remains as we duel for the European School Wizarding Duel Round Robin Championship!" The crowd met the duelists who took the field with thunderous approval. Eight boys and eight girls were left. Sasporilla Bucket cheered for her friends Karry and Zac who were among them.

"Round three of the competition are a single point round, winner take all fast track match. One point wins the match. Good luck to all of our duelists."

One single stage sat in the center of the stadium and duelists lined up in their groups four girls and four boys on each side. The girls went first.

"First match is Karoline Curtiss of Hogwarts versus Moirah Dingle of Droorlily!"

The girls took the stage. They walked and stood face to face. Karry smiled and held out her hand. "Good luck."

"Thank you." Moirah Dingle smiled and shook Karry's hand.

"What a fine example of good sportsmanship!" The announcer called. The crowd cheered.

The girls stood back to back and stepped forward to their sides of the dueling stages. They turned, saluted and took up their stances. The official bell rang signifying start of the round.

"Caith!" Moirah cast.

"Defendo!" Karry countered changing stance to return the attack immediately. "Stupify."

"Chosaint!" The girl from Droorlily defended.

Both girls took a second to assess each other, looking for a weakness to exploit or a strength to be wary of.

Karry paid close attention to the girls breathing. Karry held her last breath. When she began to take a deep breath to announce her spell Karry blurted out "Expeliarmus!" Disarming the young witch.

"Point!" The referee called. "Winner - Karoline Curtiss - Hogwarts."

Karry smiled and bowed then walked over and once again shook the girls hand. Both girls hugged. Sassy cheered and applauded her friend.

"You are very good!" Karry said.

"You to!" Moirah smiled. "I'll send you an owl if I ever need you to have my back in a fight!"

The next few matches saw the elimination of three more girls. The winners moved to the next round.

"You were so amazing!" Sassy said to Karry.

"Thanks." Karry smiled. "When I realized we were evenly matched I watched her breathing and held mine. When she took a breath to cast I was able to beat her out by a few seconds."

"You are bloody brilliant!" Sasporilla said in awe of her friend.

"Yes well I learned it from watching you." Karry said. "You do the same thing but you're not aware you do it! You my dear are a natural dueler."

"It's fun but to be honest," Sassy said stepping in so no one could hear her, "I hate fighting! Especially since the battle of Hogwarts."

"But you've always been so keen to duel?" Karry said.

"Because I know the importance of defending ourselves! We need to be good at fighting and we need to take it seriously because our world is dangerous but I don't have to like it!"

"You are an amazing conundrum Sasporilla Bucket!" Karry said.

The boys were aggressive and flashy. The duels seemed to go on forever but as with all of the matches, someone had to win and someone had to lose.

Last up was Zac and a boy from Dermstrang named Grogar Nyers. The boys took center stage and when Zac held out his hand to his opponent Grogar Nyers slapped his hand aside. The crowd booed at the bad sportsmanship.

"Nice manners you teach Kararoff!" Professor Slughorn cursed. Karkaroff made a rude gesture at the Hogwarts box laughing.

The duelists stood back to back.

"I will hurt you." Grogar Nyres snarled.

"Bring it on." Zac said as they stepped away from each other and walked to the end of the stage, turned and saluted.

The boys took up dueling positions. The bell rang.

"Tarmen!" Zac cast causing the boy to double over in pain. "

The point was not called. Grogar began to straighten.

"Pagputol!" Zac cast and knocked Nyers on to his back unconscious.

The point was still not called. The crowd was in shock. The professors started to question what was going on. Even the officials at the table were expressing concern.

The bell rang and a secondary official called the point.

"I called no point!" The referee objected. "I award the points!"

The other officials gathered around the referee to determine whether he was under the influence of magic, threat or greed. The referee had been the victim of the Impirius curse. Once cleared he was removed from the field. Within minutes the Dermstrang team, now eliminated from the competition and their professors were removed from the stadium.

The duelists broke for lunch. The Hogwarts contingent headed back to the train. Everyone was feeling relatively jovial though the boys and girls were still segregated. Karry and Zac were met by a huge surprise once back aboard the train. Mr. & Mrs. Curtiss had arrived along with Zacs guardian Cabbie Patel. The young lovers were taken into the Headmistresses private quarters car along with the adults.

Karry and Zac were sat in chairs on either side of the headmistresses desk. While the Curtiss' and Cabbie Patel sat in front on the sides of their children.

"Thank you for coming." Professor McGonall said. "As you know what happened I will not go over it again. The reason I brought you here is because I want to discuss the punishment for their actions."

"Punishment?" Mrs. Curtiss asked. "As far as I'm concerned this is a private family matter and not something that deserves punishment."

"I understand." Professor McGonagall said. "But inappropriate congress between students is expressly forbidden."

"What century is this?" Cabbie Patel asked.

"Frankly Headmistress McGonagall," Alex Curtiss said, "we appreciate you informing us about this development but we feel you should keep your nose out of our daughters business."

Lyra started to chuckle at the back of the room but quickly regained her composure.

"I was about sixteen when I first became active, my older daughter was younger, and Karry is no different." Mrs.Curtiss said. "So am I surprised at this development? No! When my girls blossom I educate them on safety, pregnancy and using their head!"

Lyra burst into laughter. Professor McGonagall gave the young Professor Lee-Ashwolf a dirty look. Lyra stepped out of the car.

"I personally feel that people are ready to be intimate when they are ready." Cabbie Patel said. "I just hope they understand the responsibilities that can generate from their actions."

"We used protection." Zac said.

"Good for you." Cabbie Patel said.

"My daughter was taken to our doctor and given protective potions three years ago and I know she takes them." Kolleen Curtiss said. "They regulate other functions as well."

"Yes Mrs.Curtiss I am aware of that." Professor McGonagall said. "It is very apparent to me that you see nothing wrong with their activity. Just understand if your children are caught again they will be expelled."

"Unbelievable." The Curtiss' objected.

"Can we say something?" Karry said walking over to Zac and taking his hand. Zac stood beside his love and held her hand. "We are in love."

"I know it seems that way now." Professor McGonagall said. "But you're too young to truly be..."

"We're old enough to have fought for our school against Voldemort and his Death Eaters. We're old enough to have seen death and tragedy on a scale few have." Zac said tersely.

"And we're old enough to know that everything can end in a heart beat. I will live my life in the now as I plan and work for the future I want." Karry said. "If getting caught being interment will get us thrown out of Hogwarts then we will simply abstain at school."

"That's all I can ask." Professor McGonagall said.

"Then we're done here?" Mrs.Curtiss asked.

"Yes." Professor McGonagall said. "We should have some lunch before we have to get back."

"Mom." Karry said. "I need to ask you a favor."

"Really?" Kolleen smiled. "You know we're not done talking about this young lady?"

"I know." Karry said. "But I need you to send something to school for Sasporilla."

Zac pulled his guardian aside. "Cabbie can you send this note to my Lawyer please."

"Of course Zac." Cabbie Patel smiled. "What's your concern."

"Just planning my future." Zac smiled.

The afternoon tournament was similar to the mornings in rules and format. There were four matches which eliminated the four weakest duelers and revealed those who moved on to the final.

"Join us tonight for the European School Wizarding Duel Round Robin Championship Finals! We will see who is crowned Champion between Zacariah Zarcassian of Hogwarts versus Mitchell Drogan of Droorlily and Karoline Curtiss of Hogwarts versus Madiline LaFluer of Baux Batons!"



Chapter 22

The students of the final three schools and their professors were treated to a reception in the convention centers grand ball room. There was music, dancing and refreshments. There were disproportionately more girls than boys due to the extra girls of Baux Batons.

The four students in the finally were interviewed by Rita Skeeter for the Daily Prophet.

Sasporilla Bucket sat in back trying to stay out of everyone's way. Penny danced with Owen Holland. Zac and Karry were in the grasp of Rita Skeeter like flies in a spiders web. Sassy nibbled on refreshments alone at her table.

"Hi." A strange boy said to Sasporilla in a heavy Irish accent. "This is a nice party."

"Yes very." Sassy agreed.

"I'm Deckland Casey." The boy smiled. "I'm from Droorlily."

"Yes I saw your duel." Sassy smiled. "I'm Sasporilla Bucket. Equipment manager, mascot and pitiful hanger on of the Hogwarts team."

"There's nothing pitiful about you that I can see." Deckland Casey smiled. "Would you like to dance?"

Sasporilla thought about saying no. Then she remembered her own words to Korry. What was she holding back for? Why was she sitting at the back of the room not enjoying life. A boy was asking her to dance.

"I'd love to." Sasporilla said holding out her hand.

Deckland took the young witches hand and helped her to her feet. They walked over to the dance floor and grooved to the music of bands like the Weird Sisters and Patersons Wand Shop.

After four or five dances Sassy and Deckland sat back down at the table and they were quickly joined by Penny and Owen.

"Great party!" Penny smiled. "I prefer my music a bit heavier but still."

"Like what?" Sassy asked.

"Bristle Face, Cult of the Blood Moon Wolf, Flying Carpet Baggers." Penny said.

"Broomer music." Deckland said. "Not great to dance too though is it?"

"Ever tried?" Penny asked.

"No." Deckland said truthfully.

Penny reached into her bag and pulled out a disk from its depths. She walked over to the DJ and asked if he would play a song from her personal taste in music. She walked back to the table and said "All right you three, let's dance."

They got up on the floor as a song called "Born to Raise Hell" by Cult of the Blood Moon Wolf blared across the speakers. Penny let loose, hips swaying hands in the air and just having fun. Sassy joined in and the boys stood there for a short second, their mouths a-jar. The girls grabbed the boys by the hands and started them going. In no time everyone was up dancing wildly and having the most fun they had all night.

Mabel the elf assistant brought a small leather case to Zac. The young wizard peeked inside and smiled.

The duelists and their accompanying schools were ushered back into the stadium. They all went to their boxes and sat awaiting the call. The stadium was full and people filled seats on the floor. There was now only one Dueling stage. It was old and very ornately carved from one piece of giant American Red Wood. The lights dimmed. Fireworks exploded above and streams of magical energy flashed from side to side on the ceiling.

"Ladies and Gentlemen," the announcer appeared center stage in a bright spot light, "Boys and Girls, Duelists, Teachers and elves. Welcome to the European School Wizarding Duel Round Robin Championship Finals!"

The crowd cheered and applauded.

"The last two days have been grueling on our finalists." The announcer continued. "A long hard road that has led here! Tonight we will see the best student duelists in Europe go head to head. First up from the school which is the pride of Ireland, Droorlily, Mitchell Drogan!" A spot light hit the boy who stood and was led from the Droorlily box, by their elf assistant, to the steps of the dueling stage.

"And from Hogwarts, the duelist with the highest point standing in this competition Zacariah Zarcazzian!"

"Come, come!" Mabel said as the spotlight hit the Hogwarts box. Zac stood and waved, then leaned down to Karry and kissed her. The crowd erupted in approval. Zac walked down to steps to the dueling stage.

"The duel is a best of five. Ties do not count and will be re-dueled. Highest amount of points wins!"

Both boys ascended the steps and walked to center stage.

"Good luck mate." Zac smiled and held out his hand.

"You too." The young Irishman said. "Loser pays the bar tab tonight."

"Agreed!" Zac laughed knowing neither of them drank.

The boys stood back to back and walked to their ends of the dueling stage. They turned and saluted. Mitchell Drogan danced a bit of a jig before he took up his ready position.

Zac smiled. The bell rang.

Both boys stood ready to defend. They changed stances quickly.

"Expelliarmus!" Zac cast.

"Bentafháil!" Mitchell returned.

Zac was bent over backwards as Mitchell's wand flew into the barrier keeping it from flying into the crowd.

The referee called a tie but there was a call for an official ruling by Droorlily. This gave Zac a chance to straighten himself. The argument was that Zac took a direct hit first but the rules were clear that the disarm was of equal victory. The tie stood.

The boys took up their dueling positions again. The bell rang.

"Flipendo." Zac cast before Mitchell could even open his mouth throwing him into the air end over end.

"Point! Hogwarts!" The official called.

Mitchell stood up and caught his breath.

"You ok mate?" Zac called as the young Irishman gave him the thumbs up.

The score board showed the first point was Zacs. Karry crossed her fingers. Sasporilla kept her eye on the first glows of the wands.

The boys took up their positions and the bell rang.

"Ionsaí!" Mitchell attacked.

"Defendo!" Zac cast.

"Caeruleum!" Mitchell attacked again.

"Gynyba!" Zac defended.

Blue and red light flashed between the boys until a fast cast by Mitchell caused Zac to stumble.

"Feiptine!" Mitchell cast. A flame whip shot from the irish boys wand and wrapped around Zacs wrist. Mitchell pulled and twisted the whip which burned Zacs wrist forcing him to drop his wand.

"Point! Droorlily!" The referee called.

Zac fell to the stage holding his wrist. Mitchell walked over and cast a burn healing spell on Zacs wrist.

"How's that feel now friend?" Mitchell asked.

"Better mate." Zac smiled. "Cheers."

Mitchell helped Zac to his feet as the crowd cheered.

"They are good sports." Sassy said. Karry was pale seeing her boyfriend hurt. "He'll be ok Karry. They're not trying to kill each other!"

The score board showed the points at 1-1. The boys gathered themselves and took up positions as the bell rang.

"Vertens!" Zac cast spinning Mitchell like a top. A flurry of blue and red spells flew from the spinning blur that was the young Irish Wizard as Zac halted him and cast "Dura Pulsamus."

Mitchell Drogan fell to the stage unconscious.

"Point - Hogwarts!" The referee called as officials came in to wake the boy. It took a few passes of the smelling salt charm to bring Mitchell around. He stood and rubbed his head.

"Jesus ya gobshite what'dya hit me with?" Mitchell laughed.

"A Hard knock." Zac said.

"Sure was!" Mitchell laughed. "Ok prepare to be dazzled!"

The boys took up positions and once again the bell rang!

Attack-defence back and forth again and again until Mitchell appeared to lose balance. Zac took advantage and cast "Pana!" but the young Irish wizard was prepared and shoulder rolled to one side of the stage, using the barrier to break his roll and regain his footing.

"Stoirm Oighir!" Mitchell cast. A flash of blue brought with it a rushing ice storm which froze Zac solid.

"Point! Droorlily!" The referee called. The score was now even 2-2. The officials thawed out Zac who stood there shivering.

"Ice move." Zac laughed.

"Thanks chilly Willy!" Mitchell chuckled.

Within a moments spells had returned Zac to normal temperature and dried his robes.

The boys took up their positions again on the ends of the dueling stage. Music started to blare through the stadium. Some opera thing that was obviously meant to raise the tension and excitement. The Markebinden bracelet started to vibrate on her wrist. Sasporilla grabbed it and tugged but it still wouldn't budge. The music stopped the boys took up their positions and the bell rang.

"Mittent!" Zac Cast and side stepped.

"Caith!" Mitchell cast side stepping Zacs spell.

"Portego!" Zac attacked.

"Chosaint!" Mitchell defended.

"Captum!" Zac attacked again.

"Crith Talún." Mitchell seized and fell back convulsing as the stage under Zacs feet began to shake and heave throwing Zac back. When both spell ceased the boys stood. Mitchell began to attack again and again but Zac dodged, evaded and defended every cast. Mitchell took a deep breath and Zac was prepared. "EXPELIARMUS!" Knocked the wand from Mitchells hand.

"Point! - Hogwarts. Winner Zacariah Zarcazzian!" The referee called.

Zac jumped excitedly as Karry ran off into the crowd and up to the stage to hug her boy friend and give him a big kiss. Karry mouthed "I love you" and jumped off the stage, returning to the her seat. Zac blew her a kiss then turned to walk over to Mitchell Drogan. Mitchell met him half way on the stage. Both boys shook hands and the young Irish wizard raised Zacs hand indicating him the winner!

"Nice match mate." Zac said.

"Glad you don't drink!" Mitchell laughed.

Zac returned to the Hogwarts box and sat next to Karry who set her head on his shoulder.

"Good match Zac!" Sasporilla smiled leaning in.

"Thanks Sassy." Zac smiled shaking her hand.

"Next is our final match of the tournament!" The announcer said back in the center of the dueling stage. First up from the school which is the pride of France, Baux Batons, Madiline LaFluer!" A spot light hit the girl who was already standing. The elf assistant lead the young witch from the Baux Batons box to the steps of the dueling stage.

"And from Hogwarts, the duelist with the second highest point standing in this competition Karoline Curtiss!"

"Come, come!" Mabel said as the spotlight hit the Hogwarts box. Karry stood, smiled and waved, then leaned down to Zac and kissed him. The crowd erupted in approval. Karry walked down to steps to the dueling stage. Both girls stepped up onto the dueling stage and walked to the center. Madiline LaFluer held out her hand with a smile. Karry smiled and went to shake the girls hand. Madiline LaFluer quickly smacked Karrys palm with her wand.

"Ow!" Karry yelled.

"Warning - Baux Batons!" The official called. A red X appeared on the score board.

"Bit..." Sassy began.

"Language Miss Bucket." The Headmistress said.

"Sorry mam." Sassy apologized.

The girls stood back to back. Karry still cursed her stinging palm when Madiline LaFluer reached back and pinched Karry hard on the back of the arm.

"Ow!" Karry yelled and objected.

"Warning - Baux Batons!" The official said as a second red X appeared on the score board. "One more inappropriate act and you will forfeit the match. Do you understand girl."

"Yes!" The girl laughed.

The girls walked to their ends of the dueling stage. They took up their starting positions. Madiline LaFluer began to move a split second before the bell rang.

"Mittent!" Madiline LaFluer cast and flipped Karry to the back of the stage where she landed hard.

"Point - Baux Batons!" The referee called.

"That's unfair!" Sassy said. "She was casting before the bell rang!"

The officials took all into account but upheld the ruling. Karry straightened up and took up her position again. Madiline LaFluer took up position again as well. She sneered as she prepared to attack. The bell rang.

Karry had barely gotten the "Exp..." of Expeliarmus out her mouth when the young French witch countered the spell and cast "Briser le bras!" Karrys casting arm broke and fell unnaturally down. Karry Curtiss screamed in pain and fell to the stage holding her arm.

"Karry!" Sasporilla and Zac stood and yelled.

The officials consulted the rules on such a savage spell. Apparently though the officials found it distasteful, it was not illegal.

"Point - Baux Batons!" The official called.

"She moves like an elf blood." Sasporilla objected.

Lyra and the Headmistress looked at each other an professor Slughorn. "Point of objection!" They called.

The officials came to the Hogwarts box and heard the Professors concerns that the young French witch was indeed of elven liniage. An official time out was called as officials tested Madiline LaFluer. The three crystal crown made its diagnosis quickly. The girl was indeed of elf heritage. The officials called for a Conflux bracelete.

The Conflux bracelet brought forward was nothing like the Markebinden bracelet that had been sent to Hogwarts. "You might want to put a picture of a real Conflux bracelet in the rule book!" Headmistress McGonagall said to an official. "One of my students is suffering through the agony of the Markebinden bracelet the commission sent us."

"We are sorry about that!" The official said. "We suspect death eater infiltration was the cause."

Madiline LaFluer raised concerns with Madame Maxime. The young French witch didn't want to be forced to wear the Conflux bracelet. Madame Maxime gave her no choice, holding the girls arm out for the official to lock the bracelet on.

Doctors attended to the break in Karrys arm, mending the broken bones with spells.

They wrapped and braced the arm with magical bindings and support.

"There young lady." The physician smiled. That will let you duel, but after I recommend letting us have another look and you rest that arm for a few days."

Karry knew this witch didn't just want to win. Madiline LaFluer wanted to hurt her. Maybe not just her but anyone and everyone who stood against her. Karry got out of the mind set that they were at a dueling competition and she went back to facing off with death eaters.

The girls met center stage. Karry slapped the French girl hard across the face with her good hand.

"Warning - Hogwarts!" The referee said.

"It was totally worth it!" Karry snarled.

Madiline LaFluer held her cheek afraid. She didn't see that coming at all.

The girls turned back to back and stepped to their ends of the stage. The girls took up their positions again. The bell rang.

"Turnàpetra!" Karry cast turning the girl painfully to stone.

The officials checked the rules. Once again the spell was painful and savage but legal.

"Point - Hogwarts." The official called.

The spell to reverse the turn to stone curse was twice as painful as the original spell. Madiline LaFluer screamed as she turned from stone to flesh.

Karry paced back and forth at her end of the dueling stage still out raged at the girl.

"Not fun when someone hurts you on purpose isn't it?" Karry yelled at the girl.

"Warning - Hogwarts!" The official called.

"Still totally worth it." Karry snarled quietly.

Madiline LaFluer was deemed fit and the girls took up positions. The bell rang. The French witch attacked and Karry defended. Karry attacked and Madiline defended. The volleys went back and forth until the girl paused.

Karry held her breath. As Madiline took a breath to cast, Karry blurted "Flipendo!"

Madiline LaFluer spun head over heels back off the stage and fell hard onto the steps.

"Point! - Hogwarts." The referee called.

The score board was even 2xx - 2xx. Karry still paced. Sassy hadn't seen her so intense since the Battle of Hogwarts. Madiline LaFluer tried to quit the match but Madame Maxime would not hear of it. The Headmistress of Baux Batons picked the girl up by the torso and stood her on the stage.

"Come on biggens!" Lyra shouted, "That's heartless! Even for you!"

Karry started to feel sorry for the girl. It was obvious the Baux Batons club had been depending on keeping the girls elf skills hidden. Madiline LaFluer had probably never had a fair duel in her life. The girls took up the dueling stance and the bell rang. Madiline LaFluer held her wand in salute and closed her eyes.

"Expeliarmus." Karry said knocking the wand from the girls hand. As angry as she had been she now just pitied the girl.

"Point! - Hogwarts! Karry Curtiss Winner!" The entire Hogwarts box emptied and ran to Karrys side cheering. Karry turned to see Zac standing beside her smiling. Zac took the girls hand and dropped down on one knee.

"Karoline Curtiss." Zac began.

"What are you doing." Karry said wide eyed.

"I love you more than life itself." Zac smiled.

"I love you too darling." Karry smiled.

"I know that right now we're too young. You'll be sixteen in May and I'll be sixteen in November, and though you need to be eighteen in England and the UK you can do it without permission at sixteen in Scotland. Hogwarts and Hogsmead are in Scotland and I'm starting to ramble."

"Oh god." Karry said as Zac pulled a small box out of his pocket.

"Karry Curtiss what I'm trying to ask you is, when you're ready, when ever your ready even if it's not until were eighty five, Will you marry me?"

Karry stood there stunned and stiller than a person in the grasp of a petrification spell.

"Get up boy!" Headmistress McGonagall said. "You're embarrassing yourself and her."

"Yes." Karry said.

"What?" Zac smiled.

"Yes when I'm ready," Karry smiled, "When we're ready, I will marry you Zacariah Zarcazzian."

The crowd cheered. Sasporilla hugged her friends. She was so happy for them though she was concerned they were far too young for such a life commitment. Karry's parents stood stage side having watched the duel. They were understandably stunned. Cabbie Patel gave her young charge the thumbs up while shaking her head in disbelief. The announcer pushed his way up onto the dueling stage.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls here before you stand the boys and girls European School Wizarding Duel Round Robin Champions Zacariah Zarcazzian and Karoline Curtiss."

Each were presented with a medallion placed around their necks and trophies taller than both of them. They were carried triumphantly off the stage by their friends and class mates, back to the Hogwarts Express which was preparing to leave. Sasporilla gathered the equipment and headed back with the trolley through the convention center. She ran into Mabel who had been looking for her.

"Princess Sasporilla!" The young elf waved running up to her. "I hoped to catch you before you left."

"Please Mabel, it's just Sasporilla or Sassy." Sassy smiled. "I'm no princess and my friends all call me Sassy."

"So we are friends?" Mabel asked.

"I'd like us to be." Sasporilla said as the young elf hugged her.

"I need to tell you something." Mabel said. "It's a riddle."

"I like riddles." Sassy said. "Go ahead."

"A lady told me to tell it to you." Mabel said. "When is a key not a key if its both in key and not in key?"

"That's a hard one." Sassy said thinking on it for a few moments until she gave in. "I'm not sure. What's the answer?"

"She did not give me the answer." Mabel said. "She said you would figure it out."



Chapter 23

Sasporilla sat on her bed alone in the Hufflepuff dorm room playing her mom's guitar. Karry had asked her mom to send it to the school so Sassy could play it at least one more time before undergoing the surgery to remove her hand and get rid of the Markebinden bracelet. Besides everyone had nicked out to Hogsmead today. Korry had taken Maddy to Honeydukes for sweet treats. Sasporilla laughed and felt bad at the hope Madrigal Neelander got fat.

Sasporilla played for hours just wanting to feel the strings under fingers. Occasional, when ever Sassy played an E minor chord, the bracelet vibrated slightly. She remembered the music at the tournament.

"When is a key not a key if it's both in key and not in key?" Sasporilla mused. "Music?"

Sasporilla strummed an E chord. Nothing. Then she strummed an E minor chord. The Markebinden bracelet vibrated slightly.

Sasporilla ran to the library carrying her guitar.

"Professor Pince!" Sasporilla yelled. "Professor Pince!"

"Shhhhhhhhh!" Miss Pince whispered. "Library voices Miss Bucket."

"I'm sorry mam but I need your help!" Sasporilla said holding up her wrist. "I may have found the key!"

"How can I help?" Miss Pince asked.

"I need a chord chart for all keys of E." Sassy said.

They searched the library for a couple of books of complete guitar chords. They flipped through until they found the chords they searched for in the Key of E.

"I'll need to play Miss Pince." Sassy cringed.

"This is a special case dear." Professor Pince smiled. "Go ahead."

Sasporilla tried every chord in the key of E and got little to no response. Then she tried the key of E minor and had much better results. The chord of E minor seventh in the key of E minor created a resonance that made the Markebinden bracelet vibrate violently. However nothing seemed to open it.

"Perhaps it's a combination of the notes?" Miss Pince said.

"Maybe." Sasporilla said. "That seems like a lot of combinations are possible."

"Millions I'm afraid." Professor Pince said. "Maybe a lot more."

"Well if I could borrow this book," Sassy smiled, "I'll work combinations."

"Normally as this is a muggle book and very rare I'd have to say no but your circumstance is quite extraordinary so I will allow it." Professor Pince smiled.

Weeks passed. Sasporilla played every day until her fingers bled. The best she could get the bracelet to do was vibrate. Sassy became extremely frustrated.

"Knock, knock!" Karry said. "Got a sec?"

Sasporilla sighed and put the guitar off to the side of her bed. "Come on in."

"Any luck?" Karry asked.

"No." Sasporilla said. "Same as always. I can make it vibrate but can't get the bracelet off."

"We'll figure it out." Karry smiled.

"I hope so." Sasporilla said. "Uncle Nick is due in tonight."

"I hate to do this but can I change the subject?" Karry asked.

"Of course." Sassy smiled welcoming a distraction. "Everything ok?"

"Yes everything is great." Karry smiled. "In fact everything is amazing! Zac bought a small house in Hogsmead for us to live in."

"You're moving in together?" Sassy gasped.

"Well it's not exactly like that." Karry said. "His guardian Cabbie Patel will be there as well. We'll have separate bedrooms for now. It gives us a place of our own to live in. It's legal once we're sixteen."

"So you won't be home this summer?" Sassy asked.

"No." Karry said. "Maybe for a visit. Mom's not thrilled about it but as I'll be sixteen she has no real say."

"Wow." Sasporilla said. "This is a big step."

"Very." Karry smiled. "I'm ecstatic, elated and terrified all at the same time."

"Well I'm always here for you." Sassy said.

"I know." Karry said. "I have other news as well."

"Your not?????" Sassy asked waging her finger in a circular motion at Karry's tummy.

"No!!!" Karry laughed. "I have no plans for children for a very long time. Maybe never. I've decided I want to be a teacher. I'll have plenty of children to deal with. No what I wanted to tell you was the potion is ready!"

"Really?" Sassy smiled.

"Korry and Maddy are down stairs with Zac. They're waiting for you." Karry said. "If you're ready?"

Sasporilla stood up and straightened her robes. "As ready as I'll ever be."

Sasporilla and Karry went down stairs to the main hall where Zac watched over Korry Curtiss and Madrigal Neelander.

"Hi Sassy." Maddy waved.

Korry looked up and smiled. "Hey you."

"Hey you." Sasporilla smiled hopeful.

Karry pulled a small red bottle from her robe pocket and held it up in front of her brother.

"This is it." Karry said. "You close your eyes, drink the whole thing down all at once, and it should take effect as soon as you open your eyes."

"Ok then." Korry said taking the bottle closing his eyes and drinking the potion down. He could feel the last bit of fog in his mind and all shreds of doubt disappeared. He opened his eyes. Korry handed his twin sister the empty red bottle.

"How do you feel." Korry asked.

"Clear headed." Korry said. "The best I've been all year and I know very clearly who I love and who I choose." Both girls held their breath. Korry looked at both of them and took Zac's hands.

"I love Zac!" Korry said.

"Bugger off you git!" Zac laughed.

Korry burst into laughter as Karry smacked him on the back of the head.

"What?" Korry laughed. "I want him to buy me a house too!"

He did really seem like the old Korry. Sasporilla stood very hopeful as Korry turned and took her hands.

"Sasporilla." Korry said a bit sadly. "When you kissed me you cleared my head of ninety nine percent of the bewitchment but I could still feel that tickle at the back of mind. I really, really like you, but what I felt for Madrigal seemed deeper. I needed to take this potion to clear it all out and know for sure. Now I know."

Sasporilla knew what was coming. She looked down at the floor.

"I'm sorry Sassy," Korry said turning to Maddy who gasped in disbelief. "Maddy I love you. Really love you. No bewitchment, no spells."

Korry moved forward and kissed Madrigal deeply. The pendant fell off its chain and shattered on the hall floor. Maddys transformation was complete and she had found her soul mate.

"Sassy I..." Korry said turning to where her friend had been, but Sasporilla Bucket was no where to be found.



Chapter 24

Sasporilla Bucket walked down to the Black Lake weeping uncontrollably. The only boy she had ever loved had chosen another girl over her. Tears streamed down her cheeks as she stumbled and fell upon the rocky shore. She didn't want to get up. She just wanted to lay there and cry.

A drop of water splashed on the back of her head. A deep guttural warble echoed across the lake. Sasporilla just laid there and cried.

Francis roared.

"I can't understand you anymore Francis." The young witch screamed. "I can't do anything anymore!"

The tip of the squids giant tentacle gently stroked Sasporillas hair. It moved over and touched the bracelet on her wrist. There was a heavy splashing of water that sprayed the pink haired witch. She looked up and saw a man with a fish like face and tentacled arms and chin standing waste deep in the black lake.

"It's been so long since I took human form, I fear I've forgotten just how I'm suppose to look."

"Francis?" Sasporilla sniffed. "Is that you?"

"Yes." The man said. "I was Francis Yule an animagus. I chose to stay as a giant squid after the Horrors of war I had witnessed. It's a peaceful life at the bottom of the black lake."

"I never knew you used to be human." Sasporilla started to cry again.

"The loss of ones powers is devastating I know." Francis said holding up a tentacle that was missing the end. "I have seen the bracelets before and know the damage they can do but I fear something else makes you cry tonight."

"My boy friend chose another girl over me!" Sassy wept.

"Would you like me to crush him?" Francis mused, "or drown him at the bottom of the Black Lake?"

"NO!" Sasporilla yelled. "I'm furious he dumped me but I'll see no harm come to him because of it! Do you understand?"

Francis looked at her curiously for a moment and said "Yes."

Francis lowered himself into the water whistling a tune. The same piece of classical music that was played at the tournament. Her bracelet vibrated. Sasporilla looked down at it as a giant tentacle splashed down beside her and sprayed her with water. Sassy stood there drenched as Francis laughed and swam away.

"Well." Sasporilla chuckled. "At least no one can tell I've been crying."

Sassy walked slowly back to the castle. Small lights from the tips of wands floated in the dark night air like fireflies. "Sasporilla!" Karry yelled catching sight of her soaking wet friend walking up the hill. "You're drenched. You'll catch your death unless you get dry and warm."

Karry pulled Sasporilla, still weeping into the Hufflepuff common room, covered her with a blanket and sat her before the fire. Professors Sprout, McGonagall and Lee-Ashwolf were happy to see the girl back safe and sound. Though the Headmistress was keen to punish her for running off.

"You had us all worried to death." Lyra said handing her a mug of tea.

"Sorry." Sasporilla sniffed and shivered. The cocoa was warm and probably tasted good but Sasporilla was numb. She just stared at the fire trying to lose herself in it but the bracelet kept her from doing just that.

"Music." Sasporilla blurted out coming to the surface of thought.

"What music?" Karry asked.

"The music from the tournament!" Sasporilla said humming 'Oh Fortuna' by Orff as well as she could. The Markebinden bracelet vibrated wildly. "There's some connection between that piece of music and the Key of E minor."

Nick and Myron barged into the Hufflepuff common room. A temporary easement had been placed on the common room entrance to allow friends and family in. Professor McGonagall knew all too well the pain young Sasporilla was going through.

"You found her!" Nick shouted running over and hugging her. "You're grounded for the summer for running off like that, after I kill you for running off like that and then I'll forgive you and lift it anyway so what's the point?"

"I love you too Uncle Nick." Sassy hugged him very tight.

"Hey don't hog all the hugs!" Myron smiled.

Sasporilla managed a half smile then dropped into Myron's arms crying. In all the world Myron Wagtail was the one adult she felt comfortable enough around to let out her feelings.

"It hurts so much!" Sassy wailed.

"I know." Myron hugged the young witch and stroked her hair. "When will it stop raining Myron? When?"

"Soon Sassy." Myron assured her. "Soon."

Professor McGonagall called for a special music player to be brought down from the library by Miss Pince who was accompanied by one of the school's technical wizards, Melvin Lazarus.

Melvin saw Sasporilla crying and abandoned the cart carrying the disc player. He ran over to the crying pink haired witch and said her name. "Sasporilla?"

Sassy turned and saw young Melvin's face and how sad, concerned and a touch angry he was. The sides of her mouth attempted a smile, but she was still too upset. She grabbed the young boy and hugged him. Melvin hugged her and smiled.

"Whatever is wrong," Melvin said. "I know we can make it better."

"Ahem!" Miss Pince said. "Would you please set up the phonograph Mr. Lazarus."

"Of course Miss Pince." Melvin sat Sasporilla in a large arm chair. "My apologies."

"Doesn't he remind you of someone Myron?" Nick Owlmore smiled. "Young hopeless nerd in love with the sweetest girl he'd ever laid eyes on?"

"Don't know what you're talking about mate." Myron smiled.

The trolley with the phonograph was wheeled closer to Sasporilla's chair. Miss Pince had brought down a recording of "Carmina Burana" by Carl Orff. It was in the Key of D, but it's the only one they had.

"I don't see how this will help Irma?" Headmistress McGonagall asked.

"I'll let our brilliant young technician explain the modifications he's made." Miss Pince said.

"Thank you." Melvin said sweating a bit with all eyes turned to him. "Music is sound and sound is vibration. The vibration can be altered in pitch and frequency, even over all keys by swiveling the dials between the needle and the arm."

"You made these changes?" Professor McGonagall asked.

"Yes Headmistress!" Melvin said proudly.

"From whom did you get permission to tamper with Hogwarts property?" Professor McGonagall asked looking over her glasses at the boy.

"Um, a, I, a." Melvin stammered.

"Who cares!" Lyra yelled. "Let's crank it up and see if it unlocks that damn bracelet!"

Melvin turned the dial to E minor as instructed by Professor Pince. He turned the crank getting the phonograph going, then gently placed the needle into the disks starting groove.

Melvin walked back over to Sasporilla and sat on the arm of her chair, taking her hand warmly in his and smiling. Sasporilla thought him an odd young boy. He looked at her with eyes much older than his natural age. Perhaps he to was an old soul like her.

The music that came out sounded almost the same, but some how darker, more menacing.

O Fortuna
O Fortune,

Velut luna
like the moon

statu variabilis,
you are changeable,

semper crescis
ever waxing

aut decrescis;
and waning

vita detestabilis
hateful life

nunc obdurat
first oppresses

et tunc curat
and then soothes

ludo mentis aciem
as fancy takes it

egestatem
poverty

potestatem
and power

dissolvit ut glaciem
it melts them like ice.

Sors immanis
Fate - monstrous

et inanis
and empty

rota tu volubilis
you whirling wheel,

status malus,
you are malevolent,

vana salus
well-being is vain

semper dissolubilis,
and always fades to nothing,

obumbratam
shadowed

et velatam
and veiled

mihi quoque niteris;
you plague me too

nunc per ludum
now through the game

dorsum nudum
I bring my bare back

fero tui sceleris.
to your villainy.

Sors salutis
Fate is against me

et virtutis
in health

mihi nunc contraria
and virtue

est affectus
driven on

et defectus
and weighted down

semper in angaria.
always enslaved.

Hac in hora
So at this hour

sine mora
without delay

corde pulsum tangite

pluck the vibrating strings;
quod per sortem
since Fate
sternit fortem,
strikes down the strong man,
mecum omnes plangite
everyone weep with me!

The first notes shook the Markebinden bracelet and Sasporilla felt it click. Then as it continued on the beats more clicks until finally in it's grand finale the Markebinden bracelet snapped open and fell from Sasporilla Buckets wrist dropping to a pile of ash on the floor of the Hufflepuff common room.

Teachers and students alike cheered and ran up to Sasporilla to congratulate her. Sassy hugged them and shook hands but what she really wanted was to try some magic! She pulled her wand and cast "LUMOS!" Light poured from her wand. She pulled water from the vase and fire from the hearth. She felt so alive again.

Melvin wheeled the phonograph trolley following Miss Pince out of the Hufflepuff common room. He was satisfied to know that his changes had helped the girl he was so madly infatuated with. Even if she barely knew he was alive.



Chapter 25

Sasporilla had packed a bag of her things, when no one else was around, and tucked it under her bed. She had enough to last for quite a while and she had enough money to buy some new things if an emergency arose.

Food she would deal with as she went. She had some staples that she picked up in Hogsmead and would be able to cook as she went. Nothing fancy, but then she didn't really feel like eating all that much.

Sasporilla pulled the bag from under her bed and slung it over her shoulder. She tried very hard to stay as quiet as she could as she snuck out of the Hufflepuff dorm room. Sasporilla gently and quietly shut the door and turned to leave. Sassy heard the door at the end of the hall creak open just a bit. She glanced over her shoulder and saw the weird girl peering at her through that mane of thick black troll like hair. Sassy smiled and gave her a polite wave. The girl waved back and shut her door.

Sasporilla crept quietly through the halls up to the front hall. Sassy was met by Professor McGonagall who stood by the girls broom which stood against the wall.

"Do you have everything?" The Headmistress asked.

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "Can you please remind me to give the gift to Melvin that Myron left for him?"

"I will." Professor McGonagall smiled. " You remember where to go when you come back?"

"Yes." Sasporilla smiled. "And I'll make sure that no one sees me."

"Good girl." The headmistress said giving the girl a hug. "You have a safe summer Sasporilla Bucket!"

"Thank you Professor." Sasporilla hugged the old witch. "I'll enjoy the time alone to think."

Sasporilla Bucket grabbed her broom and ran down the hall and outside into the court yard. She turned and gave the headmistress a smile and a wave as she put her goggles down over her eyes. Sassy kicked off and flew away into the sunrise.

"Going to be a rough summer for her." The weird girl with black hair said as she walked down the steps taking off the shaggy black wig revealing the young witches pink hair beneath.

"I don't want to know Miss Bucket." Headmistress McGonagall said.

"Best you don't." Sasporilla said. "It was a wild ride."

"Don't forget the gift for Melvin!" Professor McGonagall said as she walked away.

"Gift?" Sasporilla thought. "Oh! Right! I remember! Thanks for reminding me."

"Go get ready for your O.W.L.S Miss Bucket." Professor McGonagall said. "Do Well!"

It was at breakfast Sasporilla walked in looking much better than the night before. Karry smiled when she saw Sasporilla looking do happy. Something seemed a tad different about her. Sassy seemed just s bit taller and her wild was just a bit darker.

"Karry!" Sasporilla said hugging her friend.

"You're in a good mood?" Karry laughed.

"Very." Sassy smiled. "Guess I woke up on the right side of the bed this morning."

"I thought you would still be upset about Korry and Maddy?" Karry questioned.

"It all seems like a long time ago." Sasporilla said. "But it does still hurt."

Sasporilla caught site of Melvin Lazarus walking in for breakfast. "Melvin."

Sassy smiled and waved to the young Gryffindor. She got up and walked over with a box wrapped in brown paper.

"Good morning Sasporilla." Melvin smiled.

"Good morning Melvin!" Sassy smiled back handing him the package. "Myron left this for you!"

"Myron?" Melvin asked.

"Myron Wagtail?" Sasporilla said surprised. "Your musical hero?"

"I completely forgot you were going to ask him to send me an autograph!" Melvin said opening the package excitedly.

"He dropped it off." Sasporilla said.

"He was here?" Melvin asked. "Oh I wished I'd met him!"

"Melvin," Sasporilla said looking into the boys eyes. "He was in the room with us when your phonograph opened the bracelet."

Melvin turned pale. "He was?"

"Yes silly." Sasporilla laughed. "He was who was hugging me when you walked in."

"All I saw was you crying." Melvin said. "I didn't really care about anyone else in the room at that moment. Just you."

Sasporilla smiled warmly at him and nodded, then leaned down and kissed him gently right on the lips, in front of everyone.

"You are an incredibly sweet boy Melvin Lazarus." Sasporilla said. "And I still owe you a date some time."

"I look forward to it." Melvin beamed.

Sasporilla got up and walked back to her table where she sat and chatted with Karry as if they hadn't talked in a year. Which was not that far from the truth.

Melvin turned his attentions to the package. Inside were some music discs and a signed photo of Myron Wagtail. It read "To Melvin; You remind me of me at your age. Don't let the girl get away like I did!"



Chapter 26

Sasporilla Bucket went east from Hogwarts until she reached the coast then traveled south until she reached the White cliffs of Dover at Dusk. Sassy flew down and landed in a field. She stepped off her broom and drew her wand.

"Occasum Sequor!" A caravan popped out from the tip of the broom, which proceeded to hang itself on the side. Sasporilla walked up the step and opened the door into the Caravan. She was happy to be off the broom for a bit as her behind was hurting. She went into the kitchen put her bag up on the counter. Inside she had stored some flour, sugar and baking needs as well as fresh meat and eggs. Sassy had picked up some preserves and canned foods as well. For right now she was happy just to bite into an apple as she put the food away.

Sasporilla grabbed a nectarine from the fruit and walked into her bedroom. She laid down on the very comfortable over stuffed matters and in the quiet loneliness she wept.

Sasporilla was excited to finally write her O.W.L.s. Karry was shocked to see her friend come walking into the examination hall.

"What are you doing here?" Karry asked.

"Same as you." Sassy smiled. "Taking my O.W.L.s."

"How can you?" Karry asked perplexed. "You're just a fourth year?"

"A fourth year who managed to take fourth and fifth year classes while putting up with boy trouble and a Markebinden bracelet!" Sassy fluttered her eye lashes playfully.

"You are a wonder Sasporilla Bucket!" Karry said shaking her head. "You'll have to tell me how you managed it all, after the exams are over."

Sasporilla had spent the better part of this year alone with her thoughts, in her room at the end of the hall, studying and preparing for this moment.

Professor Slughorn over saw the O.W.L.s this year. He stood from his desk at the head of the hall.

"All right students." Professor Slughorn said. "When I say go, you may open your booklets and begin writing. Once the testing has begun there will be NO talking. IF you have any questions about clarification of anything on the test you will come to my desk. IF you require another quill you will come to my desk. IF you need to use the washroom the room of requirement is at your disposal. You may begin!"

The Hogwarts students opened their O.W.L.s

booklets and panic ensued. Sasporilla and Karry knew all the answers and raced to the end of the test, closing their booklets at the same time. The pair of girls sat there quietly as they awaited the end of the test.

"And that is time!" Professor Slughorn said. "Please ensure your names on are on your booklets and bring them up to the front and place them neatly in a pile on my desk."

"Ok you." Karry said to Sasporilla as they walked out of the testing hall. "Spill it! How did you manage all of this in one year?"

Sasporilla looked around to make sure no one was listening and then she told Karry everything from her request to do both years in one to the Headmistress to the final solution and her year of being alone.

Sasporilla Bucket sat in a small cafe near the Eiffel tower eating a croissant and drinking a luke warm glass of cola. She was just another girl in a crowd that no one really seemed to notice. She had a bit of difficulty understanding muggle money and probably left to much for the cheque but she rushed off and found a good alley way in which to mount her broom, cast her cloaking shield, and took off high into the skies above Paris France. Though a beautiful city she dared not stay to long in one place.

It was over Germany she saw a large camp of people with brooms. By the leathers and markings she knew they were broomers and wanted to avoid any trouble so she flew past to the next field where she found a small grove of trees. Sasporilla touched down and brought out her Caravan as the sun began to set. Sassy built a small fire pit and let her flame out to play. She sat by the fire watching her flame dance, wallowing in her sorrows.

Sasporilla was awoken the next morning by the sound of heavy boots on her stairs and a loud pounding at her front door.

"Das ist die Polizei. Du bist auf Privatgrundstück. Verlasse jetzt!" A voice shouted.

Sasporilla through on her clothes and held her hand behind her back. The last thing she needed was trouble with the Muggle police! She opened the door to See Penny Lane-Warrol laughing her head off surrounded by six very large Broomers.

"Penny!" Sasporilla laughed with relief. "You scared the life out of me!"

"No." An older broomer said. "I scared the life out of you because my daughter asked me to. I'm Chuck Warrol, Pennys Uncle."

"Pleased to meet you sir." Sasporilla smiled politely. "Would you all care to come in."

"Ya!" Penny said. "I love the caravan option on the 1200x."

The broomers stepped inside and sat at the kitchen table and on the small couch. In the living room.

"I'm afraid I haven't much to offer." Sasporilla apologized. "I do have tea and some fresh fruit if any one would like some?"

"Gentlemen." Chuck Warrol said. "Make some tea for us and let the young ladies talk."

The broomers got up and fixed the tea. Sasporilla had never seen so many Azkaban Angels in one place. That place being her kitchen!

"I thought it was you flying over yesterday evening." Penny said. "I saw the 1200x and the pink hair and though No way! But it is you! What are you doing here?"

"I'm traveling for the summer." Sasporilla said. "Around the continent. Maybe see some of Africa and Asia."

"Alone?" Penny asked shocked.

"I need the time alone to do my own thing I guess." Sassy said.

"Ya I get it." Penny smiled. "After the bracelet and the break up with Korry. I understand needing your space, but it's dangerous to ride alone. Very dangerous."

"I'll be ok." Sasporilla smiled shyly. "So what are you doing out here?"

"Oh! Tonight is the start of the Broomapalooza Music Festival!" Penny smiled. "Broomers from all over the world come here to listen to the music and do business."

"Oh." Sasporilla said as the Angels served them tea and cucumber sandwiches. "Thank you!"

"So do you want to stay with us in our camp and come to the festival with me?" Penny asked. "The band I love so much, CULT OF THE BLOOD MOON WOLF is playing."

"Oh cool." Sasporilla said thinking about it. This summer was to about new experiences and new places and things. She knew the dangers of hanging out with a bunch of broomers but frankly her and Penny would more than likely be the safest girls at the concert.

"Why not!" Sasporilla smiled.

"Great!" Penny hugged her friend. "Pack up and fly back with us to the camp. The guys will teach you how to align your broom for proper group camping."

"Your friend is joining us then?" Chuck Warrol asked.

"Yes Uncle Chuck." Penny smiled.

"Right then." Chuck circled his finger in the air and the boys cleared the tea. "Pack it up, we ride in five. Penny you and...?"

"Sasporilla Bucket Mr. Warrol." sassy smiled politely.

"Penny and Sasporilla will ride diamond center. Penny explain it to your friend. I will need two other volunteers to join Miss Bucket and my nieces detail."

"Detail?" Sasporilla asked Penny as they filed out of the caravan.

"A few of the lads to watch our backs while we have fun." Penny said. "So nobody messes with us or ties anything inappropriate."

"Cool." Sassy smiled. Once everyone was safely out of the caravan, Sasporilla flicked open the golden tip of her broom, pulling the magical shelter back inside. Sassy took her broom in hand and looked at Penny. "Ok what now?"

"We get into formation." Penny said. "First my uncle, then behind him his top two, then you and me with lad on the outside, two behind and then the Sky Captain behind. Normally ordinary witches like us would ride as passengers but as we are important people of note and respect, they fly in a protective honour guard around us."

"Wow." Sasporilla said. "It's all so complicated."

"You have no idea!" Penny sneered. "What ever you do, don't break formation and don't pass the people in front of you unless there's a problem!"

"Got ya!" Sassy said putting her goggles down over her eyes.

Chuck Warrol took off into the air followed in order by the rest who flew in a diamond pattern to the next field over. A large stage was now set up and there were easily one thousand times the broomers there today than were there last night. The troop set down in the main camp. A space had been made for Sasporillas caravan.

"Sasporilla." Chuck Warrol smiled. "You ride well. I'm impressed. Have you flown formation before?"

"No sir." Sassy said. "Not even in class."

"Do you know how to set up you caravan in a tight camp like this?" Chuck Warrol asked.

"No sir." Sasporilla said honestly. "I've just been casting it up wherever."

"At least your honest." Chuck smiled. "Ok you see how all of us have caravans parked in a circular pattern?"

"Yes sir." Sassy smiled.

"Imagine it like a wheel. The caravans are the rim of the wheel. You find the center point." Chuck pointed to a post sticking out of the ground with a glass orb on it. "That is our hub. Lay your broom down on the ground with

the bristles just touching the post. Point it so the center of the front of your caravan will fit between the caravans on either side. Remember if you make a mistake and place your caravan into another persons it will do damage and no one will thank you for that!"

Sasporilla placed her broom on the ground. She adjusted and adjusted again. "How is that?"

Chuck walked over and gave it a quick eyeball using his Ebony and Bone thirteen inch wand as a guide.

"Your wand is beautiful sir." Sasporilla said. "Ebony and..." Sasporilla looked. "Oh my, human bone. Thirteen inches, my guess is unicorn hair core?"

"Remarkable." Chuck smiled. "And how would you know all of that by a glance?"

"Sasporilla's going to be a wand maker." Penny smiled.

"Oh ya?" Chuck said. "Well you seem to know your stuff. Your safe to set up your caravan. Good placement."

Sassy drew her wand and "Ocasum Sequar!"

The golden knob on the end of the broom popped open and the Caravan set itself almost perfectly between. The broom hanging itself up on the outside.

"Perfect!" Penny jumped for joy as her uncle and the lads walked away. "Now we're Neighbors!"

"That's great!" Sasporilla said. "Mr. Warrol?"

"Ya?" Chuck said stopping and looking over his shoulder.

"Thank you for your help and the invitation to join your camp." Sassy said. "Your wand needs basic maintenance and I have my kit. I can do that for you if you like. I need the practice."

"Ok." Chuck smiled. "I'll pop by some time."

"One word of advice." Penny said smiling taking her arm. "Never be alone with any of them! You always call me in if you need to deal with them ya? Even with my uncle."



Chapter 27

Karry and Zac showed Sasporilla their house in Hogsmead. It was very much like most magical homes, much bigger on the inside than it was on the outside. It was a lovely three bedroom with a loft on the third floor for Cabbie Patel, Zacs guardian, to live in. Cabbie was very happy about moving out of the flat in Essex and into Hogsmead as it was closer to her mom and dad in Edinburgh.

"We don't have a lot of furnishings yet." Karry said. "We've a couch and rocking chair in the living room and a small table in the kitchen to eat at. We need to buy a lot of things to flesh out the house."

"It's going to be a lot of work." Sasporilla said.

"Yes but now that we've passed our O.W.L.s we can aparate back and forth if we want, fly our brooms down to the city if we're feeling adventurous." Karry smiled. "Come I'll show you up stairs."

The steps were old and quite creaky. The railing was loose and the upstairs hall needed to have what looked like one hundred years of layers of wall paper removed.

Two of the three bedrooms were unfurnished but the master suite had a big king size canopy bed. The decor was traditional but a bit to opulent for Sassy's taste.

"Fully furnished bedroom I see?" Sasporilla smiled. "Apropos as its the room you two will spend most of your time in."

"Sassy don't be a judgey cow!" Karry laughed.

"Moooooo." Sasporilla laughed.

"I know how it seems." Karry said embarrassed.

"Now now." Sassy said putting her arm around her friend. "I'm just playing."

"So you're not judging me?" Karry smiled.

"Oh I'm judging you to the moon and back!" Sasporilla laughed. "But if it's what my best friend wants, then I'm behind you.:"

"Thank you." Karry said hugging her friend. "You're the best."

"You better believe I am." Sasporilla said. "Smart, beautiful and generally wonderful."

Karry chuckled at her best friends modesty.

"And to be honest, just a tad envious."

"Thank you Sasporilla." Karry said. "I needed to hear that. It's the closest I've heard to approval by anyone I care to hear it from."

"You're in love. Everything is chocolates and Roses right now. I saw how hard things were for my mother. I want everything in your life to be absolutely perfect."

"Well at least we'll never quarrel over money." Karry smiled.

"Just how rich is your man?" Sassy asked.

"I'm afraid to ask." Karry said. "I don't want to come off as some gold digger."

"Yes I would imagine it could seem that way." Sasporilla said. "Besides it's not really his money you want?"

"Are you being judgey again?" Karry laughed.

"Just a bit." Sassy said. "Just remember the old saying. The man won't buy a cow, if he gets the milk from for free."

"Ya but why should I buy the whole pig when all I want is the odd sausage?" Karry said.

Both girls collapsed in laughter.

"That's what I like to hear." Zac said smiling coming up the steps. "My girl and her best friend laughing."

"Hello honey." Karry said kissing him.

"What were you girls discussing?" Zac asked.

"The price of milk and sausages." Sasporilla smiled.

The girls couldn't stop laughing. Karry and Zac gave Sasporilla an escort to the train station and saw her aboard the Hogwarts express. She was excited to get home for the summer. It had been a very, very long year.

Music blasted from the stage as Sasporilla and Penny danced surrounded by Azkaban Angels.

"This is so awesome!" Penny yelled.

"I've never heard this kind of music before!" Sassy yelled back. "So powerful, so gritty, very real!"

"Its got a serious beat too!" Penny yelled back.

The music festival had a lot of things going on besides just the music. There was an entire area of vendors selling everything from T-Shirts to broom parts. There were areas where areas where broomers were dueling and not by the competitive rules. There were a number of booths to get various forms of food and strong drink. The one thing Sasporilla noticed was though broom service and maintenance was readily available there was nothing for wands. As Sassy and Penny made there way back to camp Sasporilla saw some of the broomer girls had small make shift booths selling hand crafted jewelry and leather work. Some of it was quite beautiful.

"Penny?" Sassy asked. "Do you think anyone would mind if I set up a spot at the back of my caravan to do wand maintenance and repairs?"

"That's a great idea!" Penny said. "You'd be safe in camp, we could still hear the music and if there's anyone we want to go see we can go see them! Not like your booth has standard hours of operations."

"We?" Sassy smiled. "You would want to help me?"

"It's safest for you if we stick together." Penny said. "Look, these men are not all the nicest people and this is a culture with no respect for women unless they've kicked a lot of behinds. Women are passed from man to man like library books. It's disgusting and demeaning and most of the women accept it as normal. No broomer in the club would dare lay a hand on me because of my family, but you! You're young, pretty, kind of sexy in your own way, not my type but..."

"Oh stop it you!" Sassy laughed.

"Seriously though," Penny said. "Few of these men are good family guys. These are mostly outlaws and criminals. Some of the other clubs out there aren't. There is a huge bunch of holy roller clubs on the far side of the field. They're morally upstanding people, a lot of family people. They just love to ride and they do a lot of charity work. However they're still hardcore broomers under it all and not to be taken lightly. So yes when I say we, I mean it. We stick together!"

Penny stayed over at Sasporillas that night. They talked into the wee hours as Sassy went through the wand kit Mr.Olivander had given her. As much as was in the kit Sassy wasn't sure she had enough supplies for more than maintenance of two dozen wands are so.

"Don't know if I have enough supplies." Sasporilla said. "I've been building my kit up but I never expected anything like this."

"Well then do as many as you have supplies for." Penny said. "You make a few galleons then close up shop. That's how it works here."

Sasporilla accidentally tipped over her bottle of Linseed oil. She grabbed it lightning fast and only a couple of drops leaked out. To her surprise the oil rolled across the bottom of the kit and disappeared into the edge seam of the bottom of the kit. Sassy felt along the inside edge. There was no oil residue? The edge of the inside bottom seemed a bit loose. The last thing Sassy wanted was to get oils leaked into the bottom of the leather kit. It could ruin it.

"I need a knife." Sassy said thinking a loud.

Penny popped one out of her pocket and flicked it open. "Here you go."

"You carry a knife?" Sasporilla said.

"Yes." Penny said a bit surprised. "Don't you?"

"It's illegal." Sasporilla said.

"In the U.K. ya." Penny said. "Not everywhere."

"I carry a wand." Sasporilla said. "It's enough."

"How'd that work for you with the Bracelet on?" Penny said pointing to the brand on Sasporillas wrist.

"Some people will try to take everything from you." Penny frowned. "I know. I made the mistake of ditching the lads and going to another camp once. I got attacked. They took more than my wand! They took things from me I can never get back. I spent a few weeks in St.Mungos. started eating my feelings. Then I learned to defend myself without a wand and started carrying my knife. I've never used it for anything more than a cutting tool and I hope I never have to."

Sasporilla gulped at the severity of the warning. She put the blade of the knife under the loose bottom and lifted it up. What she saw made her laugh.

"What?" Penny said coming over and looking down into the bottom of the kit which was lined with rows of bottles that went down the edges as far as the eye could see. There were stacks of woods, cores and even devices for supporting wands for maintenance and retuning cores!

"I think WE have enough!" Sassy said amazed.



Chapter 28

Sasporilla levitated the old trunk she got for Christmas to the back of her caravan. They placed it about three feet from the back end.

"Ok step back a bit." Sassy said.

Penny stepped back and Sasporilla opened the trunk. A small booth popped up. Sasporilla hung up the sign saying 'BUCKET WANDS'. Carry made up a sign that said "Basic wand repairs, maintenance and cleanings."

"How much do you want to charge?" Penny asked.

"Well Mr.Olivander did specials for four sickles." Sasporilla said. "If we charged that much do you think we'd get any business?"

"Ok six sickles it is!" Penny said. "Four for you, two for the club."

"Money goes to the club?" Sasporilla asked.

"We sell in the club camp, we have club security, we pay to the club." Penny said.

"I get it." Sassy said. "Ok six it is."

Word spread fast, especially amongst the duelers that there was a wand stand open. One young broomer, in desperate need of wand maintenance, was the first customer.

"Six Sickles for repair, cleaning and maintenance? At a show like this?" The young broomer said handing over his wand. "That's a steal!"

Sasporilla took the wand with a smile and looked it over. "When was the last time you cared for your wand?"

"Never." The broomer said.

"You should have looked over at least once a year if you want it to last." Sasporilla said.

"Noted." The broomer smiled.

The wand was Maple, Manitoba Maple specifically. Twelve and one quarter inches, very pliable. Dragon heart string core. Sasporilla put on magnification lens head gear and checked it for cracks and breaks. There were several. Sasporilla started filling cracks, wiped down the wand with a damp cloth then dried it before applying lemon oil. Sassy put the wand into the tuner and set it for dragon heart string. Sassy struck the tuning fork at the side as she twisted the knob on the base until she heard harmonic resonance between the wand and the tuner. The entire process in her hands took just under five minutes.

"There you go." Sasporilla said handing the young broomer his wand. "Good as new. Give it a try."

"Lumos!" The young man cast. He looked the wand over amazed at the quality of the work. "It is just as good as new! You need to charge more!"

"Really?" Sasporilla said excited. "I'm happy you like the job."

"Very much so." The handsome young broomer said. "Here's a galleon. Up your price to that. You're worth it darling."

"Thanks." Penny said taking the money.

"Why Bucket wands if I might ask?" The broomer asked.

"Because that's my name." Sassy smiled. "Sasporilla Bucket."

"Well Ms.Bucket it's a pleasure to meet you." The broomer said holding out his hand. "My name is Charles Pendragon. No relation."

Sasporilla took the broomers hand to shake it but he gallantly tipped her hand up and kissed the back of it.

"Thank you for coming to our booth." Penny said as he walked away. "Come again, tell your brothers!"

"Ok Penny we charge a galleon!" Sassy said.

"Sounds good to me." Penny said changing the sign.

"Four for me. Three for you and three for the club." Sasporilla smiled.

"Wow thanks!" Penny said.

"You handle the cash and let's get it in advance." Sassy said. "Not all of them will be as honest or as gallant as our first customer. A very wise young witch told me not to trust these out laws."

"You catch on quick girl." Penny smiled.

The line was a dozen broomers deep within a half hour. By days end they had seen two hundred and fifty three customers. That was about one hundred and twenty five galleons for Sasporilla and sixty seven galleons for Penny and the same back to the club.

"Have a good day girls?" Uncle Chuck asked as the girls took down the booth.

"Yes sir." Sasporilla said.

"Here's the clubs cut Uncle Chuck." Penny said handing over the nearly seventy galleons.

"You made about two fifty?" Chuck asked.

"Yes." Sasporilla smiled. "Two fifty three."

"I hear you do good work." Chuck smiled.

"Customers seem happy." Sasporilla said. "I did this when I apprenticed for Mr.Olivander."

"You apprenticed for Olivander?" Chuck Warrol said amazed. "I thought you too young."

"I was eleven when I started and again when I was twelve." Sasporilla said. Then he was kidnapped. He gave me the kit and the booth to use. I hope to study with him again when he's feeling better."

"Well perhaps I'll stop by tomorrow and have you work on my wand." Chuck smiled.

"I'm looking forward to it." Sasporilla smiled.

"Come on Sassy." Penny said. "Let's get this stuff inside so we can go see Cult of the Blood Moon Wolf."

The band took the stage at half past eight. They played a selection of their hits from the past twenty years of performing. Sasporilla quite liked the combination of danceable heavy rock and blues they played. It was unlike most of what she'd heard at Broomapalooza so far. The finale of their show happened at ten forty five exactly when a large cage rose up around the stage as the full moon rose high in the air. The band began to transform before their eyes into wild slathering beasts. The entire band were werewolves.

"A-WOOOOOOOO!" A very excited and obnoxious older drunk blonde woman howled behind Sasporilla and Penny. The girls turned slowly.

"Surprise Darling!" The lady yelled.

"Hello mother." Penny sighed. "You're drunk I see."

"I hope so!" Pennys mom laughed. "I've been drinking since noon! Who's your friend?"

"This is Sasporilla mother." Penny said. "We go to school together."

Her mother muttered something into Pennys ear that was akin to whisper in the noise of the crowd.

"No mother." Penny said losing her patients with the drunken woman.

"Ah to bad." The woman said. "Since my rude daughter won't formally introduce me, because she's rude, and she's my daughter. Where was I? Oh yes! My name is Lolly Lane. It's really Lollandra but everyone calls me Lolly because...."

"Mother I think I should get you to bed." Penny said.

"Really girl!" Lolly Lane laughed. "We hardly know each other."

Sasporilla thought that statement was probably false but at the same time all to true. Penny got her moms arm around her shoulder as Sassy did the same on the other side.

"Oh hello." Lolly Lane smiled at Sasporilla. "Your cute! Remind me to introduce you to my daughter she's just about your age."

"I look forward to meeting her." Sasporilla huffed helping to support the heavy woman.

Lolly looked over at Penny. "Penny my darling daughter, I was just looking at for you. I don't remember why?"

"It will come to you I'm sure." Penny said.

The girls helped the woman back to camp. They balanced the large woman against side of her caravan as Penny opened the front door. Penny propped the door open and turned to see her mother laughing hanging in the air. Sasporilla had her wand out and was levitating the heavy woman into the caravan.

"Good thinking." Penny said.

"She's to heavy to carry up the stairs." Sassy said.

"I'm flying!" Lolly laughed as she floated inside and was dropped onto her bed.

Hands grabbed Sasporilla most inappropriately from behind. She pointed her wand behind her and cast "Stupify!" A hand grabbed the wand from her hand and tossed it to the side. Two hands clamped tightly on her shoulders and spun the young witch around.

"I thought maybe you could polish my wand now." Chuck Warrol said placing hi large hand over her mouth to stop her from screaming. Sasporilla bit a piece out of the older mans palm and snapped her fingers. She disappeared from his grasp and reappeared beside her wand, she spat out the flesh of his palm, blood covering her lips like some nightmarish clown.

"Legare!" Sasporilla cast a magical binding flying from her wand and wrapping around Pennys Uncle.

"Let me go girl." Chuck Warrol said. "You're starting a fight you can't win."

"I'm starting a fight!?!?" Sasporilla screamed. "You grab me by the wazoo and cover my mouth and WANT ME TO POLISH YOUR WAND! Then you have the NERVE to say I'M STARTING A FIGHT!"

"I figured we could have a little fun." Chuck said blood dripping dime size drops onto the ground.

"Flippendo!" Sasporilla cast throwing the man into the side of his caravan.

"What's going on?" Penny asked rushing out of her mothers caravan.

"That pig grabbed me!" Sasporilla said.

"Oh shoot." Penny said as Azkaban Angels started to gather, stepping from the shadows, wands drawn.

"Put your wands down!" Penny said as she drew her own wand. "I warned all of you upon her arrival that she is my friend and that means all hands off! Even yours Uncle Chuck!"

Chuck Warrol broke through the bindings and drew his wand. "You want a fight kid then you'll have one!"

"Didn't you hear me!?!?" Penny yelled. "You attack my friend then you've attacked me! You know what my fathers orders are."

"Yes." Chuck smiled. "The orders of a man doing life under the dementors kiss."

"Sasporilla." Penny said. "Get behind me."

"Perhaps it's time we stopped taking orders from your precious daddy!" Chuck laughed. Some of his boys laughed too as they backed him up.

"Are you challenging for the presidency?" Penny asked.

"No kid." Chuck laughed and cast Bombarda blowing the ground where the two girls were standing to a cloud of dust. "I've got no one to challenge so I'm taking control!"

The girls appeared on Sassy's stoop as she grabbed her broom and pulled up her caravan. They disappeared and reappeared by Penny's broom.

Lolly Lane staggered out of the caravan wand drawn. "How dare you attack my daughter you traitor!"

"Bombarda Inflammatory!" Penny's mother cast blowing the east side of the camp to rubble and throwing Angels in all directions.

"Get to Sara!" Lolly yelled to the girls. "You'll be safe there!"

The two girls took off into the air flying away from the burning camp as fast as they could.

"Follow me." Penny said as blast of green magical death flew past them. "Evade!"

Sasporilla followed Penny as they crisscrossed each other's flight patterns and dropped down to skim the camps as they evaded the spells that tried to kill them.

Penny pointed at a well lit camp at the north side of the festival grounds. "There!"

The girls flew into the camp as fast as they could and landed. Two dozen female broomers swarmed the terrified girls, wands pointed and ready to attack.

"Who are you and what do you want?" A woman whose vest read Sergeant at Arms.

"I'm Lolly Lane's daughter!" Penny said putting her hands up and dropping her broom. Sasporilla followed suit.

"Hold up!" A voice said. An older woman with very long white hair, loosely braided, walked through the crowd of broomers. "Lower your wands."

The lady smiled when she saw it was indeed Penny, Lolly's daughter, with a young woman she didn't know.

"We're sorry for intruding in your camp like this but my mother sent us." Penny said. "My Uncle finally made his move to seize control of the club."

"Are you two alright?" The old lady said.

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "They tried to kill us."

"I'm not surprised." The old lady said.

"Forgive my manners President Lane." Penny said. "This is my friend Sasporilla Bucket. Sassy this is my grand mother, President Tatiana Lane."

"Oh!" Sasporilla smiled. "I assumed as Lolly said get to Sara, I assumed you were Sara?"

The women laughed. Sasporilla felt very embarrassed.

"We are all Sara." Tatiana Lane smiled. "We are the Seraphim!"

"My grand mother is World President of an all women's Broomer club."

"We'll get to know each other over tea later." Tatiana Lane said concerned. "Is your mother ok?"

"She was blowing the Angles camp to bits when she told us to come here." Penny started to cry. Sasporilla grabbed her friend and hugged her.

"Ok I want a flyby of the Angles camp in two minutes!" The old lady yelled running for her broom.

Close to a hundred witches took the air excluding Penny and Sasporilla who were ordered to set up their caravan in the president's camp



Chapter 29

Penny spent the night bunking with Sasporilla. They got little sleep as every noise made the girls sit up in bed, wands at the ready. Somewhere around six a.m. the girls decided to get up and have some breakfast. There wasn't much to eat but they were able to scrape together some week old bagels, with marmalade and cereal with some milk mixed with a bit of water to make it go further.

The Seraphim camp was not the only camp alive with activity that morning. Perimeters had been reinforced with extra witches. Wands were at the ready to cast barriers and defend the camp. Groups of women patrolled the Seraphim camp. Orders were no one traveled alone.

Lolly Lane was sleeping it off on a blanket under the caravan. Penny ran up to her mother and checked her. She had some scrapes and bruises but considering the beating she was putting on the Azkaban Angels when they escaped, she was really no worse for wear.

"How is she?" Sasporilla asked trepidatiously.

"Still drunk but asleep." Penny laughed.

"We owe her our lives." Sassy smiled.

"They probably wouldn't have killed us." Penny frowned. "But after they'd finished with us we would wish we were dead."

"Sorry I caused all of this mess." Sasporilla said.

"You caused nothing." Penny said pointing her chubby finger at her friend. "Any pig that would grab a girl by the privates and seize power to further his own greedy twisted ambitions deserves to be blown to hell and back!"

"Your mum certainly did do that." Sasporilla said.

"My mom is a better witch drunk than most witches and wizards are sober!" Penny laughed. "I'm just glad she's safe."

"Me too." Sasporilla said. "Just to bad we can't put the wand repair stand up."

"Who said?" Penny asked. "Give me ten minutes and we can set up."

Penny spoke to her grand mother who agreed to allow the girls to put up their booth even with the heightened tensions.

Sasporilla prepared her kit for the day with extra clean cloths and the most used polishing oils fast at hand.

"Ok, we're set." Penny said.

"They said it's ok?" Sassy asked excitedly.

"Yes and the club is only taking ten percent so more for you." Penny smiled.

"More for us." Sasporilla said. "Fifty percent for me, forty for you and ten for the club."

"Wow thanks." Penny smiled. "Not sure I deserve that much."

"Are you kidding me?" Sasporilla said. "You do the organizing, you talk to the customers and keep them off me while I work and you handle all the money! Honestly I couldn't do all of this with out you!"

Penny hugged her friend. "You're a good friend."

"Guess that's why the sorting hat put me in Hufflepuff." Sasporilla laughed.

The girls set up the stand at the back end of Sassy's caravan. It wasn't long until they had their first customer. The quality of Sasporilla Buckets work spread by word of mouth quickly around the camp. Soon everyone wanted their wand seen to. It was kind of amazing to Sasporilla that so many witches and wizards, who used their wands for everything, every day of their lives, never gave regular maintenance a thought.

Sasporilla found a lot of the Seraphim's very friendly. They always smiled and were chatty with Penny. The pair of them had been invited back to caravans for a drink so many times, Sasporilla had lost count.

"Wow!" Sasporilla said. "Everyone here is so nice."

"They're about the same as Angels make no mistake." Penny said. "Don't be fooled by the fact they're better mannered."

"I mean they just all seem so friendly." Sasporilla said.

"We're two young girls." Penny said. "Their invitations back to their caravans aren't for tea, trust me."

Sasporilla thought for a moment. Penny could see the wheels turning in her friend's head until the reality of the situation sparked a light of recognition.

"Oh!" Sasporilla gasped. "You mean?"

"About ninety five percent, ya." Penny said.

"So they like girls?" Sasporilla asked. "Like Lyra?"

"Oh yes." Penny said. "Especially young pretty ones like you."

"You're pretty." Sasporilla said.

"I'm just a fat lump." Penny said ashamed.

"So, you're a big girl!" Sasporilla said. "That doesn't make you any less pretty and sweet!"

"That's what I try to tell her." Lolly Lane said walking up and sitting on the booth's counter. Her dark sun glasses protecting her sensitive eyes from the bright morning sun. She had already begun her hang over cure by downing her second morning mimosa. "She's a beautiful young girl and anyone would be lucky to have her."

"I agree!" Sassy smiled making Penny blush.

Penny pulled her wand. "Give me your hand."

"Why?" Sassy asked.

"Trust me." Penny said.

Sasporilla put her hand in Pennys. Penny smiled and cast "Marcam" drawing an X on the back of Sasporillas hand.

"There." Penny smiled. "Now you're all set."

"What does it do?" Sasporilla asked.

"Its just an old symbol", Lolly smiled, "means that you and my daughter are married."

"What?" Sasporilla gasped.

"Stop it mother." Penny laughed. "It means you're straight edge. No drugs, no alcohol, no adult activities or interests."

"Oh ok!" Sasporilla said relieved. "I mean I should be so lucky as to have someone as kind as Penny as a soul mate but I'm just not that way."

"You'll make me blush again!" Penny said, blushing again.

"She's a good daughter," Lolly said, "but she's not that kind."

"I just don't suffer fools and drunks mother." Penny said stiffening.

"And which am I?" Lolly said.

"To drunk already to know the difference?" Penny snapped.

"Stop this right now, the two of you!" Sasporilla yelled.

"Your mother saved our lives and we should be grateful." Sasporilla said.

"Listen to your friend." Lolly said taking a large last gulp of her drink.

"And you're suppose to be the adult!" Sasporilla said. "The responsible mother taking care of her child. Not the irresponsible party girl!"

Lolly stood speechless and dropped her glass to the ground. Four sisters of the Seraphim were escorting an male broomer into the camp. Lolly pulled her wand.

"No need for violence." The broomer said. "One of these lovely ladies has my wand."

It was Pendragon, their first customer. "What do you want?" Lolly asked.

"I'm just checking on you and the girls." The broomer said. "My buddy in the Angels camp told me what happened. I got worried. There was a big fight, loyal to your husband vs. Loyal to Chuck. I understand there are a lot of dead brothers. I just wanted to tell you the camp is clear but I wouldn't count it as safe. Better you guys stay here."

"Noted." Lolly said. "Thank you for your concern Pendragon."

The Seraphim escorted the broomer safely back out of the camp.

"Well you girls have a good day fixing wands and making money." Lolly laughed. "I have serious partying to do. WOOHOO!!!"

"There she goes." Penny sighed shaking her head. "My mother. Forever nineteen."

Business was booming. Most wands were in good shape and just needed a cleaning. None of them had seen the same mind of abuse as the wands the Angels carried. By days end they had made almost three hundred galleons. The girls packed up the booth and brought everything back inside Sasporillas caravan. They counted out the money on the kitchen table.

"So that's one hundred fifty for you at fifty percent." Penny said. "And thirty for the club at ten percent which leaves one hundred and twenty for me? Oh that's to much Sassy for what I do."

"No." Sasporilla said. "You earned every penny...Penny. Our Penny is worth every Penny!"

"Stop you!" Penny laughed.

Sasporilla tucked the galleons in a box that she kept hidden. She now had, including the money she'd brought for the trip, about five hundred galleons and fifteen hundred in muggle money.

The girls bought hot dogs from a vendor at the concert, Pennys treat and they listened to the music as they ate at one of the camps picnic tables.

"These are good hot dogs!" Sassy said rolling her eyes back like a shark as she ate. She was so hungry, they'd barely eaten all day.

"Yes they make the best fast food at the festival." Penny laughed. "I should know. Always ask a fat person where the best food is."

"You shouldn't put yourself down like that." Sasporilla said.

"I'm not." Penny disagreed. "Just stating the obvious."

"Do you think your less of a good person because your heavy?" Sasporilla asked seriously.

"No!" Penny laughed. "I'm twice as good as a skinny girl!"

"I'm trying to be serious." Sasporilla said.

"Ok seriously." Penny said making a serious face. "I'm fat. I like to eat. I'm bookish and basically only get exercise when I dance. So I dance when ever I can. If I loose weight great. If I gain it great. I don't care but I have no illusions of who I am, or why I'm this way. Serious enough for you?"

"Almost." Sasporilla smiled. "I noticed something after you marked my hand."

"Did you indeed?" Penny asked.

"I noticed you don't have a mark on your hand?" Sasporilla said.

Pennys ears perked up at the sound of music rising from the festival stage. The sound wasn't as good as it was in the Seraphim camp but it was still good enough.

"I love this song!" Penny said. "Let's dance."

Penny got up and started dancing wildly. Sasporilla sighed and got up. She noticed how much enjoyment Penny took from dancing. She really loved it and was quite good at it. Sassy got up and danced along with her friend. They were having the time of their lives. Though it didn't go unnoticed by Sasporilla that Penny had effectively evaded the question.

The girls fell fast asleep in bed after dark. They had a long day of working and dancing and were absolutely exhausted. Sasporillas snoring didn't bother Penny who was deep in slumber. Sassy was so far gone she didn't even notice Penny hogged all the covers.

An loud noise woke them from their deep sleep. They sat up slack eyed and sleep drunk. BOOM!

"That was an explosion!" Sasporilla said.

"Something bad is going down!" Penny said.

The girls changed quickly and peeked outside. It looked like half the festival was in flames. Smoke wafted across the camp choking those trying to run through it. Lolly Lane staggered past the caravan.

"Mother!" Penny yelled. "What's going on?"

"It's a WAR!" Lolly yelled obviously hammered. "Woohoo!!!"

"We need to find my gran!" Penny said.

Sasporilla drew her wand as brooms flew past above them, spells flying back and forth ricocheting off a protective barrier the Sara's had put up. It wasn't lomg before they found Pennys Grand Mother barking orders on the camps southern perimeter.

"President Lane!" Penny said always respectful of her grand mothers title. "What's happening?"

"The Azkaban Angels lead by your uncle got the help of the Sons of Alchemy to try and put down the rest of the Angels still loyal to your father. Sins of the Father and a couple of other roller clubs are backing up the loyalist Angels."

"What can we do to help?" Sasporilla asked.

"Ready your wands and stick by me." President lane smiled. "You'll be safest with me."

They went around to all groups of Seraphim who held the perimeters. They seemed relatively safe inside the barriers. It was after an hour, just before dawn that Sasporilla first saw Chuck Warrol and his fanatical supporters walking through the smoke and ash towards the Seraphim camp.

Sasporilla stiffened readying her wand for combat.

Chuck walked up to the barrier and knocked on it like a front door. "Knock, knock!"

"You're not welcome here Warrol." President Lane said approaching the barrier. "Best you leave before you get hurt."

"I'm so happy for your concern old woman but I have a counter proposal." The old broomer sneered. "You drop your barriers, give me your drunken daughter and her brats friend and we let you leave in one piece. What do you say? Do we do this easy, or real easy?"

"I do believe you and your men can go to hell!" President Lane said readying her wand.

"I was hoping you'd say that." Chuck smiled. "Tear it all down boys. Anyone who lets a Sara live, dies."

The Angels raised their wands as the barriers vanished and the Seraphim hurled a volley of spells catching them by surprise. Explosions through the Angels in all directions. Volleys of death spells flew from all sides.

Sasporilla and Penny showed no sign of fear as they brought down Angels with every spell in their repertoires. Sassy caught site of Chuck Warrol, retreating into the smoke, as the Seraphim pushed the broomers back.

A group of Angles swooped in casting several explosive spells making the Sara's leap to the sides. A stray spell hit Sasporilla in the stomach and knocked the wind out of her. Sassy dropped to the ground as an explosion hit to close and blew her across the camp. Sasporilla landed hard and all went black.



Chapter 30

Sasporilla awoke cold and sore. Her eyes fluttered open to meet the light which felt blinding and did nothing for the pounding ache in her head. As she sat up it became very apparent that although she could see the sky and land around her, that she was covered by something. A large piece of fabric slipped down off of her. It took on the general look of the ground she sat on, still covering her legs.

Sasporilla found herself in a cow pasture. A near by cow looked at her surprised then went back to chewing a mouthful of grass. Sasporilla stood up shakily as she tried to get her bearings. She was about five hundred feet from her caravan. The only caravan left in the area. Where was everyone?

As Sassy staggered back to the caravan dragging the camouflage blanket. She started to see flashes of the attack. Memories bouncing in and out of her consciousness. The blast that threw her. Where were the Sara's?

Sasporilla reached her caravan and walked inside. Everything looked fine. Some how, in the middle of an all out broomer war, her brooms caravan had survived. Sassy was starved and grabbed an orange from the last of her fresh fruit supplies. Her ears started to ring. It was the first time she realized that she hadn't heard anything since she awoke.

Sasporilla's nose started to tingle and she sneezed clearing her ears.

Someone knocked at the door. Sasporilla drew her wand as she walked unsteadily over.

"Who is it?" She asked.

"It's Charles Pendragon." The familiar voice said. "Glad to see you're up. I was getting worried."

Sasporilla opened the door. It was indeed the broomer she had met on the first day of the festival.

"How are you feeling?" Charles asked.

"Everything hurts." Sassy said. "Especially my head."

"You probably have a concussion." Charles Pendragon said. "We need to get you to a doctor. Do you think you can fly?"

"I honestly don't know." Sassy smiled weakly. "I'll try."

They went outside, Charles folded up the camouflage tarp and stuffed it back in his saddle bag.

"It was you who covered me up?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yes." Charles smiled. "After attacks my club restored this pasture back to its original state. The Sara's thought you'd been blown to bits and considering the danger Lolly and Penny are now in, they didn't dare spend the time looking for you. I found you under the rubble of a leather work stand. So I covered you with my camo tarp and kept checking on you. Couldn't put you inside your caravan without an invitation. By the way, you may want to revoke entry for all people you've invited in, in the past."

"Ok thanks." Sasporilla said her head swimming as she popped open the end cap of her broom, withdrawing the caravan inside it. Sasporilla sat her broom and ready herself for flight. She was about ten feet in the air when everything went black.

Sassy awoke in a bed with clean white linens and women walking around in uniforms. She knew what this place was she just couldn't quite pick it out through the fog in her brain. People were speaking in some foreign language. What was that spell to understand foreign tongues?

Sasporilla couldn't think. She snapped her fingers and all voices became clear. They talked of patients recovering from various illnesses and injuries. They discussed medications and feeding. It was then Sasporilla realized she was in a hospital. She looked around and saw her broom, standing next to the night stand on which her wand sat. Sassy was dressed in a pink gown and her head was bandaged. She sat up in bed feeling a bit woozy.

"You need to lay still young lady." The nurse smiled. "You had a nasty bump on the head."

"Where am I?" Sasporilla asked.

"You're in the St.Jangouts Hospital Amsterdam." The nurse smiled. "You were brought in by a young man who paid for your care and left."

"Pendragon." Sasporilla smiled.

"Now you rest and the doctor will be in to check on you shortly." The nurse smiled as Sasporilla sunk back into the comfortable bed.

An owl landed on the kitchen window sill at number four Castle Road. Nick Owlmore opened the window and took the message.

Dear Mr.Owlmore;

I am a friend of Sasporillas, my name is Penny. I'm sorry to say Sasporilla Bucket passed away in an explosion at the Broomapalooza in Germany. I'm sorry, we couldn't find anything left of her to send home."

Penny Lane-Warrol

Nick was both amused and confused. He walked to the bottom of the kitchen stairs and yelled up. "Sasporilla? Did you die in an explosion in Germany?"

"Yes!" Sassy yelled down laughing.

"I just got the strangest letter!" Nick said looking at the parchment again.

Sasporilla came down stairs and snatched from his fingers. My how she was growing he thought. She was the same size as her mum was. Bit fuller in some spots and smaller in others but she was definitely growing up.

"This is from my friend Penny." Sasporilla laughed. "She's such a joker, thought this could be in bad taste if I hadn't been at home when you received it. I'll write her back."

"Tell her from me she's warped and twisted." Nick shouted after Sasporilla as she ran up the steps to her room.

Sasporilla flopped onto her bed, pulled out her stationary and quill and wrote back to Penny.

Dear Penny;

I'm fine. I can't explain much but Pendragon found me in the rubble after you lot left and he got me to a hospital in Amsterdam, St.Jangouts. I'll be out in a few days. Might head home or might continue on, haven't decided yet.

Sasporilla

Sassy was in hospital for three days. She was looking forward to getting released. She was still trying to make up her mind what to do next. She couldn't go home and there was still so much she wanted to do and to see. So Sasporilla Bucket went site seeing.

She wandered around Amsterdam taking in the sites and sounds of the delightful capital city while quite purposefully avoiding the cities famous seamier side. She saw the canals and saw art by Vangogh.

As the day wore on she took to the sky and found a good spot, in a forest clearing by a lake north of the city center, to set up camp for the night. This gave her the chance to throw away some stale food and get some of her money out. In the morning she would pick up some more supplies for her trip as she had decided go continue on.

She flew to Italy and Greece. Taking in the wonders of the ancient world and the great works of muggle artists like Michael Angelo and Divinci. She stood where great philosophers had stood thousands of years before and pondered the meaning of existence.

Sasporillas journey took her through war torn areas of the middle east that showed her clearly how in humane, people could be to one another. She traveled to Egypt and saw the great Pyramids. She camped in the desert and pondered her feelings, which as of late she simply had not given herself the luxury of.

Sasporilla spoke to lions and gorillas in Africa. She tangled with tigers and cobras in India. She flew through the mountains of Tibet an along the great wall of China. Sassy had Sushi in Tokyo and camped in Tunguska. Muggles

never knew the great Tunguska blast had been the result of one of the greatest Wizarding duels of all time. A duel between Nicholas Flemmel and Ivan Rokkarov over secrets of alchemy.

Sasporilla flew across the Bering straight to enjoy fresh crab in Alaska. She saw the rocky mountains and enjoyed a big steak at a restaurant in Calgary. Sassy spent a delightful week in a small prairie town just chatting with an old man who called everyone Jack Ass!

Sasporilla experienced baseball at a game in Toronto, where she sat above the open domed stadium on her broom, eating a hot dog and sipping cold orange soda. Sassy dipped down to New York city where she saw the Empire State building and spent the day walking around Time Square. She enjoyed poutine in Quebec, and fresh lobster in Nova Scotia.

The chilly nights in the stark terrain of green land gave Sasporilla time to think about losing Korrays love to Madrigal Neelander. She sat around the camp fire debating love, loss and loneliness. She was far from alone in this world. She had good friends and lots of people who loved her. She knew there were plenty of fish in the sea but she was truly not a fisherman. If another boy ever came around that showed as much interest in her as she did in him then maybe she would finally find true love like Karry and Zac seemed to. She wondered what they were doing right now. She blushed, put out the fire and headed to bed.

Iceland offered a welcome nights stop over as she continued on her way home. She made it to the Scottish outer Hebrides by night fall the next day and arrived at Hogwarts a few days early for the next years classes.

Of course the next year for Sasporilla Bucket was going to be the same as year as the one she had just done. A small trunk was left in the room of requirement for her by Professor McGonagall. Inside were some musty Hufflepuff robes, the school supplies and books she would need for the fifth year of study and that horrendous black troll hair wig. She was indeed to be the weird girl at the end of the hall who never spoke.

She put on the robes and the wig as a doorway formed in the wall before her. Levitating her trunk through first, she stepped through the out door, into her own past year, to spend what had been her fourth year, catching up on her fifth year.



Chapter 31

Sasporilla Bucket had grown quite a lot over the summer. She was about five and a half feet tall and starting to look less like a girl and more like a woman. She had donated a bunch of her old clothes that no longer fit to a charity shop that was more than happy to take them. Sassy used some of the money she had made from her wand repairs to buy some new clothes. Sasporilla found that since she had received the cloak at Christmas, she was developing a real taste for purples, which did in fact look very good on her. With the exchange rate between a galleon and muggle money being so pronounced, shopping in Muggle shops was always the best option.

Sasporilla walked through between shops smiling with her head held high despite the fact that she was being followed. Sassy had her hands full of bags and was obviously unable to get to her wand quickly enough to defend herself if need be. She turned down the alley where she left her broom in muggle cloaking mode. Standing at the end of the alley was the Azkaban Angels self appointed President, Chuck Warrol. Two of Chucks boys ran up to block the alley behind her.

"Looks like your gonna get that chance to tend to my wand." Chuck Warrol grinned.

Sasporilla just smiled and continued to walk to her broom as if she hadn't a care in the world. She walked over to the broom and stood there for a second. With a wink and a smile her illusion flickered out of existence.

A flash of blue from behind took out the two broomers blocking the alley. Sasporilla Bucket, Nick Owlmore and Lyra Lee-Ashwolf stepped into the alley. Sasporilla walked forward as Chuck drew his wand.

"Clever little girl." Chuck sneered.

"Cleverer than you old man." Sassy grinned.

The old broomer cast a jinx. Sasporilla deflected it. Chuck cast a spell which Sassy bounced up high and exploded in the air.

"You don't have a hundred men to back you up now Mr. Warrol." Sasporilla said. "You pathetic Weasel of a man."

"Charles Warrol!" Nick Owlmore yelled. "You are under arrest for the..."

Chuck Warrol started to bombard Sassy with spells, each one more powerful than the last. Sasporilla spun, dodged and deflected as gracefully as a ballet dancer for she was calm, even amidst the explosions of eldritch fire and raining brick that made Nick and Lyra jump for cover.

Sasporilla stood about ten paces from Chuck Warrol both standing perfectly still. Rubble blocked most of the alley behind her protecting any innocent bystanders from the spell she knew he'd use next.

"You would have loved it girly." Chuck said.

"I highly doubt it Mr. Warrol." Sasporilla sneered.

"Avada Kadavra!" The old broomer cast.

Sasporilla side stepped the death spell and silently cast a petrification spell, followed by a binding spell and when he was all wrapped up in a nice neat package for the Aurors to arrest him, Sasporilla Bucket walked over to Chuck Warrol.

"I wonder how Pennys father and you will get along in Azkaban after what you've done. "

As she walked away she suddenly turned and cast "Pilafulgur!" A ball of electrical energy blew President Chuck Warrol into the brick wall at the end of the alley.

Nick and Lyra ran in to take the old broomer into custody.

"You'd make a heck of auror young lady." Nick smiled placing magical restraints on the man.

"I told ya Nick." Lyra said. "Our Sassy is amazing."

"Thanks but I'll never be an auror like my father or my uncle or my friend." Sassy smiled. "I'm going to be a wand maker!"

THE END



Sasporilla Bucket

The Girl With Pink Hair

Man in the Mirror



By Darren Kelly

⌘ Harry Potter Universe Fan Fiction

Man in the Mirror

A Harry Potter UNIVERSE/ Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction



Chapter 1

Sasporilla Bucket soared into the skies above London on her Triumphant 1200x broom. Her Saddle bags were filled with three sets of sixth year books for her, Karry and Zac. The rest of Sasporilla's clothes and supplies were in her trunk, stored in the caravan in her broom. Sassy loved flying almost as much as she loved working with wands.

Sasporilla flew north following the M1 up to New Castle. Just west of that was her first days destination, She saw it from the air on the western side of Kielder forest, Myron Wagtails farm.

Myron was sitting on the front porch with his guitar writing a song when she arrived. He smiled brightly and waved as she landed close to the house. Myron met his favorite witch at the porch steps.

"Hello Myron." Sasporilla said hugging her dear friend.

"Hello Sasporilla." He said hugging the girl and lifting her in the air. "My gosh look at you! You're as big as your mum!"

"Yes I'm growing up." Sasporilla smiled.

"You certainly are." Myron laughed. "To fast! How was your summer?"

"Both uneventful and adventure filled." Sasporilla smiled.

"Well I look forward to the story once you've settled." Myron said. "Where are your things?"

"In my Caravan." Sasporilla said. "I figured I'd just stay in there overnight."

"Your caravan?" Myron said looking around.

Sasporilla took about six paces away from Myron and laid her broom down on the ground. She pulled her wand and cast "Ocasum Sequor!" The brass tip of the Triumphant flicked open and the caravan popped out. The broom flew up and hung itself by the door.

"That's bloody brilliant!" Myron said clapping his hands.

"Would you like to come in for cupa?" Sasporilla smiled walking up the steps.

"Yes mam!" Myron said following Sassy inside.

As a half muggle born, Myron never ceased to be impressed, at the wonders of magic. Even after all these years. Sasporilla put a pot of tea on and went to her room to change out of her riding gear. She put on a pretty pink floral sun dress she'd picked up in a muggle shop.

"There," Sasporilla said as she rejoined Myron in the kitchen. "That feels much better. My riding gears getting a bit snug again."

"Well your growing so fast!" Myron said as Sasporilla levitated the pot from the stove and poured it into cups. Myron liked his tea with a bit of lemon. Sassy drank it either way. They sat at the kitchen table and talked.

"So tell me of your grand adventure?" Myron smiled.

Sasporilla told him of her double year at Hogwarts using the time door in the room of requirement. He was very happy about the second quiet summer she had spent at home with Nick, and was a bit concerned with her two young friends living together in Hogsmead. The tales of the first summer however, left Myron sitting with his mouth agape!

"So you went through all that with bracelet," Myron gasped, "then because you felt you couldn't go home, because you were already there, you'd go on a world brooming trip alone?"

"After almost getting blown apart in a broomer war, yeah." Sasporilla smiled.

"That was dangerous and fool hardy Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket!" Myron scolded her. "You could have been killed or worse! You know so little of the dark side of this world!"

"But I did know one thing." Sasporilla smiled. "At the beginning of the year Professor McGonagall let slip that the plan had worked. That meant I had arrived and was to do my fifth year, safe and sound."

"And what if you'd changed history by dying?" Myron said slapping his hand on the table in frustration like her father used to do.

"Then I wouldn't know the difference." Sassy said getting a bit cross. "Look Myron, you're my Friend. Only you, Karry and Lyra know about this other than me and professor McGonagall. I know that we technically broke some laws doing it but she did this for me. So I could stay in the same class as my friends. I wasn't hurt. Had a great time, despite the few set backs, and saw the world. Most of all, I reaffirmed the fact in my mind that not only do I want to be a wand maker but I am damn good at my craft. I appreciate your concern but I'm a big girl and I regret nothing I've done and will apologize to know one for it Myron Wagtail."

Myron sat there looking at Sasporilla. "You sound just like your mum when you get fired up."

"Guess I got it from her." Sasporilla said taking a sip of tea.

"I didn't mean to upset you." Myron smiled. "I get concerned. Sometimes I wish I'd have had it in me to steal your mum away, and you'd been my daughter."

"That's very sweet Myron." Sasporilla said. "And just a tad creepy."

The pair started to laugh and giggle as they finished their tea.

"Did you bring your guitar?" Myron asked.

"Never leave home without it!" Sasporilla smiled calling it to her hand with the snap of her fingers.

"Like to jam a while?" Myron asked.

"Love too." Sasporilla smiled.

They adjourned to Myrons porch where they played and laughed until the wee hours. Sasporilla adjourned to her caravan and slept happily.

Much to her surprise a loud knock came at her door at eight a.m. She sat up in bed as she heard the door creak open.

"Are you decent?" Myron asked eyes closed.

"No." Sasporilla answered. "But I'm dressed."

Myron brought his favorite witch breakfast in bed. "Thought you might sleep late if I didn't wake you. I know your friends will be waiting for you in Hogsmead."

"Oh how thoughtful." Sasporilla smiled sipping the fresh orange juice. "Oh my god this is so good!"

"It's my secret recipe!" Myron smiled. "Half orange juice, half orange soda."

"I'll remember that for sure." Sasporilla laughed as she tucked in to toad in the hole and bangers.

"So how much to have you do a quick maintain on my wand before you leave?" Myron asked.

"One galleon." Sassy said her mouth full of toast.

"One galleon?" Myron protested. "But I'm practically family!"

"You're right." Sassy agreed washing it all down with another gulp of orange juice. "Two galleons."

Myron laughed. "You are a brat! But you are so dear yo me. Your all I have left of your mum and dad, besides Nick, and quite frankly he's always frightened me a bit."

Sasporilla belly laughed. "But he's such a teddy bear!"

"With sabertooth tiger fangs!" Myron laughed.

"It's probably why him and Lyra get along so well." Sasporilla mused.

"Both free spirits?" Myron asked.

"No." Sasporilla smiled. "Both have behinds you can measure in broom handles."

"You wicked monkey!" Myron laughed rubbing the girls pink hair. "Eat up or you'll be late."

"Yes I have to wash up and get a move on." Sasporilla said. "Still got have a days ride ahead of me."

"Promise me you'll say goodbye before you leave ya?" Myron asked taking the tray.

"I couldn't do that to you." Sassy said. "Besides I've still got to tend to that wand."

"You're an angel." Myron said stepping out.

Sasporilla showered, dried off and got dressed. It was a nice day out so she did without the riding gear and just wore a new pair of purple pants and purple top. She put her cloak on over top complete the ensemble. Her hair, no mater what she did to it, was always an unruly rats nest.

"One of these days I'm just going to cut it all short!" Sassy mused as she slapped on a bit of makeup and grabbed her wand kit.

She opened the door and Myron, Karry and Zac yelled "Surprise!"

"What are you two doing here?" Sasporilla said hugging Karry.

"We thought we'd fly down and ride back home with you." Zac said.

"A formal escort." Sasporilla said putting her fingers to her chest, batting her eye lashed and curtsying. "I feel like a right princess."

"That's the intention!" Karry laughed. "Broomer girl."

Sassy knocked Karry's shoulder playfully and held up her wand kit. "All right whip your wands out and let me take care of them."

Zac and Myron stood there motionless for a second as Karry burst into laughter.

"Ya I can see where I should phrase that a bit better in the future." Sasporilla cringed.

It took about twenty minutes to do repairs and maintenance on the wands. The boys wands looked like they'd never seen a cleaning or a repair.

"Gentlemen your wands are well fit now." Sasporilla said. "You know dueling can cause cracks in the wood and general over use can leave your core harmonically out of tune. For goodness sake have you ever thought even giving them a polish?"

"Sorry mam." Myron smiled winking at Zac. "She's spent too much time with old McGonagall."

"How about mine?" Karry asked smiling.

"You obviously didn't cut wand maintenance class! Excellent job. Five points for Hufflepuff." Sassy said. "Just gave it a bit of a polish with Danish oil. It's better for your birch than boiled Linseed."

"You knew what kind of oil I used?" Karry said surprised.

"Young lady." Sasporilla smiled handing Karry back her wand. "Wands are my passion."

"Karry's too." Zac smiled making Myron laugh.

"Enough you!" Karry said smacking her boy friend for making her blush.

"All right you three." Myron said hugging Sassy and kissing her on top of the head. "You best get going."

"I'll see you at Christmas ya?" Sasporilla asked.

"You couldn't keep me away flock of Hypogriffs." Myron smiled.

The three youngsters got on their brooms and took off into the sky.

"That was easy." Myron said as he turned to go into the house. "Now what should I do with the real Myron Wagtail?"



Chapter 2

The flight back to Hogsmead from Myron's farm took a couple of hours. Zac and Karry had to make 2 pit stops along the way to give their bottoms a rest. They weren't used to hard riding like Sasporilla. They arrived in town just after lunch. Zac thought it prudent to store the brooms at home and take the two ladies out to lunch.

Sasporilla followed Karry and Zac into the Three Broomsticks where they took a table in the front window.

"Good afternoon my young love birds." Madam Rosemerta smiled bringing them menus. She knew that Zac was a great tipper and always treated him and whoever he was with like royalty.

"Good afternoon Madam Rosemerta." Karry smiled. "What are the specials today?"

"My thrifty girl." Zac smiled taking Karry's hand. "Order whatever you like! Who cares what it costs!"

"We have to save where we can!" Karry said.

"Karry." Zac smiled. "I don't think you quite understand how much I'm worth."

"I didn't want to ask." Karry said.

"Another thing I love about you." Zac said. "You don't love me just for my money. Which I assure you is considerable. If we over spend like mad people every day for a thousand years we'll barely touch my pocket change."

"Wow." Sasporilla gulped.

"Well that's wonderful." We'll have a lot to leave to charity when we pass or to our children if we have any. However I will always pinch pennies when and where we can."

"Thriftiness is the mark of a good woman." Madam Rosemertha said. "The special is a beef and mushroom pie."

"I'll have that please." Karry said.

"Me too." Zac said.

"Sounds delightful." Sasporilla smiled.

"Three specials it is." Madame Rosemertha said taking up the menus.

"So Sasporilla." Zac said. "How was your summer?"

"Such a loaded question." Sassy laughed regaling them with the tale of her adventures. "And so when I got the chance to have a quiet summer at home, I jumped on it!"

"Oh my god!" Karry said. "I can't believe you traveled around the world alone!"

"I needed the time to think." Sasporilla said. "I was really down about losing Korry. I needed to get ok with me before I could get past him."

"I understand." Karry said. "But you must have been lonely?"

"Some days." Sasporilla said. "However I learned to like being in my own company. Plus I made a few friends along the way. Muggles mostly who had no idea I'm a witch."

"Well it sounds like quite the adventure." Zac smiled. "Except for the almost getting blown up part."

"That wasn't so pleasant." Sassy laughed.

Madam Rosemertha brought the food to the table. The pies were lovely and hot. The gravy was thick and rich enveloping the beef and mushrooms like a velvet cloth. Sasporilla also loved the chips. In all of the world, the Three Broomsticks made the best chips, though their fish left much to be desired.

"So I have an announcement." Karry smiled.

"Your finally leaving Zac to give some poor girl like me a shot at his money." Sasporilla laughed trying to look sexy pitting her hand on his. "I'll make you happy baby."

Zac blushed and gulped. He'd never seen Sasporilla so bold!

"Shut it you!" Karry laughed. "Zac and I have decided, beyond all logical reason, to get married this Christmas!"

The squeals of joy out the two girls cracked three wine glasses over the bar. Zac smiled and took Karry's hand.

"We thought, why wait?" Zac said.

"We're in love, we're happy and we live well together." Karry said. "So when Zac turns sixteen in November we can legally get married. We've booked the Hogsmead chapel for Christmas eve and we're hoping to have the reception at Hogwarts in the great hall."

"Do you think the Headmistress will go for it?" Sassy asked.

"I'm sure she'll see reason at the end of it." Zac smiled.

"He means he'll offer them so much money they can't say no." Karry said. "Honey I'm fine having the reception right here at the Three Broomsticks or in the Chapel hall."

"We'll see what happens." Zac smiled.

"So you'll be Mrs. Karry Zarcazzian!" Sasporilla smiled.

"No." Zac said insistently. "I will be Mr. Zac Curtiss. I want to get rid of my families name. It's a bloody dark stain in Wizarding history."

"Well." Sasporilla said. "If that's what you want. I'm sure many will look upon it as being very progressive."

"We should get going." Karry said. "I want to get Sassy over to the dress shop for a fitting."

"Yes indeed!" Zac smiled waving madam Rosemertha over for the check.

"Dress?" Sassy asked.

"Your maid of honour dress." Karry said half asking her best friend to do the honour.

"Oh my gosh yes." Sasporilla said. "Of course, I would be happy to be your maid of honour."

The girls started to squeal again. The barman started to hide the wine glasses.

"Can I interest anyone in desert?" Madam Rosemertha asked. "We've got a sticky toffee pudding that's quite magnificent!"

"Oh that does sound good." Sasporilla said.

"No just the check for us Rosie." Zac smiled.

"Here you are dears." Madam Rosemertha said placing the check by Zac.

Zac took a quick look and told the girls. "I'll catch you up at home."

Karry gave her man a big kiss and the two girls were away. Zac left twenty Galleons for the lunch check, more than eight over and above the cost of lunch.

Karry took Sasporilla to the dress shop in town. She noticed the broom shop was closed.

"Darn." Sasporilla said disappointed. "The broom shops closed. I was thinking of getting some new riding leathers as mine are getting small."

"That shop closed early in the summer." Karry said. "It was only suppose to be closed for a week, but it never reopened."

Sasporilla wondered if the uncle that ran the shop was at Broomapalooza and got hurt or killed?

The dress shop was a tiny. One small room with about a dozen dresses on a rack and one mannequin. They were greeted by the short stout woman who owned and ran the shop.

"Mrs.Dubittle." Karry smiled. "I've brought my maid of honour for her fitting."

"Karry my dear!" The woman smiled. "Yes, yes, she is just as you described her. So I have something a bit unconventional but I think you'll like it."

Mrs.Dubittle waved her wand spinning Sasporilla around. The clothes she was wearing flew off and a black velvet strapless gown with pink and purple frills and trim. With another wave of her wand Sassy was turned to see herself in the mirror.

"Oh my!" Sasporilla gasped. "It's stunning! But is it what you want me to wear Karry?"

"I think it's perfect!" Karry smiled.

"I really love it." Sassy smiled looking at the dress, that fit her so perfectly from every angle, in the mirror.

"Would you like to try on your wedding gown Karry dear?" Mrs.Dubittle asked.

Karry smiled and nodded excitedly. The shop owner waved her wand. Both girls spun around. The dress disappeared from Sasporilla and her clothes reappeared on her. Karrys clothes flew off into a nice pile and her wedding gown appeared on her. It was a beautiful white lace gown with puffy long sleeves and a floral veil. Sasporilla put her hands to her mouth to muffle her scream of joy.

"Karry you'll make a beautiful bride." Sasporilla said.

"I know I'm resplendent, aren't I?" Karry smiled.

"You sure are." Sassy smiled. "And white is an interesting choice."

"Shut it you." Karry smirked. "Don't spoil this for me."

"Sorry." Sassy laughed. "Nudge, nudge, wink, wink, say no more!"

"Oh god!" Karry rolled her eyes. "That's something my father always says."

"I probably picked it up from Korry." Sassy said.

After the dresses were away Karry, out of sheer curiosity, asked the brilliant dress maker a question. "Just how much will all the dresses set us back?"

"Your fellow said not to worry about it." Mrs.Dubittle smiled. "The bill is already paid."

"I know." Karry smiled. "I know he's got more than enough to pay the bill, but just between us girls?"

The whole of Hogsmead could hear Karry Curtiss as she chewed out Zac for over spending. "Three thousand nine hundred and forty seven Galleons for six dresses? Are bloody mad!"

"Well I..." Zac stammered.

"Do you know how much we would have spent in a muggle shop for the same sort of things?"

"I know but..." Zac tried to argue.

"If you keep spending like this then...?" Karry started but was cut off.

"Then what?" Zac asked. "We'll ho broke? No we won't! Not in a thousand life times of over spending will we go broke! Look, we live in this community now, you wanted dresses, it's important to support our local shops and businesses."

"I agree but..." Karry stammered.

"And no muggle made dress will ever fit just right, no matter if you gain or loose weight or grow a foot!"

Karry knew he was right. "I was raised to respect money and spend sensibly."

"And I never want you to stop." Zac smiled. "But I don't want you to worry about money either. We have loads! Our wedding is once in a lifetime. Let's do it up grand and then for the redt of your life you clip coupons and argue the price of chicken with the butcher."

Sasporilla laughed. "I once thought she was going to make a shop keeper cry over the cost of a Cornetto."

"He was charging at least fifty pents over the accepted retail price." Karry protested. "That was outrageous! " Everyone had a good laugh, knowing both sides were correct. Karry was right, Sasporilla thought, they do live well together. An afternoon of story telling, looking at Karrys book of wedding plans and helping to make dinner made for a slow relaxing evening watching Tele and getting their supplies all sorted. Sassy had picked up everything she needed and had picked up the books for them from Flourish and Blots in Diagon Alley.

"The books were all waiting for me to pick up when I arrived." Sasporilla said. "Sixth year books for sixth year students."

"I can't wait to dig into this years spells!" Karry smiled.

"Why does your pile have a different book from ours?" Karry asked.

Sasporilla looked at the three books. "Oh! You two are doing pre-university courses for teaching."

"Yes." Zac said.

"My pre-University area of study is crafting magical items. Wand making!" Sasporilla smiled.

"So you're really going to do it?" Karry said. "You're going to make wands?"

"If my ideas can be made a reality then I'll revolutionize wands like Mr.Olivander did all those years ago."

"That is quite an ambition!" Zac said.

"Hopefully it will be a reality." Sasporilla laughed.

It was getting late and all three wanted to be ready for school the next day. Sixth years were allowed to come in before the rest. Get their dorm assignments and get settled in.

Sassy went to bed and slept very very deeply.



Chapter 3

The soft sound of bird song woke Sasporilla Bucket from her slumber. She stretched and yawned and opened her eyes to see the sun streaming in the spare room window. A raven sat staring in at her and let out a loud CAW. The bird flew off as Sassy got iut of bed.

'I must ask Karry where she got this bed.' Sasporilla thought. 'It was so omfortable!'

Karry really had done a wonderful job decorating their home. Some things like beds and appliances were very new. Other furnishings like tables and chairs were old and probably second hand. Not antiques, but thrift store buys that were good enough for them, thank you very much.

Sasporilla walked across the plush carpet on to the cool morning tile of the washroom. She yawned as she passed the mirror and tucked her hand into the bath to run the water hot for a shower. The steam built quickly. Sassy walked back over to the sink and wiped the thin layer of steam from its surface with her hand. What was staring back at her made her scream!

Karry and Zac sat straight up in bed hearing the strange scream in their house. They grabbed their wands and ran to the bathroom where a strange voice yelled "Karry!"

They got to the bathroom and pointed there wands in. As the steam dissipated a young man with short pink hair immerged wearing Sasporillas nighty.

"Where is Sasporilla?" Karry demanded. "What have you done with her and why are you wearing her nighty you pervert!"

The young man started to cry. "Karry it's me. I am Sasporilla Bucket."

Karry got Sassy calmed down while Zac found the poor girl some clothes that fit her. He had an old pair of sweat pants that were about right and any of his t-shirts fit well enough.

Karry brought Sasporilla down to the kitchen for breakfast and sat her.... him at the table.

"I really was just hoping for a quiet normal year." Sasporilla said.

"Someone probably just slipped you a zonko potion or something as a joke." Zac said. "It will likely wear off any time now."

"Sweet heart." Karry smiled. "Will you make the toast please?"

"Yes of course." Zac smiled and kissed his girl.

"Why do these things always happen to me?" Sasporilla asked looking up. "Some one up their gets a bloody good laugh at my expense every year and I'm sick of it!"

Sasporilla was understandably frustrated and began to weep again.

"What are we going to do?" Zac asked Karry.

"We need to get her to Hogwarts and see if the professors know just what we're dealing with." Karry said.

"Ok." Zac said. "First thing after breakfast!"

Sassy ate the eggs and toast wanted nothing to do with the sausages. The three of them walked down the road to Hogwarts. Sasporilla's body felt strange and uncomfortable. Hagrid was out by the front gates doing some last minute hedge trimming for the new arrivals.

"Well bless my soul yer a bit early, but it does my hear' good t' see ya Karry and Zac." Hagrid said pleasantly.

"Who' yer freind? He'd make a good'n fer our Sasporilla with 'is pink hair an' all!"

"Hagrid." Sasporilla said. "It's me! I am Sasporilla Bucket!"

"Oh dear." Hagrid said a bit confused. "I didn' know. I means, I thought you was always comfortable as a girl. Well you won' be the first one a' Hogwarts to undergo th' transformation."

"Hagrid you know about this?" Karry asked.

"Well ya!" Hagrid said a bit surprised. "I been aroun' a long time. Seen a lot a things I 'ave. Usually though you can tell the ones though tha' want the change."

"Hagrid I didn't want this!" Sasporilla said. "Some one did this to me!"

"Oh well tha's differe'n't isn' it!" Hagrid cringed. "Som'uns probly playin' a prank on ya then!"

"I'm not laughing." Sasporilla said dead serious giving Hagrid the chills.

Hagrid rushed the three of them inside. Headmistress McGonagall was up in the infirmary over seeing the delivery of a batch of rare medicines to Madam Pomfrey.

"Professor." Sasporilla said.

Professor McGonagall turned but didn't recognize the young man who had called her name. However the shocking pink hair and the accompanying presence of Karry Curtiss and Zac Zarcazzian made it abundantly clear who stood before her.

"My goodness." Professor McGonagall said looking over her glasses. "Miss Bucket what has happened now?"

Madam Pomfrey gave Sasporilla a quick examination.

"No headmistress." Madam Pomfrey said. "This is the result of something more powerful than a Zonko product."

"Can you tell what was used?" The Headmistress asked.

"I'm sure it was the Elbepermentia Transformation potion." Madam Pomfrey said. "But I always thought it had to be taken voluntarily?"

"Did any one give you a potion to take?" Professor McGonagall asked.

"No!" Sasporilla said. "If it was given to me then I took it unwittingly."

"If it was Elbepermentia." The Headmistress said. "Then it can't be reversed."

"What?" Karry yelled as Sasporilla started crying. "What kind of moron makes an irreversible potion?"

"That is why the taker of the potion must drink it willingly Miss Curtiss." Madam Pomfrey huffed.

"Then something's off." Sasporilla sobbed. "I'd never agree to take it. I very much enjoy being a girl!"

"We'll have to read up on this potion and see what..." the Headmistress was interrupted as the infirmary doors burst open and an older middle eastern woman dressed in colourful silk robes that flowed as he rushed over to Sasporilla.

"Everyone back away from the boy." The woman demanded in her smokey voice as she brought out what looked like an extra large magnifying glass with multicoloured lenses that slid in and out.

"What do you suspect professor Amari?" The Headmistress asked.

The professor looked at Sasporilla through the Thoroascope. She smiled as she saw nothing malevolent in the red lens but was shocked at what she saw through the blue lense.

"I'm afraid it's not Elbepermentia." The professor said. "The transformation is the result of dark magic. Most definitely not a potion as is evident by the slight bluish hue of the boys finger nails. I fear the girl ingested liquid containing a small bezoar coated in the ichor of an Egyptian scarab, the transformation took place as she slept. However what has me puzzled is there must have been a pink Arkola gem with a blue star placed on the girl for the spell to take effect."

The professor began to roughly check Sasporilla for any sign of the gem.

"Ouch." Sasporilla protested. "Not so rough."

The professor stopped and grabbed the locket around Sasporilla's neck. She jerked it abruptly snapping the chain.

"Oy!" Sassy said angrily. "That was a gift!"

"From my brother!" Karry protested.

"From a boy who I'm guessing broke your heart?" The mysterious Professor asked.

"Yes." Sasporilla stiffened.

The professor readied her wand as she cracked open the locket. Inside there was a quick sparkle of pink.

"Alliges Duplicia Mala, confractus maledictionem Gemma Delere!" Professor Amari cast. The small pink gem with a blue star in its center floated out of the locket and was wrapped in a brilliant white and gold sparkling light. The gem crack and exploded spewing evil dark mist, but the light contained it and crushed it into a small black marble ball which fell into her outstretched hand.

"There." Professor Amari said. "This will break the curse."

"Great!" Sasporilla sighed with relief. "How do I use it?"

"You force the witch or wizard who did this to you to swallow it of course." Professor Amari smiled playfully.

"And how in the world are we suppose to figure out who that was?" Karry asked.

"They will be the humbled soul who comes before you powerless!" Amari chuckled. "As of now all of their magic is in that marble, in your hands!"



Chapter 4

The students were brought into the great hall by years. Seventh years first followed by the sixth years. Karry gave Zac a kiss as he walked off to the Slytherin table as Sasporilla and Karry went to join the other Hufflepuffs. The fifth, fourth and third years marched in taking their seats at the house tables. Those who knew Karry and Sasporilla were inseparable wondered where the pink haired witch was and who the pink haired wizard was?

Sassy looked around for Penny but there was no sign of her corpulent friend at the Raven claw table. As the second years came in Sasporilla caught sight of Melvin Lazarus. He looked over at the Hufflepuff table and caught site of the young man with pink hair who smiled and waved at him. Poor Melvin went pale as he tripped over his own feet falling, knocking over Gryffindors like dominos.

The sorting ceremony was relatively uneventful. Sasporilla wondered if she had looked that young when she was sorted. It all seemed like a life time ago now. Sassy hated the pants she wore. A quick search of the room of requirement had found pants that fit her new male form suitably well. The only problem was she found they pinched horribly in a very tender spot.

"Do all boys suffer this crushing and pinching in the crotch?" Sassy whispered.

"If you listen to Zac and Korry?" Karry said. "Then yes, some times."

"I don't know how they do it?" Sasporilla said shifting. With a gasp she went pale, bit her lip from pain and banged her head lightly on the table.

"Students?" The Headmistress smiled standing at the podium. "Before the customary feast I'd like to address a few issues about this year. First of all I would like to introduce our new Defence against the dark arts teacher. Professor Amari."

Professor Amari stood and smiled as she waved graciously. The older middle eastern woman had a smoldering intensity to her gaze that made even the most honest witch or wizard feel uneasy.

"Next I'd like to ask all students, to ask your loved ones when you write home, if they know of any wizards or witches who have recently lost their magical abilities." Headmistress McGonagall said. "One of our own students, Miss Sasporilla Bucket, has been the victim of heinous dark magic. The perpetrator has turned her into a young man."

Sassy was dying of embarrassment as she heard the murmurs and laughter.

"Now lastly I'd like to announce that this year we will be taking applications for a school exchange program. Two dozen Hogwarts students will have the chance to trade places with students from Baux Batons, Durmstrang, Ilvermore and Droorlily. If you're interested you can get a form from my office as of tomorrow after classes." Professor McGonagall smiled. "First years are sadly excluded from this program. All forms must be signed by a parent or guardian. Lastly a note to all students living in Hogsmead. The front gates open at six a.m. and are closed for the night at eight p.m. Please do not be late for classes nor stuck inside the school after hours or your you will force me to review your off site status. Please everyone enjoy the feast."

With a wave of the Headmistresses wand, food filled the tables and everyone tucked in.

"Sasporilla?" A voice said from behind her. Sassy looked up to see Melvin Lazarus looking at her shaking. "Is it really you?"

"Hello Melvin." Sasporilla said sadly. "Yes it is really me."

"Oh my gosh are you ok?" Melvin asked.

"Other than feeling a hat in a boot cupboard I'm doing as well as I can." Sassy smiled.

"Well I just wanted you to know that I'm here for you if you want to talk." Melvin said taking his hand causing people to start murmuring again.

"Melvin," Sassy smiled, "I appreciate it but aren't you worried about what people will say about you standing here holding another boys hand?"

Melvin looked at his own hand holding Sasporillas larger boy hands and pulled away a bit to quickly.

"Never thought of that." Melvin said. "I'm afraid I still see the girl in there and forgot."

"Thank you Melvin." Sassy smiled needing to hear that.

"I'm still here for though," Melvin insisted, "absolutely any time you need me ok?"

"Ok." Sassy said a tear sliding from the corner of her eye and down her cheek. "Still want to take me out some time?"

"You know what?" Melvin said stiffening. "Yes I would! And I will be honoured to any time you want."

"You're sweet Melvin." Sasporilla smiled. "But I couldn't inflict that on you. It would make you feel awkward and uncomfortable."

"Yes." Melvin nodded. "It would, but I would still do it if it made you happy."

Sasporilla almost hugged Melvin but she thought the better of it and shook his hand instead with a grin and a wink. Penny flew her broom through the doors of the great hall and slid to a stop at the Ravenclaw table. She was wearing a Seraphim vest over her robes.

"Sorry!" Penny laughed. "I missed the Express! I didn't want to miss dinner."

"Sit down miss Lane-Warrol." The Headmistress said.

"Just Lane now mum." Penny said.

"Noted." Professor McGonagall said fully unamused.

After dinner Sasporilla played catch up with Penny. Zac and Karry walked off home. The students filed off to their common rooms to find out dorm assignments. Sassy stood in the common room while Professor Sprout and the Headmistress discussed just what to do with with the pink haired wizard.

"We can't put him with the girls!" Professor Sprout insisted, "even if he is still a girl inside. It will cause chaos!"

"I understand Professor." The Headmistress said. "But we can't exactly put her with the boys? Can we?"

"I don't see much other choice Minerva." Professor Sprout said. "We have no single rooms this year."

"I don't want to cause all of this trouble." Sasporilla said. "Perhaps it would be better if I just lived in my brooms caravan."

"That young man..." The Headmistress said. "... um young lady is a bloody brilliant solution."

Sasporilla got full permission to set up her caravan in the secret court yard off the great hall. With a quick cast of Ocasum Sequor, her caravan popped out of the brass tip of her broom and set up before her. She could easily take off and land here any time she wanted from here however at this time she only wanted a good nights sleep after a very trying day.



Chapter 5

The rain poured down on the sad looking woman that walked along the side of the country road looking very much like a drowned rat. Her long black hair hung on her already soaking wet shoulders. A lorry drove past her and pulled to the side of the road ahead of her.

The driver rolled down the passenger window as the woman walked up. It was so wet and cold out anyone would be thankful for a ride. He was hoping this pretty thing would be very thankful. "Where you headed sweet heart?"

"To find out what went wrong." Korona Portemp smiled.

"And where would that be?" The lorry driver smiled playfully.

"Whales." Korona said.

"I'm going as far as London." The driver said. "You can easily find a ride from there."

"That would be great." Korona smiled opening the lorry door and climbing in.

She hated being nice to these muggles who normally she would have simply forced to do her bidding. Now that someone had bound her, and all of her powers were gone, she had very little choice but do what ever it took to get what she needed. Though there were times like these, when a greasy dirty muggle placed its hand on her damp knee, that she was happy that she carried a very large and very sharp dagger.

Defence Against the Dark Arts always held Sasporillas interest. Especially after the dangers she'd faced over all her short years.

Professor Amari sat in the lotus position on a flying carpet, hovering five feet off the floor, at the front of the room. When the clock hit One P.M. her eyes opened. The carpet fluttered to the floor. The older middle eastern woman stepped off and waved her hand. The carpet rolled up and put itself away in the cupboard.

"You all know nothing about the true dark arts." Professor Amari said intensely in her smokey voice. "No matter what you have seen, who you have fought or what you have been taught, you know nothing of the true nature of black magic. Ancient, evil and dark. Magic used only to inflict pain and destroy lives like the curses you've seen are nothing in comparison to the magic that pulls you into its shadow, fills your soul with darkness and leaves you hollowed of everything good about you but filled with power."

Three students lost control of their bladders. "Our last teacher was an auror!" Gideon Barnswoggle laughed. "What are your qualifications?"

Professor Amari rushed his desk as if floating across the door. Shadow seemed to flow behind her. "Aurors are a necessity in your world. The brave light witches and wizards that investigate and arrest those who dabble in the dark arts. They are quaint." Professor Amari smiled. "What are my qualifications impudent child?"

Her face shifted into a ashen grey death mask with black empty eyes and a mouth full of razor sharp teeth.

"I am creature of vast darkness boy!" The woman screamed outraged. "I am Wedjat, the all seeing eye. My eyes see the truth regardless of how you try to conceal it! I am cursed to walk this miserable Earth for thousands of years to pay for the power I summoned! I have lain waste to civilizations. I have ripped the heads off your kind for less of an insult!"

Then as suddenly as she had become a monster she changed back to her normal form. Most of the students surrounded her wands drawn and pointed right at her. Professor Amari smiled coyly and licked her dry lips.

"In other words." Professor Amari said. "I am a dark witch, in that I draw my power from the dark fabric of magic. What I choose to do with my power is what distinguishes me from pathetic imposters like your lord Voldemort. Ten points from Hufflepuff for your insolence."

"I don't understand." Gideon Barnswoggle said. "No one can live for thousands of years! Not even Nicholas Flemel could have lived that long!"

"I never said I was alive." Professor Amari said with a husky chortle.

Sasporilla put her wand away and took her seat. Though everyone else was much more hesitant.

"If she was a true danger to us," Sasporilla said. ", the Headmistress wouldn't have brought her to Hogwarts."

"Very astute Mr.Bucket." Professor Amari said walking back to the front of the room as students put their wands away and took their seats.

"Miss Bucket." Sasporilla insisted. "Despite what your eyes tell you."

"My eyes tell me all." Amari smiled. "Your secrets, your pain, even the girl inside the boy, but it entertains me to rub salt in your wounds if I choose to do so."

"I understand." Sasporilla smiled. "If it causes you enjoyment Professor then by all means pound salt."

Professor Amari stepped over to Sasporilla's desk. "I see we are going to be spending a lot of time together, boy. Detention."

After class Sasporilla stayed behind. Professor Amari sat behind her desk and glared at the pink haired wizard. Sasporilla debated just doing her home work but for some reason having the woman glare at her got her back up. Instead of giving in and looking away she just stared back at her defiantly.

After a full hour professor Amari stood and slammed his hands on her desk. "You are dangerously stubborn girl!"

"No." Sassy said. "I just don't give in to bullies."

"Is that what you think I am?" Amari asked walking over.

"I don't know exactly what you are." Sasporilla said honestly. "But I know you like being intimidating."

"It has its uses." Amari smiled. "Understand that I am not your friend. I am your teacher. I am not like the other professors who like children. I do not like children. I do not like the living. I do not like the falseness of laughter, the senselessness of hope."

"You are truly a dark creature." Sasporilla snarled.

"Hateful and cruel." Amari said in her deep smoky voice. "But you were right, I am no danger to you or your classmates. I would never harm an innocent. However few are truly innocent."

"I was hoping you could explain this curse to me." Sasporilla asked. "You obviously know everything about it."

"I do." Amari said. "In my many years, I have seen it used several times. You were very lucky to have me here."

"Was I?" Sasporilla asked curiously.

"Indeed." Amari smirked. "Had I not broken your that gem you would have had only days before the spell fully absorbed it. Then the change would have been permanent. Worst of all you would start to age as fast as a dog. You would age seven years for every actual year of your life. In a decade you would likely be dead."

"Then I thank you professor Amari." Sasporilla said. "But understand this. I am also not your friend, I am a student. I don't ask that you like me but I do ask you treat me with common courtesy."

"I understand." Professor Amari said. "And I ask the same of you."

"Agreed." Sasporilla said.

"We have an accord." Amari said shaking Sasporilla's hand. "Now about your curse. It is old Egyptian ritual magic. It dates back from a time before the pharos, when dark magic existed as entities, that howled on the night winds. When Egypt was lush and green and the gems needed for the curse were mined from the sides of a very old pit. They come in many colours and each has unique qualities and are used for different spells."

Amari's voice was almost hypnotic pulling Sasporilla into a vision of ancient Egypt that filled her mind's eye.

"The Aenat Almatw Taghyir Aljins, is a very old ritual to humiliate then kill one's enemy."

"It's appalling." Sasporilla objected.

"Most curses are child." The professor said.

The clock ticked loudly as they sat looking at each other. "Your detention is over. Go now."



Chapter 6

"Frakash!" Korona Portemp screamed up at the old Welsh house where the Egyptian dark wizard tried to live incognito.

"Silence!" Frakash yelled. "The door is open. Come in, dry off and be quiet!"

Korona Portemp through open the doors and walked in and stood in the foyer dripping wet. Frakash walked slowly down the stair case, wand drawn. The older Egyptian man, with a long wispy beard and mustache, stopped and looked at the soaking wet witch.

"Why the wand Frakash?" Korona snarled. "Have a reason to be scared?"

"You sounded angry." Frakash said. "You're a very dangerous witch, especially when you're angry."

"Then you didn't do it?" Korona smirked.

"Do what?" Frakash asked.

"In time." The soaking wet witch said as she walked into the Victorian decorated parlor and stripped off her clothes. She wrapped herself in a throw from the couch and hung her clothes by the fire.

Frakash was reluctant to lower his wand as he walked in to see the evil witch standing before the fire. "Why do you not dry yourself?"

"I choose the fire." Korona said dropping the through. "Does my state of undress upset you?"

"No." Frakash said putting his wand away.

"Come and help me get, warm." Korona smiled.

Hamid Frakash stepped forward cautiously and hugged the witch standing nude in his parlour. Her skin was wet and cold. He kissed her neck gently.

"Something went wrong with the spell." Korona whispered in his ear as she nibbled his earlobe.

"Nothing can go wrong with that spell." Frakash said groping the witch. "Only a person familiar with this kind of magic could discover it! It would take a Wedjat of immense power to stop it and then you would know it because your power would be taken from you."

Korona Portemp kissed the man and nibbled his lower lip playfully. "If that were to happen how could anyone get it back?"

Frakash was loosing the ability to concentrate as the skillful witch stroked his cheek.

"The victim would have to be confronted." Frakash said kissing her, alternating from lips to neck. "They would hold your power, resembling a ball of marble."

"Thank you Hamid." Korona said laying the man down by the fire and climbing on top of him as she pulled her dagger from her dripping wet coat, hanging on the fire place. She planted the blade deep into his heart and watched the light of life drift from his eyes. "You have been most helpful."

Sasporilla Bucket walked along the road to Hogsmead. She enjoyed looking at the various colours of fall leaves on the trees as she whistled. It had rained for so many weeks she was happy for a dry day.

"Hi there." A girls voice said from behind.

Sasporilla turned to see a young woman about twenty riding a bicycle behind him. She pulled up and hopped off beside him as he walked. "You from the school? From Hogwarts."

Well, not a muggle, Sasporilla thought grasping his wand under his robe.

"Yes." The boy with pink hair smiled.

"Nice hair!" The girl smiled walking her bike beside Sassy. "I've seen you in town. Your mates with that Zac fellow who owns the old Mishigoss house."

"Yes that's right." Sasporilla smiled politely. "Mates with both Zac and Karry."

"I don't have to many friends in town." The girls frowned. "We just moved here from Manchester. Taking over my second uncles old broom shop. He left it to my father in his will. My mother inherited it as it passed to her in my dads will and then down to me. I'll run it for a spell, but I need to get back to university, so I'm looking to sell it. "

"I ride." Sasporilla said. "Perhaps I'll stop by for some new gear sometime. I've rather out grown my old gear."

"That would be great." The girl smiled. "We could use the business."

They walked along in silence. They smiled at each other nervously. Sassy knew what this was. She was interested in getting to know Sasporilla the boy, but she had no idea of Sasporilla the girl.

"You seem like a very nice woman." Sassy said. "You're polite and pretty, have very nice eyes, and a nice figure."

"Thank you." The girl said. "Your quite a handsome guy."

"BUT that's the rub." Sasporilla said. "I'm not a guy! I'm a girl!"

"Oh!" The girl blushed. "I didn't know."

"I was cursed into this form." Sasporilla said. "I don't know if I'll ever be female again."

"Then perhaps you should start thinking of living a mans life?" The girl said. "I mean if you are physically male, try being a male no matter how you feel inside."

"So find a beautiful girl, get married, have children." Sasporilla said.

"Doesn't sound like a bad life to me." The girl smiled.

Sasporilla knew there was some truth in what she said. Was she just going to sit in her room now until she died? What if she never changed back? Her life shouldn't just end, should it? No, but she wasn't interested in girls. This was a nightmare.

"You should think about it, I'd say." The girl said. "My name is Mary by the way. Mary Warrol."

"Sasporilla." Sassy smiled shaking the girls hand. "Sasporilla Bucket."

"Pretty name." Mary smiled. "Exotic. You should think of changing it. At least while your a boy. Maybe Paul or Steve. Yes Steve! You definitely look like a Steve!"

"You are a very strange girl." Sasporilla laughed.

"Just lending a hand Steve." The girl said hopping back on her bike as they entered Hogsmead. "As long you're a boy Steve, then count me as interested and available."

Mary road away, playfully looking back over her shoulder, as she went. Sasporilla waved and noticed a felling she had never had before.



Chapter 7

The door bells jingled at Karry and Zacs. Sassy stood on the doorstep as she could hear Karry yelling to Zac to answer the door! Sassy had to laugh, they were so much like an old married couple.

"Sassy." Zac smiled opening the door. He was wearing an apron and house was very smokey. "It's a bit hectic in here at the moment!"

"Let's try and get you sorted." Sassy said pulling her wand and stepping past Zac and into the kitchen. The roast was burned, the potatoes were over boiled and the vegetables were next to frozen. Sasporilla waved her wand. The kitchen window popped open and the smoke was sucked outside.

"Nisi Prandium!" Sasporilla cast saving the roast and the potatoes. She dumped the vegetables into a bigger pot full of water and set them on the stove to boil.

"Just a trick I learned in the kitchens." Sassy laughed.

"You're a life saver, mate." Zac smiled slapping the boy on the shoulder.

"Ow." Sassy protested. "Brute!"

"What did my man do now?" Karry smiled walking into the kitchen still putting on her earrings.

"He smacked me in the bloody shoulder!" Sassy frowned rubbing her arm.

"Sorry Sasporilla." Zac apologized. "I wasn't thinking. I forgot who I was looking at."

"Ya, I get it." Sassy said hugging Karry.

"Zac did you burn dinner?" Karry asked.

"Yes." Zac said. "But Sassy saved it!"

"You have to keep your mind on your cooking Zac!" Sasporilla said checking the vegetables. "What in gods name distracted you that bad?"

Zac looked away unsure if he should answer. Karry blushed. Sasporilla started to laugh.

"My god you two are insatiable!" Sassy said shaking her head. "Here, I'll give you hand setting the table."

Karry and Sassy set the table and yacked about the weeks events. School projects, the dueling club, and how Sasporilla was doing.

"I met a girl." Sasporilla smiled.

"What?" Karry said dropping the silverware.

"On the way here in fact." Sasporilla said. "Her name is Mary. She runs the broom shop now. She's about twenty."

"Oh ya mate I've seen her." Zac said carrying the roast out. "Not as stacked as my Karry but..."

Karry was looking at her very dumb fiancée eyebrows raised. Sassy cringed at his idiocy.

"Really." Karry said.

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "She's taller but not quite as curvy as you. She's warm for my form girl."

"But you don't?" Karry said confused. "You like? But how? Oh."

Sasporilla laughed wildly. "No I don't. No I won't. I wouldn't, couldn't in a boat."

"You scared me there a sec." Karry said. "I'm terrified I'll lose my friend in the boy."

"Well I'm not going to disappear." Sasporilla said. "If I can't find a cure for this then I'll see what other options there are. After dinner I'm going to see what I can find in the way of girls clothes. A uniform Skirt and a bit of things that fit me. Start wearing make up again and be me regardless of what this spell has done to me."

"Oh Sasporilla I feel you may find more trouble with that than trying to fit in." Karry said worried.

"I'd rather be a guy dressed as a girl than a girl forced to be a guy." Sasporilla said sitting at the table and wincing in pain. "Not to mention, I'm dead sick of pants pinching my bits."

Monday morning Sasporilla walked into the great hall for breakfast. She was wearing a skirt for her uniform bottom and was wearing just a bit of make-up. Students murmured as she walked over to the Hufflepuff table and sat down next to Madrigal Neelander.

Maddy looked at Sassy like she had three heads, got up and moved away. Sasporilla quickly found herself with six feet of clear table all around her. Sassy enjoyed a bowl of fresh fruit and a bit of toast and juice. She wished she'd had some orange soda to add to the juice. It tasted so good.

"Hey freak." A boys voice said behind her.

Sasporilla turned to see Gormly Wartfeather Smythe, a particularly large and nasty boy who had transferred into Hogwarts from Durmstrang, and was placed in Hufflepuff. Sasporilla suspected he would have been much more at home in Slytherin. "I don't know what your particular problem is mate but we don't want freaks like you at the Hufflepuff table."

"Really." Sasporilla said wiping the corners of her mouth with her napkin and turning to see the large boy had been joined by three other large boys. "Do you know who I am?"

"Yes." Gormly smirked. "I know your the weird guy with pink hair."

"I was girl before someone cursed me as a boy." Sasporilla said. "Just like you were probably before some one cursed you as a gorilla."

Gormly drew his wand. Sassy stood slowly and deliberately. "If you want your arse handed to you mate, that's your choice. I don't want to hurt you but I will if you don't back off."

"Come on mate." One of the other boys said tapping Gormly on the shoulder. "You've had your fun but she's actually a good duelist.

"Not going to duel." Gormly said casting. "Stupify!"

Sasporilla snapped her finger and disappeared before the spell could hit. She appeared and disappeared in what seemed to be several places at once. She grabbed the wands of the boys and reappeared just after spell past, flying down the Hufflepuff aisle and hitting the head table.

The Headmistress appeared behind the boys. "Enough! This is Hogwarts not the O.K.Coral!"

Professor McGonagall looked Sasporilla up and down and knew what had caused this. She held out her hand to the boys. "Wands."

Sasporilla handed the headmistress all three of the boys wands.

"Yours too, miss Bucket." Professor McGonagall said.

"That's not fair." Sasporilla protested. "I did nothing but try and eat my breakfast!"

"And you will get your wands back after breakfast." Professor McGonagall said.

"I'm not hungry any more." Sasporilla said grabbing her bag and walking out off to class.



Chapter 8

Arithmancy was not Sasporillas best class nor was it her favorite but she was convinced that somewhere in the jumble of numbers and calculations sat the answer to her theories on harmonic resonance between wands and their users. The professor, Mr. McQuiggin was a funny little man with no hair and coke bottle glasses. He was a patient with her but knew she had no passion for the art.

"I hope you have all done your assignments?" Professor McQuiggin asked rhetorically. "The break down of ones name into it's arithmantic elements. Let's start with..."

Many hands went up. The one hand that did not was that of Sasporilla Bucket, the girl turned into a boy who now dressed as a girl.

"Ms. Bucket?" Professor McQuiggin smiled. "Please enlighten us with your calculations to show us who you are, what numbers represent you and why up on the black board please, and don't forget to show your work."

name: SASPORILLA BUCKET

Character#: 1117699331 233252= 58 --> 5+8 = 13 --> 1+3 = 4

Heart#: 1 6 9 1 3 5 = 25 --> 2+5 = 7

Social#: 1 17 9 33 2 32 2= 33 --> 3+3 = 6

"Well Ms. Bucket," Professor McQuiggin said. "It seems you have been paying attention after all! Your calculation is accurate. Spot on! 5 points for Hufflepuff. Now would you like to explain the results to the class?"

"Yes professor." Sassy said getting her book ready to read off the results.

"No Ms. Bucket." Professor McQuiggin said closing her book. "I want to see that you understand the results you've calculated."

"Yes sir." Sasporilla said facing the room. "My character number was calculated at four. This means I'm very stable, firm and stubborn. I'm hard working, practical, reliable and down to earth. I'm organized and get things done. I tend to be logical but have a temper when someone ticks me off."

"I could have told you all that without the maths." Karry laughed.

"Who slapped her opponent during the dueling tournament?" Sasporilla asked.

"Fair enough." Karry surrendered.

"Enough ladies." Professor McQuiggin. "Continue Ms. Bucket."

"My Heart number is seven. This number indicates I'm Scholarly, perceptive, understanding, and bright, and enjoy challenges and mysteries. Originality and imagination are more important to me than material possessions and money. Also indicates I'm pessimistic, sarcastic, and a bit insecure."

"My social number is six the number of Harmony, friends and family. The most important things in my life. Six indicates I'm loyal, reliable, and loving. Good at the arts and not much good at business."

Professor McQuiggin applauded. "Absolutely perfect Ms. Bucket five more points for Hufflepuff."

"Thank you sir." Sasporilla said proudly taking her seat beside Karry.

"Teachers pet." Karry smiled elbowing her friend.

"Ah our next volunteer." Professor McQuiggin said. "Ms. Curtiss, you're up!"

Hamid Frakash had many items touched by dark magic in his home. Things he had taken from muggles who had run afoul of their discovery. That was his job in the retrieval of magical artifacts from muggle procurement within the Ministry of magic. Some of these items were just what a witch with her powers removed needed to make her way in the world. Korona Portemp was that witch.

She had found enough Muggle money in his home to get where ever she needed to and stay in comfort as she formulated a plan to get her power back. Korona Portemp walked out of Frakash's home and pretended to lock the door as she struggled with her luggage. The cab driver, who sat waiting for her, got out of his cab and helped the young blonde woman with her bags.

"Where are you headed Missus?" The cabbie asked.

"Cardiff Central station." Korona smiled brightly.

"Going on vacation?" The cabbie asked.

"Going to Scotland to visit a friend of my niece." Korona said honestly.

"Lovely." The cabbie said putting her bags in the boot. "I think I'm running a bit late, an extra twenty in it for you if you get me to the trains on time."

"Hold on to your kerchief Missus." The driver said peeling out and speeding away.

After lunch Karry and Zac headed off to their class in teaching magical skills. Sasporilla had Imbuing, a class which taught how to make ordinary items magical, by enchanting them with spells.

Professor Jacobi was a middle aged man with long white hair, tied back in a pony tail, and a short nicely trimmed dark bearded. He was a very laid back professor who never gave study assignments and let you work at your own pace. He took the time to listen and help, only ever asking the same courtesies in return.

"Anyone here play guitar?" The professor asked.

Sasporilla Bucket raised her hand.

"Right on man," the professor smiled, "We'll have to jam some time, but that's not why I asked. Tuning!"

Professor Jacobi drew a line on the board with a very rough looking tuning key on the end.

"To tune your strings you twist the key." He said drawing a circle with an arrow around the keys top and an arrow on the line pointing towards the key end. "Turning the key tightens the string. As the string tightens or loosens its pitch and frequency change."

"The same as a wand core." Sasporilla said.

"Yes!" The professor did a dance unable to contain his excitement. "Now tuning a wand, though the same is also different. Can you tell me how and why?"

"The guitar plays music and the wand makes magic." Sasporilla smiled.

"Actually one could say that they are both just tools to let the person who uses them make the magic." Professor Jacobi smiled.

"Well said Professor." Sasporilla smiled in agreement. "When a guitar string is tune it can be played alone but works best when all of the strings are in tune. They resonate together when played as chords and sound nice. I know that the same is true for wands but the tuned core, though it harmonizes in resonance with the woods, metals and crystals of the wand it's not as readily seen or hear as in a guitar."

"Well done Bucket dude!" The professor giving his student a high five. "Five points to Hufflepuff man! You totally get it!"

"Thank you sir." Sasporilla said. "Wands are my passion."

'They're Karrys too'. The voice of Zac ran through her head. She could see Myrons face as he broke up laughing. Frankly she was surprised at Myron Wagtail for laughing at such a crude double entendre. It was unlike him.

"Now can anyone tell me the difference between TUNING and ATTUNEING?" Professor Jacobi asked.

No one moved.

"They are both the same, and at the same time, very different." Professor Jacobi said. "Attune - To harmonize an item with it's user. If you tune your guitar, anyone can pick it up and play it. If you Attune your guitar, only YOU can pick it up and play it."

Professor Jacobi scanned the class to see who got it and who didn't. Most didn't but some seemed to have a bit of a clue but Sasporilla Buckets eyes sparkled with understanding.

"Like a Triumphant 1200x!" Sasporilla said. "Only its owner can ride it!"

"You are correct Sir Bucket of dude!" The professor laughed. "Do you fly?"

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "I flew around the world last summer."

"Alone?" The professor asked.

"Yes." Sassy smiled shyly. "From Hogwarts across Europe and Asia to Canada and back to school."

"Wow dude." Professor Jacobi nodded. "You're hard core man."

"Thanks." Sassy smiled.

"The process of Attuning requires three things." Professor Jacobi said. "An item you wish to attune, the person with which the item is to be attuned to, and A gem imbued with a soul mirror spell,"

Sasporilla scribbled furiously in her note book then in a small journal she carried in her robes.

"Now for those of you who truly get it," Professor Jacobi said. "Read chapter 9 of your text book then come up and take a gem you want to imbue with a soul mirror spell. Tomorrow bring an item with you. We will be attuning it. For the rest, back of the class and we'll take it a bit slower."

After class Sasporilla was called to the office of the Headmistress. By the time the young wizard with pink hair arrived, a heated discussion was under way between Professors McGonagall, Amari, Slughorn and Sprout.

"Come in please Mr. Bu...Miss Buc." Professor McGonagall stammered. "Oh just come in and take a seat."

"There are several potions that we could try to return her to normal." Professor Slughorn insisted. "The most common being these being Elbeperminentia."

"Elbeperminentia." Professor Amari snorted with derision. "That potion will interact badly with the curse. It will leave her a disfigured mess at best half one sex and half the other, at the worst a multicolored hunchback with claws a fur."

The debate went on for hours. Every idea that was brought forth was just as quickly put down again by Professor Amaris vast expertise in the interactions of dark magic.

"What about a dark magic spell that does something like Elbeperminentia?" Sasporilla mused.

Sassy had barely gotten the words out when Professor Amari was across the room and grabbed her hard by the chin, turning her gaze up to meet the professors scary eyes that began to glow as red dots suspended in blackness.

"Never consider a dark magic option." Professor Amari insisted. "Its corruptions will stain your young pure soul and take you down a path you will not dare want to walk."

"What about Elf magic?" Professor Sprout asked.

"That is an interesting suggestion." Headmistress McGonagall said enthusiastically.

"Yes." Professor Amari agreed. "That might just work."

"Sasporilla dear." Professor Sprout said. "Do you think you can do it."

"What could she do?" Professor Amari asked.

"Our Sasporilla is part elf and starting to get a handle on some of her wandless powers." Professor Sprout said proudly.

"What!" Professor Amari said rushing at Sasporilla with her Thoroascope. She flicked in the green and gold lenses. "Stupid, stupid, stupid!"

"What is it professor?" Sasporilla asked.

"I fear by destroying the gem and locking casters power in physical form it may have blocked all possibilities of help from elven sources."

"But if you hadn't I'd be stuck this way forever and die old in ten years." Sasporilla said.

"Yes." Professor Amari said.

"Then thank you for that at the very least, buying me time." Sasporilla said.

"You are a very bright light in a dark world Sasporilla Bucket." Amari said. "In most ways it sickens me."

"Well at least I should try the elven option." Sasporilla said snapping her fingers.

She began to vibrate. Her form shifted and change in a vibrating blur. The professors gasped as it seemed to be working but as the vibrations slowed, Sasporilla Bucket returned to the form of young man.

"The curses harmonic resonance is very strong." Professor Amari said. "I fear all magical options are off the table."

"All Magical options?" Sasporilla asked. "There are nonmagical options?"

"Yes." Professor Slughorn said. "Muggles have a process of chemical transformation followed by one or more surgeries. I'm afraid it is most barbaric."

"I see." Sasporilla sighed. "Well I won't stay like this forever! You've given me a lot to think about."



Chapter 9

By Halloween, Sasporilla had thoroughly researched all of her options to get back to being a girl. She was not undergoing muggle science procedures. They looked very painful and had varying results. Sassy was making her weekly trip into Hogsmead to dinner at Karry and Zacs. In many ways she was happy for her friends and their love but she missed rooming with her. The all night gab sessions, the clothes sharing, the constant companionship. Sasporilla realized what she really was, was jealous. Jealous of Zac for stealing her friend. Taking away his girl. What? No. Sasporilla had experienced moments of this before and feared that something about this curse was trying to turn her into a boy as much inside as out.

Was he starting to see Karry differently? Was he developing a normal male interest in girls?

"Hey you." Marys voice called from behind.

Sasporilla turned to see Mary ridding up to him.

"Hi there Mary." Sassy said.

"No drag today I see." Mary said.

Sasporilla looked at himself. She was right. He just jumped out of bed late and through on pants and a shirt, slipped on a jacket and headed out.

"Ya." Sassy said. "Just through this on. Didn't think much about it."

"Just like a man." Mary said. "Headed to the Curtiss house for dinner?"

"You know it." Sassy said thinking how good Mary looked today. "How's the business going?"

"I have someone interested in buying the building and am going to have a going out of business sale after Christmas some time."

"Hope you make a bunch of money." Sassy smiled.

"The offer on the shop makes it worth while." Mary smiled. "The rest is gravy."

"Gravy, mmmmm." Sasporilla smiled. "Hey what are you doing for dinner?"

"Nothing why?" Mary asked.

"Come to dinner with me." Sassy smiled. "We can laugh and talk. Make a night of it."

"Yes." Mary smiled. "Sounds great. Walk me home, and I'll just get cleaned up and changed."

"It's a date." Steve said taking the girls bike and walking it home for her.

My name is Sasporilla Bucket, Sassy thought to herself, I am a girl. I like boys. What am I doing?

Steve waited for Mary as she got ready. Her house smelled like vanilla and chocolate cookies. There were no real pictures of her family any where. Some of her uncles old pictures of broomer buddies gathered for club photos.

"Ready." Mary said walking down stairs in a pretty red dress and shoes. She looked teally good in it. Steve stood and smiled as she spun around and showed him the out fit.

"Well? How do I look?"

"Amazing." Steve said. My name is Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket. I am sixteen years old. I am a girl. I like boys. "I am very confused right now."

"That look in your eye doesn't say confusion to me." Mary smiled. "I think it sees just what you want!"

Mary put her hands on Steves shoulders and looked into his eyes. Steve leaned in and kissed Mary gently, then passionately.

My name is Sasporilla Bucket I like music and brooming. I like.... this.

The door bell rang at just the perfect time. Karry had just come down stairs from getting ready. The bell rang again.

"Ya I'm coming." Karry called. "I'm surprised your on time your usually early."

Standing in the door step was the lovely Koleen Curtis. Her blonde hair sparkling in the fall afternoon light.

"Karry!" The woman smiled. "Surprise!"

"Mother." Karry said very surprised. She leaned in and hugged her mom. "What are you doing here?"

"Just thought I'd stop by and see my favorite daughter!" The woman said stepping past Karry and into the house.

"Get my bags dear."

Karry gathered her mothers luggage from the front stoop and brought it in to the front hall.
"Where is the young man who has stolen my beautiful young daughters heart?" Koleen called.
Zac came running down stairs. "Mrs.Curtiss? Karry didn't tell me you were coming?"
"It was a surprise dear." Koleen said removing her cloak and handing it to Zac. "I was thinking it had been a while since I'd seen you two and thought we could catch up over some dinner."
"Lovely!" Zac said leaning in to give Koleen a welcoming kiss on the cheek.
"Easy there Tiger." Koleen laughed. "One Curtiss girl at a time!"
"Mother!" Karry said shocked.
"What?" Koleen said. "He's growing into a right sexy man."
"What is wrong with you?" Karry asked. "Are you feeling ok?"
"I don't care to talk about it." Koleen said. "I'm not feeling quite myself."
"Is everything ok at home?" Karry asked.
Koleen fell against her daughter weeping. Zac looked at Karry confused. Karry just looked back at him and through her hands up.
Karry got her mom calmed down over a cup of tea in the kitchen. She told a harrowing tale of coming home from shopping to find her husband in the arms of the neighbor woman. Karry was appalled and very angry. She wanted to go and confront her father and his floozy but her mother wouldn't hear of it.
"The heart wants what the heaet wants." Koleen said.
"No!" Karry said. "Make no excuses for him. I can't believe he would do this to you."
"Men." Koleen said sipping her tea.
The door bell rang.
"That must be Sasporilla." Karry said.
"You sit darling." Zac said. "I'll get the door."
"Thank you sweetheart." Karry smiled.
"God you two are sickeningly saccharine aren't you?" Koleen said, catching her tone, and feigning tears. "Just like me and your dad."
Zac answered the door. Steve stood there with Mary.
"Sasporilla!" Zac smiled.
"Hey Zac mate." Steve said. "This my date Mary."
"Oh um, pleased to meet you Mary." Zac said. "I've seen you around town. You run the broom shop right?"
"Yes." Mary smiled.
"Well come on in." Zac smiled. "Karrys in the kitchen."
Steve took Mary by the hand and lead her into the kitchen. Sassy caught site of Mrs.Curtiss and headed over to her to give her a hug.
"Mrs.Curtiss!" Sasporilla smiled.
"Well you do make a handsome young man." Koleen smiled giving the pink haired boy a hug.
"Nice to see you Koleen." Sassy said.
"You too darling." Koleen smiled. "You know I think you look a bit like your father!"
"Do you think so?" Sassy said. "He always spoke fondly of you, before he died."
"Yes he and your mother and I always had fun times." Koleen smiled politely.
Karry and Sassy pulled their wands and pointed them at the woman.
"Who are you?" Karry demanded.
"Why I'm your mother dear." The woman said.
"I knew you weren't when you mentioned my father." Sasporilla said. "He was dead before we moved to the Castle Road."
The woman pulled a dagger from the back of her belt. Before the blade got half way up Korona Portemp was petrified.
Karry looked at Mary. "Who are you."
"This is Mary." Sasporilla said. "She's my date."

Chapter 10

Korona Portemp was bound to a stone pillar by the hearth in Zac and Karrys house. Zac had gone to the school to retrieve some professors and the Headmistress.

"I can't believe you brought a date?" Karry said.

"Seemed right." Sassy said. "My thoughts and desires have been bouncing back and forth. Sometimes it confuses me, sometimes it seems right. Tonight asking Mary to join me for dinner seemed right."

"This curse is changing you." Karry said.

"I know." Sassy said. "To be honest it terrifies me. When we kissed though, I wasn't thinking like a girl at all."

"Sasporilla!" Karry said surprised.

"I know." Sassy frowned tears welling in her eyes. "I'm losing me Karry."

Zac burst through the front door The headmistress and Professor Amari in tow.

"There." Zac pointed at the woman bound to the post.

Professor Amari rushed the woman pulling out her Thoroascope. She went through all lenses observing and examining the woman who spit in her face.

"This is definitely the one." Professor Amari said. "She is the now powerless witch that cursed Sasporilla Bucket."

"Who are you?" Professor McGonagall demanded.

"I am who I am and that's all that I am." Korona Portemp laughed.

"Her name is Korona Portemp." Karry said. "She's my mothers twin sister."

"I see." Professor Amari said. "But why attack your nieces friend rather than your niece?"

"Hurting one hurts the other." Korona said. "I wanted to hurt Wagtail by watching his favorite girl change, wither and die." Portemp laughed.

"Why hurt Myron?" Sassy asked.

"He was an enemy of my lord." Korona spat.

"Death eater." The Headmistress said. "I hope I'll see the day all of your sort will be in Azkaban."

"Never get us all Minerva McGonagall." Korona sang playfully the laughed.

Sasporilla pulled the bottle which contained Korona Portemps power. She stared at it for a moment.

"What is that?" Korona Portemp demanded.

"Your power." Sasporilla said.

"Give it to me." Korona growled.

"If I give it to you," Sasporilla mused allowed, "I go back to being a girl. My life goes back to the way it was."

"What are you saying?" Karry asked.

"Maybe I don't want to." Sasporilla said putting the bottle back in his pocket. "Maybe I don't want that life anymore. Maybe I want something else."

Sasporilla walked over to Mary and nuzzled her ear and kissed her neck.

"Sassy no!" Karry protested.

"What happens if I just destroy the power marble professor Amari?" Sasporilla asked.

"You condemn the witch to a life without magic. I feel in this case it would be a short life. A fate worse than death."

Korona Portemp snarled and spat. "I'll kill you all before I let that happen brat."

"Maybe I can just keep her alive in Azkaban until I make up my mind. Enjoy pleasures as a man for a while."

"Do it kid." Korona laughed. "It will lock you in that form forever."

"Is that true Professor?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yes." Professor Amari confirmed.

"Then I guess I have a lot to think about." Sasporilla said taking Marys hand and walking to the door.

"Where are you going?" Karry asked.

"I'm taking Mary out to the three broomsticks for dinner." Sasporilla said. "I'm kind of on a date."

"You've got to be bloody kidding me!" Karry yelled. "Sassy? What are you thinking?"

"I waited for Korry to make a decision and know how painful that time can be." Sasporilla smiled. "Hope you suffer Korona Portemp."

"Hope you get lucky big guy." Korona laughed.

Steve walked out the door with Mary in tow. Karry looked at Zac and started to cry. Zac took his fiance in his arms and comforted her.

"For the first time I realized this curse may lose me my friend." Karry cried as Korona Portemp laughed.

"You enjoy causing pain don't you Portemp?" Professor Amari said.

"I do." Korona Portemp said playfully. "I really do."

"I can see the dark magics have done their job on your soul." Amari smiled. "You will soon start to change physically. To become a reflection outside of the creature you are inside."

"What do you know of darkness and evil?" Korona Portemp snarled.

"I wouldn't ask." Headmistress McGonagall said.

Professor Amari chuckled at the dark witches impudence. "You will find out soon enough pathetic squibb."

Korona Portemp growled her disdain.

Sasporilla walked back in through the door alone. Karry ran over and hugged her friend her hugged her back.

"I had to walk Mary home." Sasporilla said. "I hate it when a boy just lets you walk home alone."

Sasporilla pulled the bottle from her pocket. She walked over to Korona Portemp and shook the bottle, spinning the marble of power around in front of the dark witch.

"You get your powers back tonight and I get my life back." Sasporilla said. "I know you have prepared for this and probably have some elaborate plan to escape once you get your powers back. You'll probably try to do as much damage as possible, kill as many of us as you can."

"You are a clever girl." Korona Portemp smiled.

"To be honest I have planed for this moment too." Sasporilla smiled.

All went black for Korona Portemp.

When the dark witch awoke she was on a cot in a rough stone cell. The moon shone through a high barred window.

"No!" Korona said. "No, No, No!"

The cell door opened. Professor Amari stood in the doorway.

"No." Professor Amari said. "You're not in Azkaban yet. I bring you, a choice."

"Get out of my way." Korona Portemp tried to push past the intense professor who shoved her back hard into the stone wall.

"Your choices." Professor Amari said stepping in and shutting the cell door. "You will swallow your power and return the girl to normal then go to Azkaban."

"Or?" Korona Portemp asked.

"I kill you and eat your shadowed evil soul." Professor Amari said.

"Give me my power." Korona demanded.

Professor Amari handed her a small black marble.

"Swallow this and your powers are back and the curse on the girl is lifted. Then I take you out of this cell and off to Azkaban."

Korona Portemp swallowed the marble. She closed her eyes and felt no different.

"It's not working." The witch sneered. "You're trying to trick me."

"Your in a nullification cell in Hogwarts." Professor Amari said. "Your powers will be back when you step through that door."

Professor Amari smiled as she lead the way out.

Korona Portemp stopped on the thresh hold and looked around outside. There were no other witches or wizards. No aurors or other people to assist the over confident professor in taking the Death eater to Azkaban. Korona Portemp slipped her wand from its secret pocket in her sleeve. It slid down her arm into her hand as she stepped through the door. Professor Amari sniffed the air.

"Ah the sweet smell of treachery." The Wedjat said turning its head so that the evil witch could see the red glow from its black eyes. "I warned you."

"Avada Kedav..." Korona Portemp started to cast as the Wedjat rushed her with blinding speed and bit the witches head off with its sharp fangs. The screams fell on deaf ears as students slept. It had been far to long since the creature known as Professor Sheliza Amari had feast upon a soul as dark as that of Korona Portemp.



Chapter 11

Sasporilla Bucket awoke to the morning sun, trying to peak out from behind autumn clouds, streaming in her caravans bedroom window. She walked to the washroom and walked in eyes closed. She stood before the mirror and slowly opened her eyes. There stood the girl she was suppose to be, staring back at her in the mirror. Everyone, in every dorm of every house in school, heard her excited whoops of joy as she danced with joy at being back to normal.

Karry and Zac waited downstairs at breakfast. Sasporilla walked down the hall slowly looking depressed. Her short pink hair was not a good sign. Karry grabbed Zacs hand worried and afraid.

"Oh no Sasporilla I'm so sorry." Karry said. "I don't know what could have gone wrong?"

Sassy grabbed the sides of her robe and opened them showing Karry her clothed but very female form beneath.

"Oh my god!" Karry yelled excitedly.

"It worked!" Sassy grabbed her best friend and jumped up and down joyfully.

"But what happened to your hair?" Zac asked.

"Guess it will have to grow back on it's own!" Sasporilla said. "I was thinking of cutting it anyway. It was to unruly."

"Well at least I have my maid of honour back." Karry smiled.

"I can't wait to wear that beautiful dress." Sassy laughed. "Any dress really."

"What are you going to tell Mary?" Zac asked.

"I told her the night I walked her home." Sasporilla sighed. "I'm a girl. Always have been, always will be. Not really interested in other girls. She understood and gave me a goodbye kiss."

"Did you enjoy it?" Karry asked.

"Parts of me did." Sassy smiled. "Those parts don't think for me anymore."

"Let's get some breaky, ya?" Zac suggested.

The three of them streamed into the great hall to enjoy a nice breakfast with everything back to normal.

The morning owls brought news from home. Sasporilla finally received her signed consent form for the foreign school exchange program. As the Professors shuffled in to breakfast, Sasporilla ran up to the head table.

"It is so good to see you Miss Bucket!" The headmistress Smiled.

"Well done Sasporilla." Professor Sprout clapped.

"So." Professor Amaris husky voice said. "This is the girl behind the curse. Good to see you happy girl."

"Thank you professors." Sasporilla smiled.

"Are you not joining us for breakfast Sheliza?" The Headmistress asked.

"No." Professor Amari smiled. "I simply couldn't eat another bite."

"Professor." Sasporilla said handing the headmistress her permission form. "My form finally arrived. I hope I'm not to late?"

"No." Professor McGonagall smiled. "There are still openings available. To be honest it's not as popular a program as we had all hoped. You really have your choice as to where you want to go."

"I was thinking I'd like to visit Droorlily." Sasporilla smiled. "I have an acquaintance there and they have an interesting Biorhythmics class I'd like to take."

"Your choice is noted girl." The Headmistress smiled. "It's good to see you so happy and back to normal."

"Thank you Headmistress." Sassy curtsied and ran back to breakfast.

"Got your form in on time?" Karry asked.

"Yes!" Sasporilla said excitedly. "I put in for Droorlily."

"Ireland?" Zac asked.

"Yep." Sassy smiled.

"Why not Baux Batons in France?" Zac asked. "You could explore Paris!"

"I've already seen Paris." Sassy said. "I'd like to see Ireland next."

Madrigal Neelander came over and sat down next to Sasporilla at the breakfast table. "Good morning Sasporilla! Welcome back. It's good to have my friend again."

"You bloody dare!" Sasporilla said turning and pouring a pitcher of orange juice over the younger girls head. Madrigal sat there looking shocked. "You call yourself my friend? You got up and moved away from me like I was a leper when I was cursed and needed friends the most."

"You were a boy wearing a skirt and make up." Madrigal tried to defend herself as Korry walked over carrying a towel. "You were to embarrassing to sit near. I have my reputation to think of!"

"What's going on?" Korry demanded.

"Stay out of this Korry Curtiss." His twin sister Karry said. "You have a reputation indeed Madrigal Neelander, and it only gets worse every day. You've become a superficial waste of skin since you stole my brother from my best friend."

"So that's what this is about?" Korry asked getting angry.

"No." Sassy yelled at Korry. "It's about your girl friend being a lousy friend. Not being there for the ones who need her. You haven't been any better Korry Curtiss. Where were you during my curse when the only kind faces I saw were those of your sister and your best mate.... and Melvin Lazarus."

"We discussed it." Korry said putting his hand on Maddys sticky shoulder. "It was my decision to avoid you. To many people were laughing at you and we didn't want to be seen as less than we are."

Sasporilla slapped Korry hard across the cheek. "Oh you're both seen very clearly Korry Curtiss. Shame on you, both!"

Sasporilla grabbed her books and went off to her caravan without her breakfast.

"You're becoming a right git mate." Zac said pulling his very angry fiancée away before she beat up her twin brother.

Zac was able to catch the secret door, into the secret court yard, before it closed behind Sasporilla.

"Sassy hold up!" Karry called as she waved her wand and levitated some platters and pitchers behind her. "I'm bringing take away."



Chapter 12

Kingsly Shackbolt and a team of aurors aparated outside the Hogwarts gates. They were greeted by the Headmistress.

"Hello Head Mistress McGonagall." Kingsly smiled taking his old friends hand.

"Hello Minister." The Headmistress said turning to walk with the Minister of magic.

"Kingsly are you absolutely sure of these charges?" Minerva McGonagall asked.

"No Minerva I'm not." Kingsly said honestly. "That's why I'm doing this inquiry."

"If the charges should prove to be true?" Minerva mused at the implications.

"Then I hope six aurors will be enough." Kingsly sighed.

Professor Amari was summoned to the Headmistress' office. She arrived, carrying her things in a large bag, and wearing her best hat.

"You summoned me Headmistress?" Amari said in her smokey voice.

"Are you leaving us?" Professor McGonagall asked.

"I assumed that is why I was summoned this late in the evening." Professor Amari smiled.

"I summoned you." Kingsly Shackbolt said. "For an inquiry."

"I have no love of niceties or patience for games minister Shackbolt. So just get to the point you are obviously here to make."

"The criminal Death Eater Korona Portemp, after being discovered and forced into reversing the curse on one Miss Sasporilla Bucket, was to be delivered to Azkaban by yourself."

"Yes." Professor Amari smiled politely.

"She did not arrive." Kingsly Shackbolt said.

"No because I never took her there." Professor Amari said matter of factly.

"Did she escape?" Kingsly demanded hoping the answer was yes, even if it was a lie.

"No." Professor Amari laughed. "That pathetic witch could never have escaped me! She drew her wand and tried to cast your death curse on me... as if it would have worked."

"What did you do to her?" Kingsly asked, wizards and witches readying their wands.

"I ripped her head from her neck and ate her flesh and bone. Her darkness was delicious."

Kingsly and his team pointed their wands at Professor Amari.

"Oh my, Sheliza!" Headmistress McGonagall said

"Forgive me Minerva." Professor Amari said taking her friends hands. "I know you put your faith and trust in me but you see this is all working out as I had foreseen. When I taught the curse to Frakash fifty years ago in a small cafe in Egypt I saw who it would effect, how and why. I knew the witch would draw her wand and I knew I would feed upon her evil."

"So it was self defence?" Kingsly asked.

"Not at all." Professor Amari said shifting into her creature form. "She never had a chance."

"Sheliza Amari you are under arrest for the murder of Korona Portemp." An auror said stepping forward with magical binders.

The creature shifted back into human form.

"Those won't work on me." Amari said holding out her arms. "But if they make you feel better, then put them on."

"You will be remanded in the custody of the ministry until you can be tried for your crimes." The auror said.

"I'm guilty." Amari laughed. "Why waste money on a trial?"

They walked Amari out of Hogwarts in the wee hours of the morning. No students saw her go. No one knew she was gone until the next days classes when the Headmistress stood in for her to teach defence against the dark arts.

"Sasporilla!" Penny waved to her friend in the hall. "I've been looking for you for weeks!"

"You saw me!" Sassy said. "When I was cursed!"

"Yes but I wasn't able to talk to then." Penny cringed.

"Why?" Sasporilla asked. "Because I was a cross dressed freak that would have embarrassed you or hurt you rep?"

"No!" Penny frowned a bit offended. "Do you think I'm that kind of person? No! I joined the Seraphim, and as part of being a PROSPECT is I can't speak to any males! I'm wearing a mute stone that wouldn't let me talk to one if I wanted to! And If I try to talk to a boy it gives me an bad shock and reports me to my president. Then I get a year added to being a prospect."

"I see." Sasporilla said concerned. "I thought you didn't want that life?"

"I didn't." Penny said. "That was when I was protected from it. Now that the Angels are hunting me and my mother, I had to join the Sara's to get the protection that comes with a club. To kill us before would have incurred my grand mothers wrath. To hit me or my mother now, they start a world wide broomer club war that the Angels know they can't win. The moment I put on the cut, the Angels world president put a halt to all orders to kill us."

"I guess I understand." Sasporilla said. "I'm just sort of sad you gave up your dreams."

"Dreams change Sassy." Penny said.

"Trust me I know about the minds ability to change." Sasporilla said. "Look Penny I'm sorry I snapped at you. It's just that what I thought of you was the general response I've had this year."

"Then I understand and I forgive you." Penny said. "Are you going in to the semester school exchange?"

"Yes!" Sassy smiled. "I'm going to Droorlily."

"Oh shoot." Penny said. "I'm going to Baux Batons."

"You'll have fun." Sasporilla said.

"I'm hoping to learn a few of their secrets." Penny smiled.

The warning bell rang. The girls hugged and ran to class.

Arythmancy had become easy, imbuing was a breeze, potions was still a bit of a nightmare. Some of the interactions still didn't make sense to her. Professor Slughorn was a good enough teacher but he would leave a student behind who he felt wasn't worth his time.

Just before dinner a knock came on Sasporillas Caravan door. Sassy opened it up and saw Professor McGonagall standing on her front stoop holding a box.

"Yes Headmistress?" Sasporilla asked.

"May I come in?" Minerva McGonagall asked.

"Yes of course." Sasporilla insisted. "Please excuse my manners. Would you care for a cup of tea?"

"No thank you." The headmistress said. "I'm just making a quick stop on my way to dinner."

"I was just headed out too." Sasporilla smiled. "What's the box?"

"It was found in Professor Amaris quarters." The Headmistress said a bit concerned. "It was addressed to you."

"To me?" Sasporilla asked accepting the box.

She saw no reason to fear opening it. Inside was Amaris Thoroascope and a small card. 'You will need this in a few years, so I pass it on to you Miss Bucket.' "How would she know if I'll need this in the future?"

"Turn the card over." The Headmistress said.

On the back of the card was the Egyptian symbol of the all seeing eye with three words beneath, 'I've foreseen it.' Karry and Zac were on a date night, having dinner out in Hogsmead. Sasporilla sat at the table eating fish and chips on her own. Melvin Lazarus walked up behind her and playfully clasped his hands over her eyes. Sasporilla was startled and almost struck out but was able to resist.

"Guess who?" Melvin asked.

"I'll hazard a guess and say it's..... Hagrid!" Sasporilla laughed.

"Oh ya guessed." Melvin said in his best Hagrid impression. "May I sit?"

"There's plenty of room." Sasporilla said. "So yes please."

Melvin sat beside the pink haired witch, reached into his robe, and pulled out a daisy. "I brought you this."

"Thank you Melvin." Sasporilla smiled taking the flower and placing it to her nose to take in its scent.

"I wanted to finally ask you out." Melvin said his voice breaking in his nervousness.

Sasporilla had promised that she would go out with the boy but he was still just that, a boy of twelve. "I was wondering when is best for you?"

"Are you going home for Christmas?" Sassy asked.

"Actually." Melvin smiled. "My parents have just informed me that they will be away during the Holidays, due to my fathers work, so I will be staying at Hogwarts for Christmas."

"Wonderful!" Sassy smiled. "Would you like to be my date for Karry and Zacs wedding?"

"Really?" Melvin said surprised. He had half expected the older girl to just blow him off. "I would be honoured to be your escort to the wedding."

"Brilliant." Sasporilla said. "Your going to need a suit, and probably should get permission slip from your parents to leave the school for Hogsmead."

Melvin took notes. He was always prepared with a quill and note book. One simply never knew when one may need to take notes. "Ok got it. Oh! I should get an inn room for after the party."

Sasporilla smirked, mildly amused. Melvin met the pink haired girls quizzical gaze.

"Oh! No!" Melvin realized what he had implied. "I didn't mean for you and me. I just meant that it will likely run late and we may not be able to get back in to Hogwarts."

"The reception is in the Hogwarts great hall Melvin." Sasporilla said taking the boys hand.

"Oh. Um. Ok." Melvin stammered.

"Don't be nervous Melvin." Sassy said. "Look to make it all very easy for you I'll lay down ground rules now. You may hold my hand before the ceremony. You may hold my hand during dinner. You may dance with me if you so choose to do so and at the end of the night you may kiss me, on the lips, respectfully."

Melvins blood drained from his face. That was so much more than he could ever have hoped for.

"I will strive to be respectful." Melvin said sweat rolling down his face.

"Melvin I want you to be comfortable and happy around me if you like me so much." Sassy smiled.

"I'm just afraid of messing things up." Melvin said.

"You could never do that in my eyes." Sasporilla smiled and gave him a quick gentle kiss. "I would appear on no one else's arm but yours."



Chapter 13

Mrs.Curtiss aparated into Hogsmead almost a week before the wedding to help with the final arrangements and to spend time with her youngest daughter.

Karry had everything so well organized that there was really nothing for her mother to do. The decorations for the reception were already organized and in the hands of the house elves. Sasporilla was over seeing that aspect. The chapel was organized and they were already decorated for Christmas. A couple of tweaks on the morning of the wedding would see to a perfect day.

.Koleen molded the very non-matronly mother of the bride strapless red gown with white faux fur trim and matching cloak. It was very form fitting and very festive at the same time.

The Curtiss girls sat in the living room comparing notes on the wedding when they heard a knock on the opening front door.

"Karry are you decent?" Sasporilla shouted announcing her arrival.

"Not as long as you've known me!" Karry laughed. "We're in the living room."

Sassy walked in and hugged Karrys mother. "Hello Mrs.Curtiss, it's great to see you."

Sasporilla looked at her suspiciously for a moment. Then her and Karry pulled their wands and pointed them at the older witch.

"What are your children's names?" Sasporilla demanded.

"No good mother cares about that?" Koleen laughed evilly.

"True." Karry said. "How much is Hogwarts tuition every year?"

"More than you and your brother are bloody worth for your grades." Koleen cackled.

"Last question?" Sasporilla asked putting her wand playfully under the witches chin. "Did you make cocoa?"

"Some fresh on the stove love." Koleen smiled.

"Ah you're the best Mrs.Curtiss." Sassy said running off to the kitchen.

"I can't believe Korona fooled you?" Koleen said shaking her head. "I mean psychotic rambles followed by psychotic outbursts followed by more rambling accented with moments of pure evil. Doesn't sound like me!"

"Well if you listen to dad." Karry laughed.

"Shut it you!" Koleen said grabbing her youngest and tickling her.

Sasporilla came back into the living room sporting a big mug of hot chocolate with a fresh chocolate frog from Honeydukes melted in.

"It's good to see the curse did no permanent damage." Koleen said.

"Ya." Sasporilla said scratching her behind and belching.

"Stop it you." Karry laughed.

"I thought she was impersonating your father!" Koleen laughed.

"Ah the house is full of the laughter of women." Zac said smiling as he walked in the door.

"You must be used to it by now?" Sasporilla said earning a cushion in the face from her friend.

Karry got up to greet her man as he came into the living room carrying dinner.

"Hello my love." Zac said kissing his fiancée. "I brought pizza from that little place in London you like so much."

"Ooooo Nimo's!" Karry cheered excitedly taking the boxes to the kitchen.

"I would say if we want a single slice we'd better tuck in now." Koleen said. "That girl eats pizza faster than wolves on a carcass."

"Awoooooo." Karry howled.

After dinner every lounged around the living room fire.

"Has everyone RSVP'd love?" Koleen asked. "Everyone we sent an actual invite to, has." Karry said. "I haven't heard back from a couple of the verbals."

"Like who?" Koleen asked.

"Like Zac's idiot best man to start." Karry said.

"Who is that?" Sasporilla asked.

"Korry." Karry sneered.

"He's my best mate." Zac says. "Even if he is becoming a big giant... what was that you called him honey."

"Ass hat." Karry said.

"Indeed." Zac smiled.

"Well you can count on him coming and bringing Madrigal as his date." Sasporilla said.

"Is there still a problem with all that between you?" Koleen Curtiss asked.

"Nope." Sasporilla said. "I'm good with it. Let them have each other. They sure deserve each other."

"Why?" Koleen asked.

"When Sassy was cursed." Zac explained. "Korry and Maddy refused to sit with her because they were embarrassed by her and thought others would think less of them."

"I see." Koleen said. "Sasporilla I am sorry. I did not raise my boy that way and I will be talking to him."

"There's no need." Sasporilla said. "Karry and I had words with him."

"Oh I'm sure that when I am done with both Korry and Madrigal," Koleen said furious at her son, "your words will ring in their memories as a kindness."

"Who else hasn't answered?" Sasporilla asked Karry trying to take her mothers mind off of killing her only son.

"You haven't." Karry cringed.

"Oh shoot sorry." Sassy laughed. "Yes I will be attending and I'm bringing a date."

"Really?" Koleen said suddenly forgetting about Korry. "Is he handsome, tall?"

"He's average looking, and short for his age with a pale pasty complexion and out of control curly brown hair."

Sassy smiled coyly. "His name is Melvin and he's a total nerd but best of all he's twelve years old!"

"What?" Koleen asked.

"When everyone else, excluding Karry and Zac back away from me in times of pain," Sasporilla said, "Melvin Lazarus is always there with a friendly smile and a compassionate ear."

"I see but he's so young?" Koleen said.

"He asked me out the day Korry dumped me to boost my self confidence." Sassy said. "I promised him I'd go out with him. So I'll let him take me to the wedding. It's not like we're going to the snog steps or spending the night together. He's just taking me to the wedding."

"Are you sure he feels the same way?" Koleen asked.

"He has quite the crush on our Sasporilla." Zac said.

"He's just a very nice boy." Sassy said.

"No Sassy." Karry said sitting next to her friend. "That boy has definite feelings for you."

"Oh shoot." Sassy said. "I was really hoping that wasn't the case."

"So what you going to do?" Koleen asked.

"Let him take me to the wedding, like I agreed, then let him down gently." Sasporilla said. "He's sweet but he's to young. He's just a boy."

"Melvin." Mrs.Lazarus said as the tailor took the boys measurements. "Though I accept that my little boy has a date for a wedding, I am not sure I approve!"

"Mother it's just a date!" Melvin said. "I'll be thirteen, three days after the wedding. In dads world that makes me a man."

"Yes well in Mommy's world, and in the real world, you are still very much a child!" Mrs.Lazarus snapped. "And the fact that you asked her out! An older girl of sixteen! What could she possibly see in.... you?"

"Thanks for the ego boost mother." Melvin said as another tailor brought out fabric samples. "I asked her because I really, really like this girl. The fact that she said yes means that in some form she likes me too."

"How do you know she isn't interested in you for your families social standing or money?" Mrs.Lazarus asked.

"Because no one at school knows that my parents are rich high society types. I don't talk about it because I DON'T CARE!"

"Well you should care." Mrs.Lazarus said. "I need to meet your Gold Digger when I bring you back to school tomorrow. What house is she in?"

"She isn't a gold digger and SHE has a name. My beautiful Sasporilla is a Hufflepuff."

"Yuk." Melvins mother objected. "Crunchy hippie, plant loving, tree huggers, all."

"Mother if you INSIST on meeting her then I will introduce you." Melvin said begrudgingly.

"Thank you." Mrs.Lazarus said.

"All I ask is that you be nice." Melvin pleaded.

"I assure you my dear son," Mrs.Lazarus said. ", I will be nothing but civil."



Chapter 14

Sasporilla woke up early. She had stayed over in Karry and Zacs second spare room. They had a cot that was more than comfortable enough for a late night crash. Mrs.Curtiss was in the guest room in the big comfy bed and rightly so as mother of the bride and a week long guest.

Sassy got washed up, dressed and went down stairs to make breakfast for everyone. After a year of doing this every other day at Hogwarts she still felt very much at home cooking in a kitchen.

Fresh coffee and tea, eggs, bacon and sausage. Fresh squeezed orange juice, deep browned beans in a crock, home fries and fresh squeezed orange juice mixed with a can of orange soda Sassy had brought with her from the caravan refrigerator. Peoples noses brought them down stairs sleepy eyed.

"Sassy!" Karry said. "What did you do?"

"Just thought I'd make a bit of breaky for the bride and groom and their lovely mum." Sasporilla smiled playfully.

"Ah." Zac said looking over the food. "You are an amazing friend."

Zac grabbed Sasporilla by the hand and spun her around and dipped her in his arms. "Perhaps I'm marrying the wrong woman."

"I'm only interested you for your money." Sasporilla said in her best sultry voice.

"I'm only interested in you for your beans." Zac laughed.

"What about Karry?" Sasporilla laughed.

"No I like sausage." Karry said putting a fork into a beautiful fat banger.

Mrs.Curtiss came downstairs into the laughter filled kitchen. They really were a close group of friends and enjoyed each others company. How lucky her daughter was to find such love in her life so young.

"Good morning." Mrs.Curtiss said. "My goodness everything smells and looks so good!"

"Oh it tastes horrid mum." Karry smiled. "You won't like it but as Sasporilla was kind enough to make it, I'll eat your share. Just to be polite."

"Your such a thoughtful little piggy." Koleen Curtiss laughed.

After breakfast Sasporilla gathered her things, hugged her friends and headed off. Before returning to Hogwarts she thought perhaps she'd make a stop at the broom shop. She hadn't seen Mary since the night they'd captured Korona Portemp. The night her male personality had tried to firmly take hold.

The bells of the broom shop jingled as she entered carrying a large shoulder bag.

"I'll be right with you!" Mary shouted from the back.

"Please take your time Mary." Sasporilla said as she looked around at the riding gear.

After a couple of minutes Mary came into the shop and gasped when she saw the shock of pink hair.

"Steve?" Mary said.

"Sasporilla." Sassy said turning around. "How are you Mary?"

"Wow!" Mary said. "Look at you! You make a prettier girl than me."

"Please." Sassy smiled. "You are very pretty."

"Well it's good to see you." Mary said. "How may I help you today?"

"I brought in my old riding gear and I need to get some new." Sasporilla said.

Mary pulled the old gear and looked it over. "You've taken pretty good care of it." Mary said. "It's a bit girly but I can see it was probably pretty cute on you. I can't buy for resale but I can give you a shop credit for it."

"Ya that works for me." Sasporilla agreed. "Do you have anything kind of like it? I like the look, they just don't fit me anymore."

"Actually I think we might just have." Mary smiled. "Let me check out back."

Mary went into the back and looked through some of the boxes. Sasporilla browsed the racks as she waited. Mary came back with two full sets of leathers and a couple of pairs of pants.

"I've got two full sets, one and two sizes larger." Mary smiled.

"Wonderful!" Sasporilla said. "Can I try them on?"

"I insist!" Mary smiled.

Sassy tried on the jacket, it was tight in the chest. The chaps were a bit tight on the hips. She had to go for the second size up which fit perfectly.

"Yep the size eight is perfect." Sasporilla smiled. "I'll take them."

"Really?" Mary said.

"Yes of course." Sasporilla said. "I told you I was here to shop."

"We haven't sold anything more than a nrw sweeping broom in three weeks." Mary said. "This is great!"

"I love these leathers." Sassy smiled. "This is the only place I've ever seen them. I hope I can make them last a long time, as your going out of business."

"Yes but I have more than enough money now to finish school and get a place to live because of the sale of this building." Mary smiled. "Everything Knut extra is gravy now."

"Good for you!" Sasporilla smiled.

"So all in, with let's say five and a half for the store credit, you're in for six galleons." Mary said.

"Sounds like a deal." Sasporilla said pulling out her wallet from her bag. She put six shiny galleons on the counter as Mary put her new leathers in a bag.

"I'm sorry by the way Mary." Sasporilla said.

"For what?" Mary asked innocently.

"For choosing not to be who and what you wanted or need." Sasporilla apologized.

"Ya well you had to make your choice." Mary said. "I'm sorry it wasn't me but you had to do what was right for you."

What Mary said struck a chord with Sasporilla. Deep down in her heart, as much as she loved Korry Curtiss, she knew he had done what was right for him. Perhaps that should be good enough for her. It was time for her to forgive, let go and move on.

Sassy was whistling brightly as she walked into the Hogwarts main hall. Melvin was standing there with an older lady that Sasporilla was pretty sure she was Melvins mom.

"Hi Melvin!" Sasporilla said walking over.

"Hi Sasporilla." Melvin smiled. "This is mother."

"Hello Mrs.Lazarus, I'm pleased to meet you." Sasporilla said holding out her hand.

"You shake hands." Melvins mother said taking her hand. "How quaint."

"Mother." Melvin said.

"Can we go some place and talk?" Mrs.Lazarous asked.

"There's a guest sitting alcove over here." Sasporilla said leading the way to the small room off the main hall.

The alcove was a very basic open room with an old rug two couches, a chair and a fire place that actually existed off the flew network.

"Inflamari" Sasporilla cast into the fire place. "Bit cold from my walk back from Hogsmead."

The woman sat on the couch and had her son sit next to her. She looked Sasporilla up and down very judgmentally.

"I wanted to meet the girl my son is taking on a date." Mrs.Lazarus said.

"I understand." Sasporilla smiled. "Especially considering the difference in our ages."

"Yes that does concern me." Melvins mom said. "As do I have, other concerns."

"Well I'm here," Sasporilla said, "I'll answer any questions you have to ask. I'm an open book."

"Fair enough." Mrs.Laxarus said. "What are your intentions toward my son?"

"Intentions?" Sassy asked. "To let him escort me to the wedding."

"What do you know of our family, our fortune or social standing?" Melvins mother asked.

"Nothing." Sasporilla said. "Melvin has never talked about any of those things."

"Well I must say that if that is true then I see no reason why an older girl like you who is not wholly unattractive and reasonably well built would seek the company of a boy like my Melvin."

That got Sasporillas back up. The pink haired witch stiffened and held in what may have other wise been a very nasty yell.

"First off," Sasporilla snapped, "your son asked me out not the other way around. Second I think your Melvin is a smart, funny and compassionate young man who would make any girl proud to have on her arm. Third I couldn't care less if he was the son of the queen or a boy who sold matches on a street corner, I genuinely like him!"

"Don't take that tone with me girl." Mrs.Lazarus said

"Sorry if you don't like your own tone thrown back at you, you passive aggressive snob. You remind me of my own grand parents the Buckets and Bents."

"Bents?" Mrs.Lazarus stopped. "The London Bents? Trillium and Chrysanthemum Bent?"

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "Why?"

"I am sorry to have put your intentions in question." Mrs.Lazarus smiled. "My son has my permission to date you Miss Bucket. I should have realized good breeding would attract to each other."

"What are you on about?" Sasporilla asked.

"I just didn't realize that when my precious son had asked a girl out, I thought she would be below his station. Now I see he has the attentions of someone like you who is far above our station. My humblest apologies."

Melvin looked at Sasporilla and Sassy looked back at him with an 'I have no bloody clue what your mothers on about' look on her face.

"No worries Mrs.Lazarus." Sasporilla said. "You may go."

"Thank you." Mrs.Lazarus said humbly and scooted off.

"I have never seen my mother humbled like that." Melvin laughed. "She flipped when she heard who your grand parents were."

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "I wonder why?"



Chapter 15

The Chapel looked absolutely perfect. Two Christmas trees stood at the front of the church on either side of pulpit. Holly adorned the ends of pews along the aisle. A simple illusion of snow wafting gently down from the ceiling added a sense of Christmas calm to the venue. Despite the obvious kurfuffel.

"No bloody way Kay!" Karry said to her older sister who stood before her in a very short, very tight red dress that pushed her large bosom almost right out of her neck line.

"Why not?" Kay said turning around to show it off. "It's sexy."

"Yes I'm sure all the ladies on the corner have one just like it, but your not bloody wearing that as my bridesmaid!" Karry screamed.

"But I don't see..." Kay protested.

"No but everyone in the first six rows certainly will!" Karry said. "Where the dress we bought you, please!"

"Fine!" Kay said waving her wand and changing dresses in a flash, giving everyone in the chapel, including the vicar, a quick peek of her unmentionables. Karry rolled her eyes. Sasporilla stood there trying not to laugh at the antics.

Mr. and Mrs.Curtiss walked in.

"Sorry we're late." Mrs.Curtiss said. "Your father had a time getting away from the office."

"Some last minute changes needed to a corporate presentation." Mr.Curtiss said. "I'd still be there if it wasn't for your mother."

"I just waved my wand. Nothing to special." Koleen smiled.

"Ok." The vicar said. "Shall we begin the rehearsal?"

Everyone took there places. Kay walked down the aisle first, with the usher Gary Goldrich. Sasporilla came down the aisle next on the arm of Karrys brother Korry who was best man. Maddy smiled at her handsome man from the a pew in front.

"Sorry we weren't there for you Sassy." Korry said. "I don't know why we acted so petty?"

"Your mum screamed at you?" Sassy smiled.

"Big time." Korry cringed.

Sassy took up her place next to Kay and Korry next to Zac.

Mr.Curtiss walked Karry down the aisle. Sassy smiled at her friend who was absolutely radiant, despite this being just the rehearsal. She took Zacs hand as they stood before the vicar and he instructed them in all of things he would say.

"Have you written the things you want to say to each other?"

"Yes Vicar." Karry smiled.

"You bet." Zac smiled. "My woman would beat me if I didn't do my home work."

"That's my girl." Mrs.Curtiss smiled.

"Good." The vicar smiled. "Then after all that I'll ask you if you do. You say yes hopefully and I pronounce you Husband and wife, you kiss the bride and we're done."

Zac looked deep into Karrys eyes and gave her a deep passionate kiss.

"I meant tomorrow but what ever." The vicar said closing his bible and walking off.

People started off thinking how sweet the kiss was, but it didn't seem to end.

"Mom, fetch the hose!" Kay said.

Karry made a most unseemly gesture towards her sister.

"Really Karry." Mrs.Curtiss said. "In the house of God you flip someone off! You're grounded young lady, no honeymoon for you."

The rehearsal dinner was at the Three Broomsticks. Madam Rosemertha closed the tavern for the event. The Curtiss family gathered with the rest of the wedding party to enjoy a wonderful meal of prime rib roast. Karry and Zac were so happy together they barely saw anyone else around them.

Sasporilla loved the fact that her friend had found so much happiness. She heard the voice of Mary Warrol in her head. She knew it was time.

"Korry, Maddy can I talk to you for a second?" Sasporilla said. "Over there?"

Sassy walked over to the arm chairs by the fire. Korry took Maddys hand and lead her over to join Sasporilla.

"I just needed to say something to the both of you." Sasporilla said. "Korry you had to make your choice. I'm sorry it wasn't me but you had to do what was right for you. I don't want to be mad at you or Maddy any more. I just want us all to be friends again."

"But we've been so horrible to you." Maddy said. "How can you ever forgive us?"

"Like this." Sasporilla said hugging them both. "I think the world of you two and I don't want to go away to Ireland with bad blood between us. I forgive you any slights against me and I hope you can forgive any of mine against you."

"We do." Maddy said.

"Good." Sasporilla smiled as the three of them hugged and made up.

Mr. and Mrs.Curtiss looked at the scene by the fire and smiled. "Looks like Korrays been forgiven."

"After everything I'd say I'm amazed that Sasporilla could forgive him or her." Koleen said. "But that's Wysterias daughter. The Bucket girls are amazing."

After the dinner the boys stayed in the Three Broomsticks for the Bachelor party. A rather tame affair of under aged young men enjoying a game of darts and butter beers.

The ladies returned to the house where for a combination bridal shower and bachelorette party. Kay had been forbidden to spice the party up with dancers or any of her outrageous stunts. In other words it was as boring as an old ladies social tea. They played games like toilet paper wedding gown, candy in the jar and with this ring. However it was mostly a gab-fest with a lot of marriage advice from mom and bedroom advice from Kay. Sasporilla cursed herself for not bringing a book to take notes. As of tomorrow she'd follow Melvins example and carry a notebook and quill in her bag.

"So you and Maddy kissed and made up?" Karry asked her best friend.

"I just got tired of being mad at them for a choice that was right for them." Sasporilla said.

"That was very mature of you." Karry said.

"Time for me to move on." Sasporilla sighed.

"You're a better woman than I Sasporilla Bucket." Karry said hugging her friend.

"Thank you." Sassy said. "Still hurts though but I do feel better over all."

"Good." Karry smiled. "I'm still gonna bust his chops until I stop being mad at him."

"I'd expect nothing less." Sassy smiled. "Are you ready for tomorrow?"

"To be honest I know I should be scared to death, but it all just feels so right, you know?" Karry smiled.
"You Karry Curtiss, my best friend, are my hero." Sasporilla said.



Chapter 16

Christmas morning Sasporilla woke early. She wanted to have a good hot relaxing bath to start her day before the excited hectic pace of Karry and Zacs wedding took hold. As much as she'd grown used to the short hair, she hoped there was something, Madame Jizel, the beautician in Hogsmead, to do to give her a bit more length for a fuller updo style. Sassy dropped a bath bomb in the water and the whole bathroom smelled of Vanilla and strawberries. Sasporilla sank into the bath water up to her shoulders and let the hot water cleanse her to her very soul.

She stayed in the bath until her skin threatened to prune. She wrapped herself in a Hufflepuff yellow and black house towel and reached for her wand. Once a month, like most girls her age, Sasporilla used the spell "Dermi Epilatia" on her legs and under arms. She heard muggle girls used chemicals or worse sharpened razors to shave! The thought made her laugh. How silly and barbaric some muggle ways were.

Sassy put on the lingerie Karry had helped her pick out to go with the dress. Of course she didn't see the point of frilly undies that no one else was ever going to see, under a dress she was only going to wear once. However if wearing them on her special day was going to make Karry happy on her special day then that was good enough. Sassy put on her robes on over a pair of jeans and an ugly Christmas jumper, grabbed a bag of gifts that had sat wrapped under the tree in her living room, and headed into the great hall for breakfast.

Sasporilla ate light, not wanting to have a food baby bump under her dress. She stuck to toast and juice, and snuck two apples into her bag for later.

"Happy Christmas Sasporilla." Melvin said st

Christmas present for Melvin sitting in beside her. He put a package wrapped in gold foil paper with a large red ribbon and bow.

"Happy Christmas Melvin." Sassy smiled pulling the top package out of the bag and handing it to Melvin.

"Open yours first." Melvin insisted.

"Ok." Sasporilla said wiping the crumbs from her hands and pulling open the ribbon. Inside the box was a heavy metal bar with two metal clamp ends, Sasporilla couldn't lift it, so she had to levitate it out. Along with it was a leather kit, containing crystals and metal tips.

"It's very impressive Melvin." Sasporilla smiled, "but I have to ask... what is it?"

"It's a wand lathe." Melvin smiled. "You pur the wood into it and, place a design crystal you want the wand to come out as and the lathe turns and shapes the wood into the wand style you want!"

"That's amazing Melvin!" Sassy smiled. "That way can create a set of styles and do them in any woods I want, and then hand carve special ones. It's brilliant! I love it!"

"I'm glad!" Melvin smiled.

"Now open yours." Sasporilla said excitedly.

Melvin pulled the plain Christmas paper off the leather case inside.

"A brief case." Melvin smiled. "I will certainly need one when I'm an engineer."

"Open the case silly." Sassy smiled.

Melvin snapped open the clasps to see it wasn't actually just a brief case. Inside were many of the tools he would need to become a magical engineer.

"A Schnidermans tool, a built in multiphasic mirroscope, a Abbicum with polyphasic lensing built in?"

"And it does something called M.A.D?" Sasporilla said. "Have you heard of that?"

"Magically Aided Design!?!!" Melvin said excitedly. "That means I can design it on the Abbicum and then hook to various magical devices to produce it exactly from the design!"

"Is that good?" Sasporilla smiled.

"Sassy," Melvin said. "We can design wands on this and load the designs into the memory gems! Your lathe will then make them for you based on the designs from the kit you bought me!"

"Really?" Sassy smiled. "This is amazing."

"Sassy this kit is very expensive and state of the art!" Melvin said. "It's too much."

"No!" Sasporilla said. "Engineering is your passion."

"One of two." Melvin said shyly.

"Consider it an investment in your future." Sassy said. "By the time you get to university you'll be years ahead of the others."

"I really do love it." Melvin smiled and hugged the older girl.

"And I love the lathe." Sasporilla said. "Thank you so much."

Melvin pulled back a bit. Their eyes locked and in that second Sasporilla felt the depth and intensity of his love for her. Melvin wanted to kiss her but he waited past that moment.

"So um," Melvin smiled nervously. "What is the plan? For the wedding I mean? To meet up in town."

"You remember Professor Lee-Ashwolf?" Sasporilla asked a bit relieved he'd broken off.

"Yes." Melvin smiled. "She's your friend!"

"Yes that's right," Sasporilla said taking Melvin's hands. "She's popping by the school about Noon. Be ready in the hall way and you can escort her into town. Then I'll meet up with you at the church. We'll walk in together and get a seat, then I have to pop out to my ceremonial duties. After as the wedding party leaves the church we will proudly take each others arm and you can escort me back here for the reception. You'll be sitting with me at the head table."

"I will?" Melvin said nervously.

"Of course!" Sassy said. "You're my date. I can't let some one else sit beside me and put their hand on my knee all night."

"I... what?" Melvin said.

"I'm playing Melvin." Sasporilla said. "I expect you'd be far to much more of a gentlemen for something like that."

"Oh of course." Melvin said. "Unless you want me to then I'm totally into it."

Sasporilla laughed heartily at the boys frankness.

"Well at least you're honest." Sassy smiled. "Melvin if you follow your heart, and do what it tells you is right, I know any girl would gladly accept your attentions. Unless you go farther than you should and then the girl will punch your lights out."

"Wow!" Melvin said. "You totally inspired confidence in me and in the same breath totally knee capped me!"

"Good!" Sassy laughed. "That's my forthright feminine mystique. Oh goodness it's quarter of nine. I need to be in town in fifteen minutes."

Without thinking Sasporilla kissed Melvin on the lips, finished her juice and headed off. She turned around and snapped her fingers. The lathe disappeared off the table and was placed under the tree in her caravans living room. Sassy made it just outside of the front gates when she apparated and reappeared in front of the beauty parlor in Hogsmead. By and far Sasporilla preferred flying her broom from place to place as apposed to the stretching disorientation of apparition.

The bridal party was already inside having their hair done.

"Sasporilla!" Karry smiled. "I knew you'd be a few minutes early so we all got in before you."

"Well it's only fair." Sassy smiled taking a seat in front. "You all need it so much more than me."

"You saucy cow!" Kay laughed.

"Don't hate me because I'm beautiful." Sasporilla laughed.

Madame Jizel was the beautician scheduled for Sasporilla. The rather large woman looked over Sassy's short pink hair.

"You do not leave me much to work with!" Madame Jizel said.

"I had long hair at the beginning of the year but a nasty curse bugged me up!" Sasporilla said.

"Well I could lengthen your hair but then what to do with it?" The beautician said.

"I was hoping for something like an up do." Sasporilla said.

"I am a beautician, not a miracle worker." The large woman smiled.

Three spells elongated Sasporilla's hair to a manageable length. Madame Jizel was able to sculpt the pink locks into a beautiful Braided French twist. Sasporilla absolutely loved it.

"Now we do the make up." Madame Jizel said. "This is where I earn my money today."

Creams, masks, powders and plucking followed by pencils jabbed in her eye and small torture devices to curl her eye lashes.

When it was all done Sasporilla saw herself in the mirror and couldn't believe the transformation. She was beautiful. At best she only ever felt sort of pretty on her best day.

Karrys fair hair was done up in multiple braids, wound around her head, with flowers inter woven. Mrs.Curtiss went for a simple matronly bun while Kay just went for a bit of extra body and curl in her spectacular long black hair. A quick cast of "Tempermentia" set the hair and make up magically in place for twenty four hours.

Next the girls headed to the dress shop. Mrs.Dubittle was waiting for them with Flutes of French Champagne. Mrs.Curtiss and Kay imbibed but Karry and Sasporilla passed. The dresses were fitted to the women in order of their importance in the wedding party.

Karrys white gown was beautiful. Sassy's black and pink gown looked perfect on her and really suited her with her hair and make up. Mrs.Curtiss and Kay's red Christmas time dresses looked very festive. Mrs.Dubittle was proud to escort the bridal party to the chapel helping to levitate their hems off the ground.

Sassy went with the girls into the brides ready room, a small alcove of the front left of the chapel. From there they could watch the comings and goings of all guests and the grooms party. There were a few family members coming in from various parts of the country. Most of Hogsmead was invited and of course any and all Hogwarts students who didn't go home for the Christmas break.

As Sasporilla looked out at the town, snow started to gently waft down from the heavens. It was proving to be a most amazing day



Chapter 17

Melvin arrived at the church with Lyra about twelve thirty. Sassy was excited to see her friend again and gave her a big hug. Melvin took Sasporilla's arm and let the usher lead them inside the chapel. Melvin was seated on the outside of the third row so that after the wedding he could escort his date, in the wedding procession, back to Hogwarts. Sasporilla gave Melvin her cloak to hold as it would be a chilly walk back.

Sassy ran back into the brides ready room. Everyone seemed just a bit calmer for the often frantic Curtiss girls.

"Melvin get seated ok?" Karry asked.

"Yes." Sasporilla smiled. "God help him he's sitting with Lyra."

"Lyra will behave I'm sure." Koleen reassured Sassy.

"No I believe she was attempting to teach him the secrets of pleasing a woman." Sasporilla sighed.

"Well you're in for a fun night then!" Kay laughed.

"He's bloody twelve you pedo!" Sasporilla objected.

"Almost thirteen!" Karry corrected her friend barely holding back a smile. "He's basically a man now."

"You never know!" Kay said. "Maybe he's the one. What's a couple of years?"

"In prison you mean?" Sasporilla said. "Stop teasing you cheeky cows."

"Mmooooooo." All of them said back at Sasporilla who rolled her eyes at their playfulness. The crowds piled in. Professors sat on the grooms side of the church with the head mistress as all of the family that arrived came from the brides side.

At exactly one O'clock the soft sounds of Celtic flute and harp began to play in the chapel.

"I do believe that's your queue ladies." Koleen smiled kissing her daughter. "You're a beautiful bride my little girl."

Alex Curtiss saw Koleen to their seats down in front. Then walked back up to the back of the chapel.

Kay and the usher walked down the aisle arm in arm. She smiled as she said something to the young man that clearly embarrassed him. Sasporilla and Korry walked down the aisle next. Arm in arm they looked like they would have made a very happy couple some day. Both smiled and gave little waves to their dates in the pews.

The musicians started playing the wedding march. Mr. Curtiss appeared at the back of the chapel with his youngest daughter Karry on his arm. Karry was a vision in her white lace gown. Zac smiled at the front of the church almost uncontrollably happy.

As the father of the bride walked his daughter down the aisle he got the chance to say something he rarely got to say to his children these days.

"I've always loved you my little sweet pea." Mr. Curtiss said. "And I always will. You've made me so happy and so proud every day since you were born. I love you my little Karry Curtiss."

"I love you to dad." Karry smiled as she stepped before the vicar and joined hands with Zac.

As the music faded out the Vicar looked at Karry and Zac and smiled. "Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The union of husband and wife is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given each other in prosperity and adversity. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted."

Zac always found church a bit harsh and would have just as easily been married at Hogwarts. Karry had always dreamed of a small church wedding and Zac lived to make his girls dreams come true.

"Into this union Karoline Curtiss and Zacariah Zarcazzian now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not be lawfully wed, speak now, or else forever hold your peace."

No one moved nor dared breath. Though some of Karrys relatives and even the Headmistress debated standing up to object based on their age. In many peoples opinion sixteen was far to young but unfortunately it was legal here in the North. The best they could hope for was that they beat the odds and have a long happy marriage.

"I charge you both," the vicar said very seriously, "here in the presence of God and the witness of this company, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be married lawfully and in accordance with God's Word, do now confess it."

Zac looked at Karry and Karry back at Zac. They had no reasons in their hearts or minds to do anything but love each other for the rest of their lives.

"Before we do the vows," the vicar smiled, "Karry and Zac have written words of love and commitment yo each other that they would like to share with each other and with you, today."

Zac pulled his notes from his pocket and opened it. "The first day I saw you, I was scared little boy, away from a home I hated for the first time and sorted into a house I wanted no part of. You were a beautiful light in the darkness of my life. Though we were only children, and some would argue we still are, I knew that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with you. There were a few times I thought I'd die before we ever kissed but it was from that kiss and your love I found the strength to fight against Voldemort and his evil death eaters, at your side and have reason to want and need to come out of the Battle alive. Though many feel that victory won freedom and peace for our world I see it as I won the chance to live a long life in your arms, in your heart and in love with you."

Sasporilla was so thankful the make up couldn't run or smear as tears streamed down her cheeks.

"Zac, my rock, my love, my heart." Karry smiled. "I struggled writing this because I am probably the least romantic person on the planet. I'm bookish and logical above all but when I think of you, there is little logic just passion, fire and love. I think of a day of a summer past when we snuck away from our friends and walked hand in hand through a field of sun flowers. It was warm and sunny and perfect and I knew that day, that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with you. It is that day and that kiss amongst the sun flowers on which I draw power for my Patronus. I love you so deeply my dearest Zac that not only can I not imagine you in my life, I simply refuse to do so. We are two minds and one heart and I would have it no other way."

"Karry," the vicar said, "will you have this man to be your husband; to live together with him in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful unto him as long as you both shall live?"

"I do." Karry said.

"Zac, will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together with her in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful unto her as long as you both shall live?"

"I do." Zac smiled.

"Please present the rings." The vicar said as the best man and the maid of honour handed the rings they had been charged with holding to the bride and groom. Each took the others ring and placed it each others fingers. "Bless,

O Lord, these rings as a symbol of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other. Please repeat after me."

"With this ring I thee wed." The vicar began.

Karry and Zac answered in unison. One heart, one mind, one soul.

"I Zacariah Zarcazzian, take you, Karoline Curtiss, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death."

Zac repeated it all with a deep look of love in his eyes.

"I, Karoline Curtiss, take you, Zacariah Zarcazzian, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death."

"Now that Karoline Curtiss, and Zacariah Zarcazzian and have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that them man and woman, husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You may kiss the bride."

Zac and Karry kissed passionately before the cheering crowd. They were so very much in love.

"Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder." The vicar said as the music swelled and broke the young couple apart.

"Congratulations, now bugger off and start your life." The vicar laughed quietly.

Zac and Karry walked back up the aisle to lead the wedding procession to Hogwarts. Karrys mom and dad followed in behind with Cabbie Patel. The proud parents and guardians placed the cloaks on their kids. Sasporilla and Korry fell in behind and their dates stood from the pews and took their arms. Kay and the usher, who still looked pale, fell in behind as everyone applauded.

The procession moved slowly, languidly meandering, through the gently falling snow back to the Hogwarts main hall which was done up for the Christmas event. The long house tables and benches had been replaced with round tables and chairs with white and gold table cloths and beautiful Christmas themed floral center pieces.

Karry and Zac were led to the head table by Headmistress McGonagall. It reminded them of the day of the sorting ceremony.

"Today, on this, the most important day of your life so far, I give you the honour to sit before your family, friends and classmates at the head table of Hogwarts, while I humbly take a seat among those you love and respect."

"And we do both love and respect you Professor McGonagall." Karry said making the old witch smile.

Sassy sat to the left of Karry with Melvin at her side.

"That was a beautiful ceremony." Sasporilla said.

"It sure was." Melvin said taking Sasporilla's hand. "I cried when they said those things to each other."

"I did too." Sasporilla smiled. "It was beautiful."

Korrry and Maddy sat to the right of Zac. Maddy waved to her parents sitting at a nearby table with Mr. and Mrs. Curtis and Cabbie Patel. It had been a hard decision to choose to not have the parents at the head table but it seemed to be a better fit.

Dinner was served by magically appearing

before them in a true Hogwarts style celebratory feast. Those muggle members of Karrys family were, for lack of a better word, enchanted by the venue.

Before the cake was to be served Korrry stood and gave his best mans speech.

"And now the part of the reception my sister has dreaded." Korrry said with a smile. "The part where I get to speak and she can't yell at me to shut it."

Everyone laughed.

"Karry and I shared a very small room for nine months. Of course on moving day she had to be the first one out the door. Growing up we shared everything. A bed room, our toys, the odd fist and teeth in flesh."

Karry laughed embarrassed. She remembered the time he meant, where her parents had to pull her off of her twin brother for drawing mustaches on her Barbies with one of her fathers muggle ink markers that never came off! Korrry still had a scar on his arm to remind him. Which he proudly showed off to the laughing crowd.

"I've stood toe to toe against death eaters and none of them left a scar as bad as this! Voldemort and his people had no chance as long as my hellcat sister was at Hogwarts."

He walked over and stood behind the bride and groom. "Zacs my best mate. I've had to put up with his crap for years now. That's why when he wanted to date my sister he had my blessing! I thought better your arm than mine mate!"

Sasporilla smiled. Korry was funny in his own jerk like way.

"Now to be serious." Korry said. "Zac is a good man. Honest, kind and decent. Not to mention loaded with dosh. We'll speak after mate about that fiver you borrowed from me in second year. Karry, my sister, is as beautiful as she is smart, and twice as tough. I'll be surprised if she ever lets Zac shop for anything not on sale and without a coupon. I can't think of any other couple besides me and my Maddy who are as much in love, and belong together so completely. I wish you long happy marriage and a house full of rug rats to ruin your body and destroy your will to live. Or at least that's how our parents describe us."

Everyone applauded and cheered for Korry who lived up to his duties better than expected. He took his seat beside Zac who shook his hand.

"Well done mate." Zac smiled.

"That was brilliant." Karry said.

There was a lull before the first clinking of glasses and the bride and groom kissed. It was right after Sasporilla stood to say her piece as maid of honour.

"I have known Karolin Curtiss since second year. We became friends on the Hogwarts express and have been inseparable ever since. Karry is my best friend, my neighbor and my link to normalcy. We have seen many adventures, trials and tribulations together and I love her dearly."

Everyone smiled at the heart felt speech. It was warm and real and not as funny as Korrys but you can't have everything.

"I could tell you any number of embarrassing stories about my best friend, like tournament incident or the spell gone wrong in the library, but I have chosen to be the bigger person and take the hush money."

Everyone laughed.

"I still remember Zacs first day at Hogwarts and his sorting. The look on his face and the tears when he was sorted into Slytherin. I was the first to really try and welcome and calm him, but his eye wandered to the pretty one with the great rack and sadly his bank account went with him."

People were laughing hard at Sassy. This was the first time she really felt comfortable speaking in public.

"Now I' no gold digger but I am first in line for second wife or extra marital affair with him as my sugar daddy."

Sasporilla winked at Zac. "Seriously though, I trained and fought side by side with both of them. As we had each others backs at battle of Hogwarts, so do Karry and Zac have each others in life. Wands forward, never backing down, brave and in love forever."

People applauded her speech. Sassy hugged and kissed her friends on the cheek and sat back down beside Melvin.

"You are so amazing." Melvin said.

"Thank you Melvin." Sasporilla said cupping his face. "You are so sweet and supportive."

Seeing this exchange Kay was the first to start clinking her glass. Others joined enthusiastically.

Melvin started clinking too looking to Karry and Zac.

"It's not for them silly it's for us." Sasporilla said. Korry and Maddy stood and kissed as the glasses continued to clink. They looked over at Sasporilla and Melvin.

"Does this count as my one kiss?" Melvin asked.

"No." Sasporilla smiled trying not to laugh.

Melvin leaned in and kissed her gently and sweetly. As people applauded.

The cake was brought out by house elves. It was an eighteen layer, topsy turvey, sticky toffee pudding cake on a sour cream Blondie base with maple fudge drizzle made by Mrs.Honeyduke herself.

Karry and Zac cut the cake and fed pieces to each other. Then the elves served large pieces to everyone. It was so good Sassy actually snuck a left over slice to have later.

Zac actually hired Parsons Wand Shop to provide musical entertainment at the reception. The second most popular band in the wizarding world.

Karry and Zacs first dance was a song called "We are the lucky ones."

She was joined by the bridal party then the parents. Hagrid accompanied tiny Cabbie Patel out to the dance floor. Melvin kept a respectful distance between him and Sassy as they slow danced together. Sasporilla would have pulled him to her but his height would put his eyes into her cleavage.

The couples danced until eight thirty when the congratulation line was formed as people started to leave. All of the dirty old men looked forward to kissing the bride.

After the party Zac and Karry apparated off to their honeymoon on a warm tropical island some place in the south pacific. Sasporilla walked hand in hand with Melvin back to the Gryffindor entrance.

"I should be walking you home." Melvin said.

"Well considering I live in a caravan in the secret court yard, which is no longer much of a secret, it wouldn't have afforded us this delightful walk."

"True." Melvin smiled. "I'm sure if we stepped out to your caravan people might have talked. Especially after what happened Kay and the Usher."

"I'm not really that surprised." Sassy laughed. "She gets excited at weddings. That poor guy could have been anyone."

"That's funny and a little sad." Melvin said. "I want my first time to be with someone special."

"Melvin!" Sasporilla said playfully. "A ladies man like you is still a virgin?"

"Yes." Melvin said a bit embarrassed.

"Well so am I." Sasporilla confided in him. "I feel the same way. When I feel I'm old enough, responsible enough and have found that absolutely perfect person then I'll become intimate with someone, but not before."

"Me too." Melvin said.

Melvin sat on the second step and Sassy sat on the one below him.

"I'm happy we got this minute alone." Sasporilla said.

"Yes it's nice." Sasporilla said. "I'm very comfortable talking to you."

"Sasporilla." Melvin said frankly. "I really like you and I don't want yo be stuck in the friend zone. Even though I'm to young for you now, I want to tell you that I'm interested in you as more than just a friend and if you're still available, when I'm old enough that our ages no longer make a difference, I fully intend to pursue your affections and woo you!"

"Melvin you are sweet," Sasporilla started to let him down when Melvin kissed her. Not a the warm gentle kiss of a child, but the wildly passionate kiss of a man in love. Sasporilla melted in his arms. She didn't know if they kissed for seconds, minutes or hours. As there lips parted Melvin looked deep into Sasporillas eyes. Sassy stared back and bit her lower lip. She felt that kiss through to her bones. Melvin had made his case.

"It's a date." Sasporilla said.



Chapter 18

After a very strange night Sasporilla woke late and got ready for her trip to Ireland. In many ways now she wished she hadn't put in for the semester abroad. There was something special in that kiss. Something that was never there with Korry. Perhaps it was that spark that was what Korry had discovered with Maddy? She was younger than he was, but she had undergone the maturity transformation ritual. She was physically closer to Korry than Melvin was to her.

Why was this even an inner monologue!? She dispelled her caravan, picked up her broom and walked into breakfast in full leathers.

Sassy sat down to breakfast. She stuck to fruit and juice with a slice of toast. She hoped to make it for dinner at Droorlily. The escorted student from Ireland was due in any time with the escort that would see her to the Irish school of witchcraft and wizardry.

"Sasporilla!" Melvin called. "I'm so very happy I caught you before you left."

"Melvin!" Sassy smiled. "Glad you found me."

"I was working on the MAD last night." Melvin said setting the case he'd gotten for Christmas on the table. "I've really gotten the hang of it."

Melvin open the case and pushed a few buttons on the Abbicum. The multiphasic mirroscope came a light and shone a wand made of light which rotated before them.

"This is a simple model of my wand." Melvin smiled. "But like I was saying we can easily make various shapes and sizes, hollowing out areas inside for whatever goes in them, and your lathe will make them for you."

"Melvin that is truly amazing." Sassy said. "It's just as you described it."

"I know right!" Melvin said. "I was thinking maybe this summer some time I could see you and we could design some wands?"

"I'd really like that Melvin." Sasporilla said still trying to shake off the kiss from the night before.

"I'll write to you in Ireland." Melvin said.

"I promise to write yo too." Sassy smiled. She didn't know why but Sassy put her arms around Melvins neck and kissed him the same way he had kissed her last night. There was definitely a spark there.

"I love you Sasporilla." Melvin said staring into the young witches eyes. In a moment of panic Sassy said "Thank you."

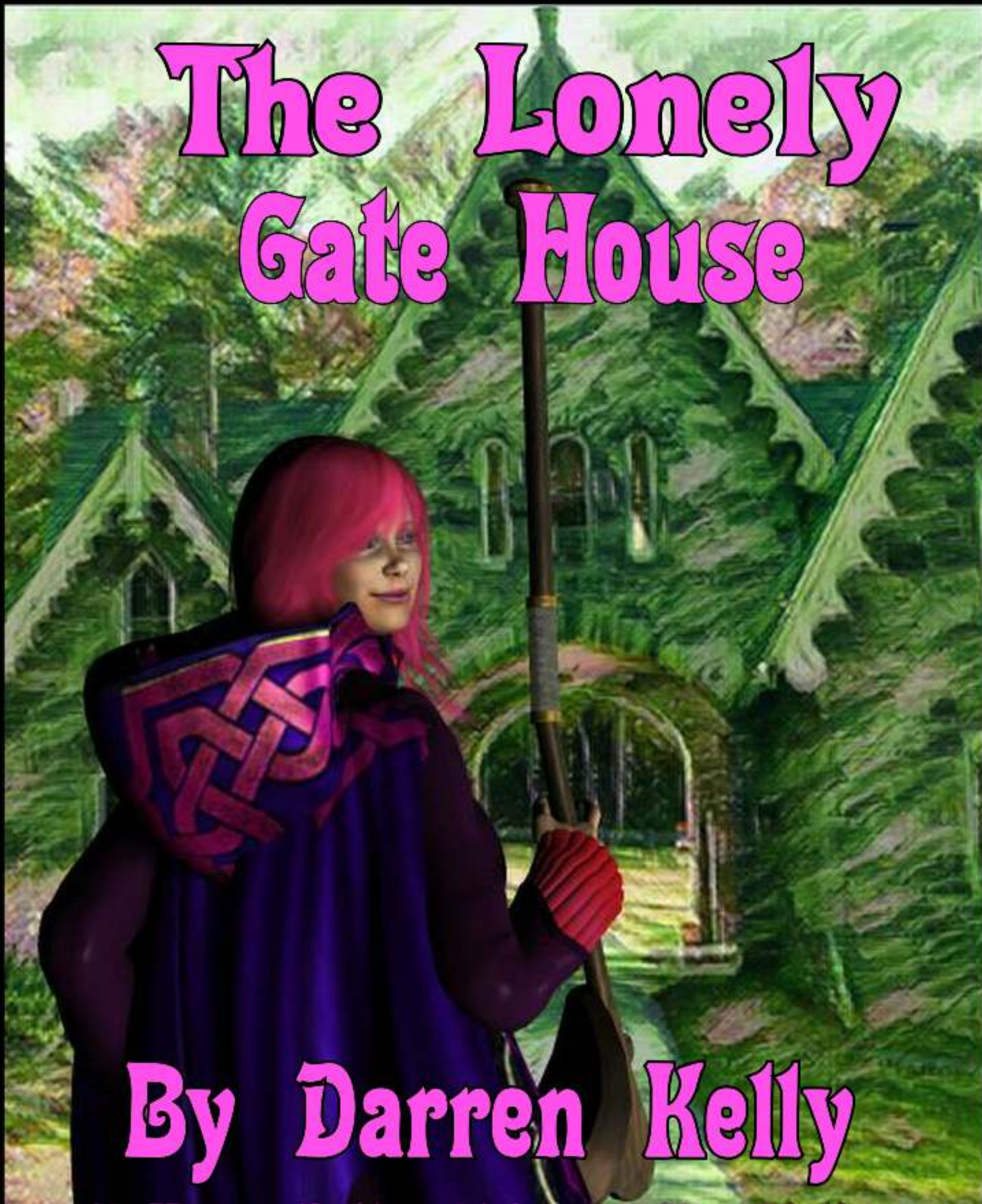
THE END



Sasporilla Bucket

The Girl With Pink Hair

The Lonely Gate House



By Darren Kelly

A Harry Potter Universe Fan Fiction

THE LONELY GATE HOUSE

A Harry Potter UNIVERSE/ Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction
by Darren Kelly

Chapter 1

A man and woman in green robes walked in through the front gates carrying their brooms. They escorted a young woman in a matching robe pulling a small bag behind her. Headmistress McGonagall met them with Sasporilla Bucket, dressed in her flying leathers, at her side.

"Welcome to Hogwarts." Headmistress McGonagall smiled. "You must be Lilly O'Donnel."

"Yes mam." Lilly smiled.

"Well we'll have to something about these robes!" Professor McGonagall said and waved her wand changing the young woman's robes to Hogwarts black with yellow trim. "You'll be in Hufflepuff while you're here as you'll be exchanging spots with our Sasporilla.

"Hello." Sasporilla smiled.

"Hi." Lilly smiled back and nodded.

"All right." The Irish man In the green robe said. "I'll get ya t' sign this form missus, showin' we delivered the girl in one piece and picked up the next one."

The man handed a clip board to the Headmistress who waved her wand and had her quill sign the form.

"Ah that's grand." The man said. "Good to see ya have yer broom."

"I like to ride." Sasporilla said.

"I can see dat." The lady in green robes added. "Ya look like a bloody broomer!"

"I'm not," Sasporilla said, "but I do have friends who are."

Penny Lane stepped up her broom in hand, wearing her Seraphim vest with pride.

"Have a good semester in Ireland." Penny said hugging her friend.

"You have a good semester in Baux Batons." Sasporilla hugged back. "Don't take crap from those skinny bitches."

Penny laughed. "I will miss you Sasporilla Bucket."

"Fer fek sakes every one misses everyone already let's get er on the brooms and off!" The man said.

"No need to be rude." Sasporilla said.

"That wasn't rude darlin'." The lady said. "That's just Irish fer time to go." The lady laughed.

Sasporilla walked between the people in green robes and mounted her broom. She turned and waved to penny and the headmistress.

"All set." Sassy said and they pushed off and took of into the skies.

They flew in formation, the woman in the green robes taking the lead, Sasporilla next and the man behind. Sassy cast Ocasum Calor and started up her heat bubble. The cold winter winds bucked against them as they flew but at least she'd be warm.

"The winds got even worse as they flew out over the Sruth na Maoile, the area of ocean between Scotland and Ireland. As they reached the shores of the emerald Isle, the procession turned south west and flew above the country side. There was something beautiful and familiar about the Irish countryside. Her fathers family, the Buckets, had originally come from Ireland. They got out after the Dark wizard Colin Nathair started the war that caused the great famine and killed millions of muggles.

They flew towards the City of Galway but stopped just above it landing on Jordans Island in the river Corrib.

On the empty islands long snow field sat a small dilapidated gate house that sat lonely in the emptiness.

"All right girl." The man said. "When you go into town this is where ya come back to, to get into the school."

"But where is the school?" Sasporilla asked looking past the small house with a hole in its middle which acted as a gated pass through.

"If you walk around da gate house, you keep to ta island." The woman said walking Sasporilla to the "Muggles can't even see the gate house. If you walk through the gate however."

They passed through the gate into a winter wonderland. Snow fell in large fluffy flakes which wafted down around them. Droorlily stood before them. It had a large center stone building and two wings sticking out to the sides. The schools Headmaster, a funny little man with a bald dome surrounded by thin white hair on the sides, and head girl stood in the schools open doorway.

"You made in one fekin' piece Sheamus!" The Headmaster said.

"It was touch and go there fer a while I'll tell ya." The man in the green robes, Sheamus O'Rourke said. "We exchanged Lily O'Donnel fer this one. T'ink dey got the better a de deal on us."

"Oy!" Sasporilla said. "Rude!"

"What's yer name girl?" The Headmaster asked.

"Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket, sir." Sassy smiled.

"Pleased to meet ya miss Bucket." The Headmaster said shaking her hand and turning it over ta read her palm.

"I'm Headmaster O'Carrol and this is our head girl Moirah Dingle. She will see you to your room and oh? Where are your things."

"Still in my Caravan." Sasporilla said. "I'll fetch them."

Sasporilla ran her broom into the court yard and cast Ocasum Sequor. The carvan appeared and Sassy ran inside, changed into her robes and levitated her trunk and carrying a carpet bag out. She placed down the trunk and put her bag on top. She tucked her caravan back into the broom and levitated her trunk to the front door.

"Well." Headmaster O'Carrol said. "You are as well prepared, as yer palm showed. We have to change those robes though."

The Headmaster waved his wand and turned her Hufflepuff robes into the standard greens of Droorlily.

"Now let's all step inside where it's warm." Headmaster O'Carrol smiled. "I went fer a walk this morning and found a dog frozen while peeing. The stream an arkin' yellow icicle. It was so cold I saw a snowman's snow balls freeze off!"

Sasporilla had to laugh. This headmaster had a weird sense of humor.

"What house will I be in sir?" Sasporilla asked.

"We're a small school." The headmaster said. "We have seventy two students so we have no houses. You'll be in the sixth year class about eight students currently. You'll be sharing a room with...?"

"Wendillia Murphy." The head girl smiled politely.

"Jaysus yer kiddin' me?" The headmaster said. "A broomer and Murphy in the same room? We'll have to sound and flame proof the girls dorms again."



CHAPTER 2

Moirah Dingle, the Droorlily Head Girl saw Sasporilla to her dorm room. The pounding sound of drums boomed from within. The Head girl opened the door and stepped in.

"Murphy!" Moirah Dingle yelled causing the drum playing to stop. "Your new room mate is here."

Sasporilla stepped inside. Behind the drum kit, sitting amongst the piles of slobbery around her end of the room was a short girl with long dark brown hair.

The girl looked Sasporilla up and down. The girl had one sided smile much like Sassy.

"Wendy Murphy this is Sasporilla Bucket." Moirah Dingle introduced them.

"I'm loud n' messy n' don't really give a fek about the feelin's of those with opinions different from my own."

Wendy Murphy said.

"Well at least your honest." Sasporilla said.

"Oh fer fek sakes she's English!?! Why not just kick me in the arse Dingle. You know how I feel about the English!"

"I don't really care about how you feel either Murphy." Moirah Dinggle smiled. "So you girls enjoy and we'll see ya down to dinner."

Sasporilla levitated her trunk over to the end of her bed. Murphy went back to playing the drums. She was very obviously trying to get under Sasporilla's skin with her loud rhythmic protest but it just inspired Sassy. She opened her trunk and pulled out her guitar.

Sassy strung the strap over her shoulder and started to strum. She closed her eyes and got a feel for the rhythm then started to play. Murphy rolled her eyes at first. Sassy had to stop and pull her wand. She cast an amplification spell until the guitar could easily be heard over the drums. As she started to play again her guitar made an impact on the sound. The pair started to jam. Playing off each other's leads until they were openly rocking the second floor girls' dorms. They played for an hour until both their hands ached. They had played each other out so she wrapped it. With a big finish.

"Well alright!" The girl on the drums smiled and stepped off her stool holding out her sore hand. "Wendy Murphy. It's honestly a pleasure to meet ya! I shoulda known we'd get along by the rock and roll pink hair!"

"Sasporilla Bucket." Sassy shook the girl's hand. Very pleased to meet you."

As it turned out they both had a great love of music. It was Wendy Murphy's dream to become a professional drummer. From what Sassy saw, she probably had what it took to get there. She was trepidacious of telling her about her relationship to Myron Wagtail and his ties to the music industry. At least until she knew a bit more about what the girl was really like. But if it was her dream to be a professional musician then Myron could certainly help her make that dream come true.

At six o'clock they went down for dinner. There was one table for each class year. The first years closer to the head table and higher grades farther away. Boys sat on one side of the table with the girls sitting on the opposite side.

Wendy brought Sasporilla to the sixth year table. Four other students had already arrived.

"All right ya gobshytes this is the exchange girl takin' Lily's place, this is Sasporilla Bucket." Murphy laughed.

"The big burly bastard on the other side of the table is Jimmy Donolly."

"Pleased to meet you Sasporilla, have you got any Irish in ya?" Jimmy asked.

"Pleasure." Sassy smiled shaking the boy's hand. "Just a bit of Irish on my father's side."

"Would ya like some more?" Jimmy laughed.

"Ignore the pig." Wendy laughed. "The girl on the end who looks like a Dublin street walker is Janey Brown."

"Fek off ya pain the arse." Janey laughed shaking hands with Sassy.

"Pleased to meet you." Sassy smiled.

"I love yer hair." Janey said.

"Believe it or not it's naturally pink." Sasporilla said.

"Oh well den," Jimmy Donolly laughed. "A statement like that demands proof!"

Sassy blushed and stiffened. "You first big boy!"

The girls laughed.

"He'll not dare show off his short cummin's" Wendy laughed.

"Don't dare me Wendy Murphy." Jimmy smiled. "Ya know first hand I'll do it even if it gets me expelled again."

"Movin' on." Wendy said. "The fella looking sheepish beside Jimmy is Ted McCreedy. He's the bookish shy type."

"Hi." Ted waved.

"Pleasure." Sassy smiled.

"The skinny little glass of piss on the end is Whinny Dingle, the head girl's sister." Wendy said.

"You're a vicious see you next Tuesday aren't ya Murphy." Whinny Dingle said. "It's nice ta meet ya Sasporilla. Don't stand too close ta Murphy, ya might catch something."

Another girl came up from behind Murphy and Sassy.

"Jaysus Murphy," the girl said, "don't tell me ya actually made a friend?"

"This is Lily's exchange." Wendy Murphy said. "Sasporilla Bucket, this saggy arsed miserable betch is Agnus Doogan."

"Why are you all so mean to each other?" Sassy had to ask.

"What do you mean?" Wendy asked.

"Ya we're the best a friends." Agnus said.

"If we didn't like each other we wouldn't talk at all." Janey said.

"Or we'd say the same shyte accented with fists." Jimmy laughed.

"Aye!" Wendy laughed in agreement. "Agnes where is that useless boy friend o' yours?"

"He's coming." Agnes said taking a seat. "He had to stop fer a nature call."

"Well that's all of us," Wendy said. "Except from himself o' course."

The girls all took there seats. Before dinner was served the Headmaster stood at the head table to address the students.

"All right settle down ya miserable little devils." The Headmaster smiled. "We have a guest, Sasporilla Bucket, is our exchange student from Hogwarts. I expect ya all to be on yer best behaviour or you'll my foot in yer arses! Please stand up to let us all get a look at ya miss Bucket."

"Sasporilla?" A voice said from behind.

Sasporilla whipped around with a wide smile. "Deckland!"

The two hugged and the sixth year table went silent.

"It's good to see you." Sasporilla said.

"What are you doing here?" Deckland Casey asked.

"I'm the exchange student." Sassy smiled.

"Dat's fecken amazing!" Deckland smiled noticing Agnes who did not look happy.

"What the fek is this Deckland Casey?" Agnes Doogan demanded. "You been whoring around behind my back? With a feekin' English girl to boot! I ought t' rip em of ya and stuff em in yer lyin' mouth ya dirty cheatin bastard."

"No Agnes," Sasporilla said, "it's not like that! We met at the dueling tournament last year!"

"Remember the girl I danced with?" Deckland asked. "You were feekin there and it was before we were an item ya jealous betch!"

"Oh!" Agnes said. "Ya I remember. Are ya interested in my man?"

"No." Sasporilla said. "I have a boy friend back at Hogwarts and I'm very loyal!"

"All right then." Agnes said sitting down with Deckland across from her.

Sasporilla stood there and realized everyone's eyes were still on her. She smiled uncomfortably and waved. "Hello everyone, my name is Sasporilla Bucket. I'm from Hogwarts. Hoping to get to know all of you."

"Well dats nice." Headmaster O'Carrol said.



Chapter 3

Sasporilla Bucket lay awake, in a strange bed at Droorlily in Ireland. Wondering just what she had gotten herself into this time? These people were aggressive and rude. They had no manners at all and there humor was wild and unseemly. In many ways this was an alien culture to what she knew. Everyone at home was well mannered, polite and passive-aggressive. English humor was more intellectual and dry.

"Hey Sassy." Wendy Murphy whispered loudly. "Are ya awake?"

"Yes." Sasporilla said.

"Am I interuptin' any romantic t'oughts or anythin?" Wendy asked.

"God no!" Sasporilla said. "I'm not a bloody animal."

"I am." Wendy said. "So, always safest to ask."

"Did you want something?" Sasporilla asked.

"Just wanted to say I t'ink ye'll be a good fit." Wendy said. "We'll have a gas together, it's gonna be great crack."

"Droorlily is very different from Hogwarts." Sasporilla said.

"Really?" Wendy asked in her best English accent. "You and your mates don't take the piss?"

"Well ya." Sassy started. "It's just different."

"You'll get used to it Sassy." Wendy said. "We're Irish, we've got no sticks up are arses and our spirits are wild and free. No offence." Wendy laughed.

"None taken." Sassy laughed.

"You won't find to many pretentious prigs in this country." Wendy Murphy said. "We have them, but we usually beat it out of 'em early. The ones we can't save we turn into priests and Guards."

Sassy had to laugh. They certainly did seem unpretentious. Perhaps that kind of honesty was something she needed in her life. Honesty unfiltered with no pretence.

"You remind me in some ways my girl friend Lyra." Sassy said.

"Is she a stumpy little Irish betch with an attitude?" Wendy laughed.

"No she's a tall American lesbian with wild red hair and an attitude." Sassy laughed.

"Oh I didn't realize." Wendy said.

"Realize what?" Sassy asked.

"That you prefer girls." Wendy said.

"I don't." Sassy corrected. "I don't mean Lyra's my girl friend like that, I just mean she's one of my friends who is a girl. I like boys."

"Oh." Wendy said. "I like both. I guess I'm just not dat picky. Well shyte, that is disappointin'. I like to snuggle."

"You are a funny one Wendy Murphy." Sassy laughed.

"Funny, clean on and as mad as a box a frogs." Wendy laughed.

"Goodnight Wendy Murphy." Sasporilla said.

"Good night Sasporilla Bucket." Wendy said. "Yer sure yer not inta girls? I'm open to a snuggle if ya..."

"No Wendy I most definitely like boys." Sassy laughed. "Goodnight!"

"All right," Wendy sighed. "Ye don' what yer missin'."

"I know exactly what it is and I won't be missing it all!" Sasporilla laughed.

Both girls drifted off to sleep.



Chapter 4

Classes didn't officially begin until after the Christmas break. This gave Sassy a few days to settle in and get used to Droorlily. She spent most of her time with her room mate Wendy Murphy, who showed her around the grounds. The center building and the lower floor of the East and West wings were class rooms and school areas where the second floors of the wings were dorm rooms. East wing was for the girls and west wing for the boys. It was by and far a lot smaller than Hogwarts but it's limited enrollment meant smaller class sizes and more personal attention.

"Why are there so few students here?" Sasporilla asked.

"Basic mathematics I'm afraid." Wendy said. "Less than four million people in the country and Wizards and witches only account for a fraction of a percent of that and of those, the fraction gets smaller for those of school age."

"Yes when you put it that way." Sasporilla said.

"Not to mention up to a few years ago Ireland was a very poor country. Damn near t'ird world." Wendy said. "You couldn't find a job if you wanted one!"

"I need to ask you," Sasporilla started, "why do people instantly cringe when they hear I'm English?"

"I imagine they don't teach you the parts of your history you should be embarrassed and out raged by." Wendy sighed. "My mum was ten when the English army invaded Ireland in 1699. They lived in Baile Draíochta, a magic community near Crossmaglen. The army was accompanied by da Ministry of Magic, broke down doors of every house in the village and slapped iron bracelets on our people. Do you know what dose did?"

Sasporilla slid off the silver bracelet she wore on her wrist and showed Wendy the brand on her wrist.

"Jaysus!" Wendy said. "Dey did to you too?"

"A death eater having fun, a couple of years ago, sent them to the schools. I was forced to wear it because I am an elf blood. The ministry said they had no idea where the bracelets came from." Sasporilla said ashamed and a little angry.

"Dey got dem from dare stock room." Wendy said. "After dey knee capped us with da bracelets dey put our men into camps wit' da Catholic muggle men and through the women and children over the border into de night to fend for demselves with nothin' to dare names. Da English took it all and left us with nothin'. Most of our men died as prisoners of war in the northern camps."

"That's atrocious!" Sasporilla said outraged. "What right does anyone have to do that to any other human being!" "It was steeped in politics and religious hate but just increased the divide between da Irish people." Wendy said. "My ma and granny found jobs and raised dare kids in da south, without men in dare lives. Well at least wit'out new husbands."

"I am so sorry." Sasporilla said.

"Why?" Wendy asked.

"Because my countrymen committed such horrors on your family." Sasporilla said. "I don't blame your people for fighting back with bombs and such. I would have too!"

"Well you're a surprise Sasporilla Bucket." Wendy smiled. "Most English just change da subject or give excuses for da invasion."

"There is no EXCUSE for destroying peoples lives!" Sasporilla said firmly.

"Unfortunately da violence and hatred is still very much alive here." Wendy said sadly. "I had a cousin who was in de army on the Northern border. He made the mistake of comin' south one night and they found him with his t'roat slit."

"My god!" Sasporilla gasped. "How long ago was that?"

"Christmas eve." Wendy said.

"Barbaric." Sasporilla shook her head.

"Well it's an antiquated holiday but I wouldn't call Christmas barbaric." Wendy laughed.

"You are encourageable Wendy Murphy." Sasporilla laughed.

At lunch the final sixth year student and only one who's family could afford to bring them home for Christmas, returned to Droorlily. The tall red haired young man with jade green eyes came and sat at the sixth year table.

"Michael!" Jimmy smiled. "When did you get back?"

"Before breakfast this mornin'." Michael said. "I'd been on a tare with the boys in Dublin and just made my train. Needed a lay down after all dat. Just woke up."

"Have a good holiday?" Jimmy asked.

"Ya it was grand." Michael said. "Who's the girl with da pink hair sittin' in Lilys spot?"

"I'm Sasporilla Bucket." Sassy smiled. "I'm the exchange student from Hogwarts."

"Uckkk fekin' English." Michael said.

"Yes I'm English." Sasporilla stiffened. "But had I been in the North in sixty nine I've had fought against the forces that stole your peoples homes."

"You say dat." Michael sneered. "But ya don't know shyte about our peoples struggle an pain."

"No I don't know anything about being the blind end of someone's judgement based on where I come from." Sasporilla said sarcastically standing angrily taking off her bracelet and holding up her branded wrist. "I don't know anything about being forced to wear the iron bracelet and being branded for being an elf blood. Most importantly I don't know what it's like for people to look at me and think they know what I am all about because of my sex, my hair colour or my father was the town drunk! So before you judge perhaps you should get to know me first."

"Michael Kelly." The boy said smiling hold out his hand to Sasporilla.

Sassy stood there dumfounded for a second then shook his hand. "As I said, Sasporilla Bucket."

"You've got fire Sasporilla Bucket." Michael Kelly said. "I respect dat more than the usual false polite English ways."

"Dat's why she's my friend." Wendy smiled throwing her arm around Sassy giving her a noogie.

"So if I drew my wand and blasted you to the back of the hall?" Sasporilla asked Michael rhetorically.

"You want ta go out with me some time?" Michael smiled.

Sasporilla blushed not able to grasp how they got from blind hatred and sarcasm to bring asked out.

"Jaysus get a room you two." Wendy laughed.

"What planet am I on?" Sasporilla asked.

"Darlin'," Michael smiled, "dis's flirtin in Ireland."



Chapter 5

Professor O'Dowd taught druidic studies. He was tall younger funny looking man with wild dark Irish curls. His hair reminded Sassy of Melvins. The class was small with just the eight of the sixth years in attendance. They met outside at a snowy spruce tree that stood in the back of the school grounds.

"Good morning ladies and gentlemen." Professor O'Dowd smiled. "How did your bows fair over the Holidays?"

"Fine." Everyone said.

"Miss Bucket?" The professor asked.

Sassy dropped the hood of her cloak to reveal herself and her shocking pink hair.

"Here Professor." Sassy smiled.

"You won't have a bow to have taken care of over the holidays. Do you know why we do so?" Professor O'Dowd asked.

"It's a sympathetic magic ritual intended to bring upon an early spring and bountiful year." Sasporilla said having read the books on druidic studies and their interactions with trees.

"You may take one now from the spruce to attempt to keep alive until spring." Professor O'Dowd said.

Sasporilla stepped forward and stretched out her senses to the tree. She felt it in nature and connected to it.

"Excuse me Mr.Spruce tree." Sasporilla said. "Is there a bough of yours that I can take that would help you in any way?"

"Help me?" The tree asked. "Not unless you can take the one that is growing across my inner branches causing me pain! That one I will give you with my thanks."

Sasporilla stuck her head deep into the branched of the spruce tree. She looked around until she found it.

"This one?" Sassy asked.

"Yes." The tree said. "It causes me much discomfort."

Sasporilla drew her wand and cast a numbing spell on the base of the bough. Then with a fast slash she cast a cutting spell and pulled the bough free of where it grew, rubbing against the trees inner branches, wearing off bark and cutting into the wood.

"There." Sasporilla smiled. "I thank you for your gift."

"Thank you for asking me." The tree said pleased.

"What in the fek was all that gruntin' and groanin'." Professor O'Dowd asked.

"I was asking the tree which branch I could take that could help it grow better." Sassy said holding up the bough.

"Well." The professor said. "Yer tellin me ya can talk t' plants?"

"Yes Professor." Sasporilla said. "And animals. I also have command of the four elements."

"Fer fek sakes if you can already do all of dat, what are ya doin' in dis class." Professor O'Dowd asked.

"I'm here because, even though I can do everything, I'm smart enough to know I don't know everything." Sasporilla said humbly. "I'm hoping to learn the things I don't know, which I assume is a lot that you do Professor."

"A very well said wise answer Miss Bucket." Professor O'Dowd smiled. "Five points to Gryffindor!"

"I'm actually a Hufflepuff sir." Sassy smiled.

"Really!" Professor O'Dowd smiled from ear to ear. "So was I! Is Sprout still house head?"

"Yes Professor." Sasporilla smiled.

"Just between you me and da tree," Professor O'Dowd said, "I always fancied her. I like dem short an stout like her ya see."

"That's a bit to much information Professor." Sasporilla laughed.

"Right, right." Professor O'Dowd laughed. "Now let's head indoors and we'll go over a bit from da books."

There was nothing they covered that first day Sasporilla didn't know about the natural world. She wasn't sure she agreed with some of the rituals that still just took from nature without properly asking first but Professor O'Dowd assured her these ancient rituals represented a covenant between man and nature that was thousands of years old. Lunch consisted of fish sticks and chips. The food at Droorlily was no where near as good or as abundant as it was in the Hogwarts great hall. When Wendy showed her around she got a glimpse of the kitchens. There were no more than half a dozen house elves in all. There were less than that in the laundry's. They were all terribly over worked. Sasporilla was determined to get to know them in her stay.

Biorythmatics was fascinating but it was indeed math, and Sasporilla was an average student when it came to math. At least until she finally got it, then she knew it and would never forget. However she always felt a bit behind everyone else when it came to comprehending equations and resultants and other math related words she was sure they were making up just to confuse her.

Professor Callaghan was a tall thin English woman with a long thin hooked nose, dark hair tied back so tight she could barely blink, and a face so sour it made lemons pucker. She taught Biorythmatics with strict repetition and harsh punishments for failure. Incorrect Miss Bucket. Professor Callaghan said touching her wand to Sassy's hand and giving her a sharp shock.

"Ouch!" Sasporilla protested. "It's no wonder everyone here hates the English!"

"You're English?" Professor Callaghan asked.

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "I'm from Essex."

"Give me your hand and I'll take the sting away." The professor said. "I thought you one of these animals."

Sasporilla looked at the woman in disbelief. "No." Sassy said defiantly. "Don't treat me any differently from these other human beings. I'd rather be thought of as an animal and counted amongst them than be seen as a monster and counted with the likes of you!"

The glow from the professor's wand was clearly a whip spell. As she lifted her wand a blue magical whip uncurled from the tip and down the woman's back. She brought it forward to slash Sasporilla in the face but Sassy snapped her fingers covering her left hand in green light and caught the whip in her palm. She wrapped the whip around her palm and pulled the wand from the startled professor's hand.

Sassy stood and grasped the teacher's wand in both hands.

"You're a horrid witch." Sasporilla said. "I don't know why you are like you are but if you harm another student, as you have me EVER, I will snap your wand and come for you. To wherever you are, from wherever I am!"

The class kept their heads down with the exception of Murphy who smiled from ear to ear. Sasporilla handed the wand back to the witch and took her seat.

"Who do you think you are young lady?" Professor Callaghan asked.

"I'm Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket." Sassy said sternly. "And I hate bullies."

Sasporilla had shocked the woman to her core. In many ways Sassy was just amazed she hadn't gotten detention. The class continued as professor Callaghan went over the maths again.

$T = \# \text{ of days since birth}$

Physical = $\sin(2\pi T)/23$

Emotional = $\sin(2\pi T)/28$

Intellectual = $\sin(2\pi T)/33$

"This is the sum total of all Biorythmatics is!" Professor Callaghan said. "There is only interpretation of the waves and how they effect you after! Get these equations through your thick skulls. Now do them again for Birth date August 1st, 1899."

Dinner was corned beef and cabbage. Sasporilla was very polite and ate what was placed before her, but she absolutely detested cabbage! When everyone else had finished supper and headed to the dorms, Sasporilla stayed back waiting for a house elf.

"Excuse me miss." A house elf asked appearing beside Sasporilla. "I hate to bother you but I need to clean up if you don't mind. It's weaving class night you see."

"Weaving class?" Sasporilla smiled curiously.

"Oh yes!" The house elf smiled snapping his fingers and gathering the dirty dishes and cups to one table. "Weaving is a secret elf skill! I probably shouldn't have told you that."

"Do you think I could come to the class?" Sasporilla asked.

"Oh no!" The house elf said. "You're a witch! We have different kinds of magic!"

"Do we?" Sasporilla said snapping her fingers and transported her and the elf & placed the dishes into the kitchen, by the sink.

The elf shook head and rubbed his eyes. "You snapped us here?"

"I did indeed!" Sassy smiled snapping her fingers, turning on the water and levitating the dishes one by one to be cleaned by an enchanted rag and dried by a large cloth.

"But that's not possible!" The house elf said in disbelief.

"It is if your a witch who's great grandfather was a descendant of the Stilskin blood line." Sassy smiled warmly.

"You're an elf?" The house elf asked wide eyed.

"Part elf yes." Sassy said. "My name is Sasporilla Bucket, my grand aunt was Daisy."

"Princess!" The house elf bowed. "I am Gooblik, just a humble house elf."

"Hi Gooblik it is so nice to meet you." Sasporilla said holding out her hand.

"You would shake my hand?" Gooblick said with a trembling smile.

"I believe no one is lesser or greater than anyone else." Sasporilla said. "Some think me their better and many think me their lesser. I don't believe in thinking that way. We should all be considered equal and judged on our hearts and our actions."

"Gooblik will take you to the weaving class!" The house elf smiled.

The class was in a sub basement that was little more than a natural cave used as a cold cellar. There was a magical ball of light hanging in the center of the room and chairs set up in circles pointed to a teacher who stood in the center.

"Gooblik! You're late!" The elf weaving teacher snapped. "And you've brought a WITCH with you!"

"Forgive me Harminster sir." Gooblik apologized, "but I had duties to attend to."

"And the witch?" Harminster growled.

"I'm Sasporilla Bucket." Sassy smiled holding out her hand.

"Witches and Wizards aren't welcome here!" Harminster screamed. "This is our space and ours alone."

"I'm sorry but..." Sasporilla said.

"I order you to leave Witch!" The elf yelled. "Your kind and ours do not mingle."

"Thank goodness my great grand mother a witch and great grand father a house elf, hadn't felt the hate you do. I would never have been born."

"She is of the Stilskin line." Gooblik protested. "And she has the gift!"

The colour drained from Harmiesters face

Sasporilla turned to leave.

"Wait!" Harminster said, "If you really are of royal blood then you should be able to prove to us all that you have the ability to weave."

Sasporilla turned and plucked at the air. She wove a crude plate like structure that hung there unable to fall as it was still attached to the fabric of magic. Harminster jumped down from his raised platform and came over to inspect it skeptically. He waved his finger through the magical strands that held it in place and the plate dropped into his hands. He looked it over, spun it around and looked at the back of it.

"Crude," Harminster said, "but woven from the fabric of magic as only a person of elven blood could do it. Please sit and join us if you truly wish to learn.

"Thank you sir." Sasporilla said shocking the older house elf. "I would very much like to learn from you. There is so much I feel you can teach me."

A witch that not only treated him with respect but was humble enough to admit they didn't know everything. Harminster had never met any human witch or wizard like this before. In many ways his heart melted, though he would never dare show it.

"Good." Harminster began. "What was wrong with her weave?"

"It was crude." One elf said.

"Yes it was but that is because she is new." Harminster said. "What is fundamentally wrong with it though?"

"It was not detached from the fabric of magic when completed?" Gooblik answered tentatively.

"Yes Gooblik!" Harminster said.

"Are you completely untrained in the basics girl?"

"I know how to join threads in the magical fabric and separate the light and dark strands but really that's all." Sasporilla answered honestly.

"Well then I see you have a lot to learn." Harminster said. "The next week will be for independent projects, while I school our new pupil in the basic ways of weaving."

Chapter 6

Letters from home arrived only once a week at Droorlily. They arrived Wednesdays by lunch. A large post man, who reminded Sasporilla very much of Hagrid, brought a full bag of letters and parcels from home. Owls delivered to a central postal station in Galway and the post was held for the special once a week delivery. Sasporilla was so excited to get letters from friends, and family and a post card from Karry!

Dear Sasporilla;

Zac and I went to Tahiti to start our Honeymoon. The beaches were so peaceful and beautiful. By the time you get this we'll have moved on to Hawaii. Hope you're enjoying Droorlily.

With love

Karry and Zac Curtiss

Sasporilla was happy Karry had written but she was surprised Karry had found the time. Honeymoons were for romance and site seeing. The next letter was from Melvin Lazarus.

My Dear Sasporilla;

It's Melvin Lazarus. I honestly have not stopped thinking about you since the night we kissed. I know that I shocked you when I told you I love you. Maybe I really jumped the gun by saying it. Especially since you're a bit older than me. I do love you though. Truly love you with all my heart and soul. So much so that I wrote you a poem.

Sasporilla is sweet and bubbly

Like the soda pop she's named for

Her lavender eyes are beauty doubly

Like you've never seen before

Her hair is as pink as my grand mothers mink

And her face is beauty incarnate

Her smile is the link that will make you think

And I love her all to darn it!

I'm sorry it's not very good, but I'm not very much of a poet. Oh! I got a guitar for Christmas from my grand mother and I'm learning to play so we can jelly some time! Or is it jam? I know it's not Marmalade! Any way I'll not keep you my darling. I just wanted you to know that I do love you and I'm always thinking of you. I fight for strength every second of my life to continue on without you. Wow that was good! Maybe I'll try and make that a song.

With all my love

Melvin

Sassy laughed at the sweetness of Melvins awkwardness. Love was a such a strong emotion. Korry had thought he loved her but walked away when he discovered he loved Maddy more. Perhaps what they felt was just infatuation. Saying that made it easier to let Korry go, no matter how she still felt about him, or how confused she was feeling strongly for Melvin.

"Hey it's da t'rilla Sasporilla!" Murphy said sitting in beside her. "Our afternoon druids class is canceled. Professor O'Dowd lost an argument wit' a willow tree. We're talkin' 'bout headin' in ta da Old Rún Market."

"What's that?" Sasporilla asked.

"It's da big wizard market in Galway." Murphy laughed. "Like yer digalong valley."

"Diagon Alley!" Sasporilla laughed.

"What ever!" Murphy said. "Are ya in?"

"Sure." Sasporilla smiled. "Why not."

Since the only ones with their own brooms were Sasporilla and Michael and like Hogwarts, the fire places were off the flew network for security reasons, they decided to aparate there and back. As Sasporilla was the only one who had never been there Murphy had agreed to take her. All eight of the sixth years walked out through lonely gatehouse and stood on the island facing Galway.

"Alright see you there." Michael smiled as he disappeared from view.
One after another popped out of sight.
"Ok Sassy hold on tight." Murphy said as Sassy did just as she was told.
"Don't want to get splinched." Sasporilla smiled.
"Well yes." Wendy smiled. "But I really just wanted a hug."
The air stretched and snapped as Wendy Murphy aparated to the Old Rùn Market. They appeared in an alley across from a shop that was painted bright orange. The sign read "Galway Woolen Market".
"Is this the Rùn Market?" Sasporilla asked looking up and down the street.
"No this is still part of the muggles shopping area." Murphy smiled taking Sassy by the hand and pulling her across the street. "We need to go inside here."
Inside the shop was a vast selection of knit wear and woolen things. Sassy watched as everyone grabbed a sweater off the wrack and lined up at the dressing rooms.
"Grab a sweater." Murphy said to Sasporilla who grabbed the first one she found. "When it's your turn, just hang it on the hook."
Murphy stepped inside the dressing room and the door clicked closed behind her. Within thirty seconds the door clicked and nudged open. Sasporilla opened it and peeked in. Wendy Murphy was gone! Sasporilla stepped inside and closed the door behind her until the latch clicked. Sassy hung the sweater on the hook, which lowered under its weight. A click came from the back of the dressing room and the mirrored wall swung open to reveal the Rùn Market beyond. Sasporilla stepped through the door way into the Market. The sweater slipped from hook and dropped behind the bench through a slot in the floor, causing the door to close, resetting the passage way for the next witch or wizard to pass.
"There you are!" Murphy said grabbing Sasporilla by the hand and pulling her along behind. "Hope you brought your knuts and sickles! Der's alot a grand shops here!"
The shops were similar to the ones in Diagon Alley. They had a witch/wizard supply shop, a broom shop and a book shop called O'Hennessy's. Murphy pulled Sassy into Periwinkles Magical Ice Creams.
"Good afternoon ladies." A young man in a smock behind the counter smiled as they walked in.
"Ice cream in January?" Sasporilla asked.
"Best fekin ice cream you'll ever have." Wendy said.
Sasporilla looked at the hundreds of different flavors. Besides the standard chocolate, vanilla and Bug Berry, Periwinkles also offered such flavors as Pumpkin Pasty, butter beer and Bertty Bots every flavor beans!
"Every lick you take tastes different!" The young man behind the counter said. "It's my personal favorite!"
"I'm afraid I'm not that fond of Bertty Bots." Sasporilla said. "Ever since I got a vomit flavored one."
"Well flavors do you like darlin'?" The young man asked.
"I'm quite fond of lemon." Sasporilla smiled.
"Alright den I can fix ya a treat that ye'll not soon forget if ye'll trust me?"
"And if I don't like it?" Sasporilla asked.
"Then ya can smush it my face and not a penny fer it!" The boy smiled.
"You have a deal." Sassy laughed.
"And what can I get ya Murphy?" The young man asked.
"Jaysus I wondered if ya even saw me over the pretty smile a my friend here." Wendy laughed.
"Oh! Are you two together?" The young man asked.
"Yes." Sasporilla smiled a tad confused. "We came in together."
"No he's asking if we're a couple." Wendy laughed.
"Oh!" Sasporilla blushed. "No! I like boys."
"Good." The young man smiled. "Well Murphy what'll ya have?"
"Hot chocolate and brownie sundae." Murphy smiled. "Extra hot, wit' whipped cream and nuts."
The young man made Murphys first. It was made in a beaker the size of a bowl and contained ice cream that steamed! The young man made Sasporillas next and it contained Yellow, blue and orange scoops of ice cream with whipped cream and three cherries.
With great pride in his frozen confectionery creations the young man placed long spoons in both and handed them to the young ladies who stood across the counter.

Sasporilla took a small spoonful with a bit of each colour on it as well as some whipped cream on the end. The first taste to flood her pallet was lemon, followed by orange then into something she couldn't identify. It was tart and sweet like the other two but not a citrus it was?????

"Blue Raspberry." The young man smiled.

"This is absolutely bloody delightful!" Sassy laughed. "So tart, and sweet and creamy. It's the perfect combination!"

"What a shame!" Wendy said. "I wanted to see her shmush it yer face Warren."

"I'm sure ya did Wendy!" The young man said. "By da way, I'm Warren Kelly. Michael is me cousin!"

"Pleased to meet you Warren." Sassy said putting her spoon down in the bowl and holding out her hand in friendship. "I'm Sasporilla Bucket."

Warren took Sassy's hand and kissed the top of it.

"How Gallant!" Sasporilla said.

"He's as gallant as hungry werewolf." Wendy warned. "His intentions are far less dan honorable."

"Thanks for the warning." Sasporilla laughed.

"Allroit yer in fer t'ree knuts and two sickles each." Warren smiled.

"A deal at twice the price Sasporilla said putting her change up on the counter along with Wendys. "Thanks for the taste treat."

The other shops in the market had some interesting things. The robes with Celtic knot work in them reminded him of her cloak. Perhaps this is where it had come from.

"I think my Cloak might have come from this shop." Sasporilla said.

"I can see dat." Murphy smiled. "They supply many wizarding shops with celtic wear."

"Next time we come back I'll bring more money." Sasporilla said. "Maybe I'll pick up some clothes."

"Clothes shopping woohoo!" Wendy laughed.

"Do you have anything from this shop?" Sassy asked.

"Jaysus no." Wendy said. "Most a my clothes are muggle clothes. My family are workin' people. We can't afford stuff like dis. Most Irish people struggle to make do and get by. We're not the richest country Sassy."

"I grew up living in a room above a pub." Sasporilla said. "My bed was in an old book case nook in a wall. I couldn't even stretch out after a while."

"Wow!" Wendy frowned. "I shared a bed with my t'ree sisters, but at least it was a full bed. Dough our cribs were...."

"Beauraux drawers?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yes!" Wendy laughed. "How did you know?"

"Mine was too." Sasporilla smiled.

"Proud to be the poor girls!" Wendy said taking Sassy's arm as she walked on.

Morovers Wands was not one of the premier wand shops in the UK but Sasporilla wanted to see it. The door creaked open revealing the over crowded dark musty shop inside. A young woman stood from behind the counter.

"A customer!" The young woman smiled surprised. "Welcome to Morovers, how can I help you."

"I'm just looking." Sasporilla said. "I'm interested in wands and wand making so I love to visit wand shops."

"Well we carry many wands from wand makers all over the world, plus of course, a fine selection of wands made by our own master wand maker, Finigan Morover. My father."

"Cool." Sassy said looking over the wands in the display case. They had a much mote natural look. Some still had the bark still on them! "What kind of cores dose your father use?"

"We use the traditional cores, like crystals and metal filaments as well as the modern cores taken from magical creatures." The woman smiled.

"Nice." Sasporilla smiled. "I did a couple of summers apprenticing with Garrik Olivander before he closed up shop."

"We just got a shipment from Olivanders." The young woman said. "All the shops are buying up his stock. The shop is probably never going to reopen."

"I know." Sassy said. "It's very sad. I really liked him."

"Would you like to meet my father?" The woman asked.

"I would." Sasporilla smiled.

"Da!" The woman shouted in to the back. "Da, there's a young lady studying wand makin' up here."

"So." A voice said from the back.

"So she'd like ta meet the esteemed Finigen Morover, ya nasty ol' bastard." The young woman laughed. An older man walked out from the back knocking over a pile of wands along the way.

"All right here I am." Finigen Morover said. "What do ya want?"

"She just wanted to meet you, ya ol' feker. Be gracious and say hello." The woman smiled.

"Hello." Finigen said.

"Hi sir," Sassy smiled holding out her hand, "I'm Sasporilla Bucket. I am studying to be a wand maker."

"Are ya?" Finigen asked. "Why?"

"I love wands." Sasporilla said. "They've always fascinated me. Even if I don't really need one anymore."

"A witch that don't need a wand?" Finigen asked.

"I'm part elf so..." Sasporilla snapped her fingers and straightened the pile of wands that had fallen to floor. "... I can do some magic just by snapping my fingers."

"Well I should just shut the fekin shop when witches don't need wands anymore."

"Most do, Da," the young woman said, "so don't be such a fekin drama queen. She said she was part elf fer fek sakes."

"How did ya get ta be 'part' elf?" Morover asked.

"A forbidden love in my family tree, a long, long time ago." Sasporilla said proudly.

"Well dat I understand." Finigen Morover said. "Her ma is from Belfast and a Protestant."

"Yes I'm aware of the stigma that would hold here and why." Sasporilla said. "I face a lot of hassle for being English and though I know I've done nothing personally, I understand why."

"Yer a smart girl Sasporilla Bucket." Morover smiled. "Yer studyin at Droorlily?"

"I'm an exchange student for the semester." Sasporilla said. "I study at Hogwarts and plan to do my university in Avalon if I can get accepted."

"Big goals." Finigen Morover said. "An' expensive ones at that. You'll have a tough time makin' yer money back from that tuition sellin and repairin wands!"

"I'd rather be a poor wand maker than a rich miserable ministry of magic employee." Sasporilla smiled.

"I'd rather be a rich wand maker like Olivander." The young woman laughed.

"Na," Wendy Murphy said, "yer gonna be the greatest rock star of all time Millicent Morover!"

"Are ya tryin ta woo me Wendy Murphy?" Millicent Morover asked.

"Is it workin'?" Wendy asked.

"It just might be." Millicent smiled.

"Well den," Wendy smiled. "What ya doin after work?"

"If I'm lucky I'll be dancin an' havin' some fun!" Millicent said.

"When do ya get off?" Wendy asked.

"Let me grab my purse." Millicent said.

"Who'll run the shop?" Finigen protested.

"You'll have ta Da!" Millicent laughed. "Considering we haven't had a person since before school started I don't tink yer gonna have a problem."

"I'd be happy to help in the shop while you two go have some fun." Sasporilla said.

"Yer kidden aint ya?" Millicent asked.

"No I quite love wand shops." Sasporilla smiled. "Not to mention I'd just be an awkward third wheel while you two do your thing and your father can always use a hand."

"See dare!" Finigen Morover said. "Dis must be my real daughter! Stolen from da hospital and replaced wit da likes you, ya feckless tankless little feker. Go on you piss off an' let da real wand people do da work!"

"Fine." Millicent smiled. "Have fun doing nothing in this musty ol' shop."

Millicent had been right. There was no business and nothing to do. Mr. Finigen fell asleep in the back listening to the wireless. It was close to eight by the time Millicent and Murphy returned to the shop.

"Have fun?" Sasporilla asked.

"Had a blast." Wendy Murphy smiled. "You?"

"It was rather boring but I dusted and polished the wands in the case." Sasporilla said. "I noticed on your price list you have no pricing for wand polishing and maintenance?"

"Na we don't offer dat service." Millicent said.

"Why not?" Sasporilla asked.

"It's a frill people don't have the money fer." Millicent Moreover frowned.

"If people knew they could keep a wand for their whole lives, without replacement, by getting regular maintenance they just may budget for it."

"It's a good suggestion." Millicent smiled. "I'll run it past my da in the mornin'."

Millicent kissed Wendy good night and locked the door behind Sassy and Murphy as they left.

"I figured ya may be hungry." Murphy said handing Sasporilla something wrapped in paper and foil.

"I'm starved thanks!" Sasporilla said opening it. It was a polish sausage on a bun. "I know yer into sausages."

"Wendy Murphy!" Sasporilla gasped. "Yer a feckless fecker."



Chapter 7

It was quarter after nine when everyone met up and aparated back to the lonely gate house. An older man sat on the bank of the river doing some night fishing smoking his pipe when he heard the pop of the eight of them aparating in. He turned and saw the kids in their long green robes shuffle off and disappear into thin air.

The old man blinked and dropped his fishing pole on the bank. He wandered over to the spot where they disappeared. There was nothing there. He started to wonder if he'd had one to many Guinness this evening. Then as he reached his hand forward, it vanished before his eyes. He pulled his arm back suddenly and looked at his hand. It was whole and undamaged. He closed his eyes and stepped forward. He took one step and then another. Then he bumped into a wall. The old man opened his eyes and saw himself standing in front of an old gate house. He had never seen this building before! He walked around the building. It had windows but no door in. He peeked in the windows to the dark interior. There was no sign of movement inside. The old man walked back around the front of the gate house. He felt a bit of a warm breeze coming from inside the gate way arch. He stepped through into the Droorlily court yard and saw the well lit old stone building which housed Irelands school for magic.

An alarm sounded and the old man turn and ran. Spells flew past the old man as he ran. He forgot all about his fishing pole and tackle. The old man just ran into the darkness until he fell into the river. Wizards and witches ran to the edge of the river, wands lit searching the night for the old muggle man who stared up at them from just below the freezing waters surface.

The old man could see the people in their robes, some with floppy pointed hats. The legends were true! Jordan's island was a place where witches and warlocks lived.

The old man waited for them to leave before he swam away back across the river Corrib.

It was about ten pm the old man wandered into McReadies Pub half frozen and off his head. They sat him down in front of the fire and wrapped him in a blanket. They fixed him piping hot coffee and tried to calm the old man down as he rambled on about a secret gateway, witches and warlocks.

"I'm not drunk!" The old man protested. "I'm tellin ya I saw dem wit my own eyes. They chased me across Jordan's island and tried to kill me. Day'd have done it to if i hadn't slipped into da water of da Corrib."

"Come on ol' timer." The barman said. "Get another coffee in ya. It'll help warm ya if nothin' else."

"You mark my words and heed my warnin' the lot of ya!" The old man yelled. "It always starts like this. Someone sees 'em, den day ferget and den people start dyin'!"

The entire sixth year class was called to the headmasters office first thing in the morning.

"One rule!" The head master said. "You have one rule to follow when you go to town! Don't be fekin' seen!"

"But headmas..." Michael Kelly started.

"Zip it ya gobshyte!" The headmaster yelled. "You were seen by a muggle and followed by him t'rough da invisibility spells right into da Droorlily court yard! I should expel ya all!"

"Sir I believe I was the last one through the gateway." Sasporilla said stiffly. "There fore it would be my fault, and my responsibility."

"Fine den," the headmaster said, "Ya want me to expel ya den?"

"No sir I don't." Sasporilla said trying not to show the Headmasters anger had got her back up. "But I don't understand how he got away without an obliviate spell?"

"Are ya suggestin' the teachin' staff couldn't even hunt down a muggle ta fix this?" The headmaster slammed his fist on his desk. "Are ya sayin' we Irish are incompetent Miss Bucket from England?"

"Stop putting words in my mouth!" Sasporilla blew. "If I meant to say you were incompetent you silly little man I would have done so! What I am saying is that this is easily fixed and don't understand why it hasn't been fixed!" Headmaster O'Carrol got a broad smile on his face. "Ah it's good ta see a bit a the Irish fire in girl. Fact is my incompetent staff lost him in da dark and he made it back ta town."

"Specifically into my pub." The bar man said stepping from the shadows in back. "I gave him a memory draft and most think he was drunk, but the old Whispers that surround this place because of the atrocities of Dark Wizard O'Doyle, are spreading in town again. It may lead to conflict."

"It will." The headmaster said. "It always does."



Chapter 8

Sasporilla Bucket tried to keep her mind on her school work. She was getting better at Biorythmatics and was learning a bit more about types of woods than she had before. By and far her favorite class was the nightly weaving class put on by the house elves.

Sassy had never imagined that there was so much to know about weaving. Different types of knots, ties and joins could be used for different results. She learned the differences of making items or weaving traps and spells effects. Sasporillas primary area of interest was learning to weave a simple crystal like cylinder with a strand of magic that ran through its center. She had wondered if it would be possible to always leave it connected to the fabric of magic.

"That would be impossible girl." Harminster said. "To leave connected front and back to the fabric of magic would make it immovable."

"Darn it." Sasporilla said disappointed. "I was hoping to use it as part of my wand core design. My idea is to weave a solid cylindrical core with a strand of magic that can be tuned and attuned to the witch or wizard but gets more power by staying connected to the magic rather than ripping bits off to use them."

"As I said to leave it connected is impossible." Harminster said. "But you can create a strand that reconnects itself fluidly without fully hard weaving itself back into the fabric."

"How can I do that?" Sassy asked.

"Create what you described to me." Harminster said. "As best you can."

Sasporilla plucked and tied knots as she isolated at thick strand of magic and wove a small cylindrical crystal around it. She separated the crystal from the fabric of magic by outlining it with her finger, but she left it connected at the ends of the strand that ran through its center.

"There." Sasporilla said stepping back.

"Not bad." Harminster said. "But you'll need to improve your crystal for what you have planned. The clearer the better."

Harminster held the object by its strands. He pulled them taught leaving just a touch of slack on either side.

"Cut the strands on the out side of my fingers." Harminster said.

Sasporilla used her finger to cleanly cut the strands.

"Now," Harminster said as he turned the object vertically, "grasp the bottom strand in your fingers."

Sasporilla did as she was asked watching intently as Harminster grabbed the strand close to the cylinder between his left fingers while he split the end of the strand in thirds with his right fingers. He twirled his hand spinning the split ends into a braid with three ends loose at the end. He then flipped it around and did the same on the other end.

Harminster held the crystal cylinder in his palm as Sasporilla watched the frayed ends touch and join with the fabric of magic. Sasporilla reached out and took her creation. As she picked it up from Harmiesters palm she watched the ends disconnect from strands of magic and reconnect with others the ends passed over.

"This is bloody brilliant Harminster!" Sasporilla gasped. "This is a wonderful solution."

"It's how woven magical items, like your Hogwarts sorting hat, maintain its link to magical energy." Harminster smiled. "You would have seen it eventually, I'm sure princess."

"Please Harminster." Sasporilla said. "Don't call me Princess. I am no princess."

"Oh but you most certainly are!" Harminster said taking the witches hand and snapping his fingers. They reappeared in a huge library filled with books old books and scrolls. "This is the elven repository of knowledge. A library of all things about or by elves."

Sasporilla marveled at amount of books that were here. So many things that elves had written and recorded that had probably never been shared with witches and wizards. Harminster turned around and pointed at the wall.

"There is your proof." Harminster said.

On the wall hung a tapestry of the Stilskin family line. It stood as a hundred feet high and covered the entire length of the room. "In the beginning was King Filknet Stilskin and his Queen Jumatti." Harminster said. "They ruled with kindness and benevolence. They taught magic to those humans who were worthy and created the first witches and wizards."

"That's hugely important history!" Sasporilla Bucket said. "Why isn't that the opening chapter of the history of Magic text book?"

"Think princess," Harminster said with a touch of anger, "can you see a wizard admit to having been taught it all by a lowly elf?"

"No." Sasporilla said ashamed of her people. "I promise you, I will some time , some how, I will see to it that this history is told!"

"I believe you princess." Harminster said. "If you follow your family tree you can see how it leads proudly until the five brothers. Of the five princes was one named Rumpel Stilskin. He was an evil elf. A dark weaver who sought only to enslave humans. He killed three of his brothers in his quest to seize the throne before he was stopped. His brother Bibildy Stilskin was named King and banished Rumpel Stilskin and his bloodlines from the royal house. The royal family apologized to humanity by promising elves would serve them loyally for a millenium. Over the next few hundred years the elves became comfortable as house elves and began forgetting their noble history. Though there is a long time left to go on this contract, those of us loyal to the royal house continue to quietly educate elves in the elf ways and skills so that we may rebuild after the time of servitude is over."

"But the way you're treated!" Sasporilla protested. "Damn the contract! You should be free!"

"No." Harminster said snapping his fingers and bringing out a simple scroll. "This is the entire binding pledge." Sasporilla unrolled the contract which read simply 'We the elves of the royal house of Stilskin condemn the actions of our blood and pledge our people to serve Witches, Wizards and deserving humans for a period of exactly one thousand years.'

"Of course Rumpel Stilskins blood line refused to capitulate and his children began taking slaves again to weave." Harminster frowned.

"Crinklesunpin and Crumplegoldjin?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yes!" Harminster said. "And you organized their rescue of their slaves while fighting to free the centaurs. Now follow your lines from down to your Great Grand father Skiffle who was the secret love of your witch Great Grand Mother Felicity (Olivander) Bucket. Of the off spring of the Bilby Stilskin - Bucket line only two of you remain. Your Uncle Homunculus and yourself. He has no elven traits or magical ties where you do. As it stands, though he is officially King, he doesn't know it. He is not a good wizard but he isn't a dark wizard either. When he passes you will be Queen."

"What about his children?" Sasporilla asked.

"He is not married and incapable of having children." Harminster said.

Sasporilla watched as the tapestry knitted the image of her face into the weave of cloth.



Chapter 9

Sasporilla Bucket had sent out her valentines mail last week to make sure it got to Hogwarts in time. It was lunch time when the mail man arrived. He had a bag full of red envelopes for the students and professors of Droorlily, as well as the regular mail. Strapped to his back was a giant six foot red velvet heart with fresh red roses adorning the lid.

Sasporilla thought the giant box of chocolates was funny and could only imagine how embarrassed, the person who received it, would be. The mail man put the bag down on the table where it would be handed out.

"Sasporilla Bucket!" The mail man called.

"Oh no." Sassy whispered slowly raising her hand. "Here sir."

The mailman unstrapped the giant box of chocolates from his back and carried it over to the pink haired witch.

"Special delivery from yer love Melvin!" The mailman smiled putting the box on the whole table.

Everyone looked at Sassy as she reached for the card blushing. Inside the card read.

"My dearest Sasporilla. I miss you. I love you and I hope we'll be together again soon. Happy Valentines my love. With All of My Love Melvin"

"Yer lover boy sent ya some candy?" Murphy asked sarcastically.

"Ya he t'inks she needs fatten' up." Michael laughed.

"Oh jaysus yes." Whinny Dingle laughed. "No one loves a skeleton. Ya need a bit o' paddin' girl."

"I have more than enough padding." Sasporilla protested looking behind her. "Thank you very much! Maybe a bit to much in some spots."

"Na." Wendy smiled. "Yer arse is perfect."

"Thank you!" Sasporilla said. "I will take your professional opinion as a compliment."

Sassy pulled the bow and the ribbon split apart. The heart grew skyward. A tower made from a series of ever smaller hearts containing singing chocolate frogs almost reached the ceiling. As the chocolate frogs sang chocolate waterfalls flowed down from the heart on top. The beautiful display was an amazing site.

"Jaysus your young man must be worth a bit." Jimmy Donnoly said. "Dis must've cost him dearly."

"I don't know what he was thinking spending this much on me?" Sasporilla said.

Sasporilla got up and walked to the head table.

"Headmaster." Sasporilla said.

"Yes?" Heatmaster O'Carrol asked looking at the huge chocolate display.

"Do you think it would be ok to share this with everyone sir?" Sasporilla asked. "I could never in my lifetime eat all of it! I just want to make sure doing do doesn't break any rules I don't know of."

"A most gracious act." Professor O'Carrol smiled. "Feel free ta do so love."

"Thank you Headmaster." Sasporilla said. "Would you care to let every one know? Teachers, staff and elves included."

"Of course." Professor O'Carrol smiled and stood . "All right ya gobshytes shut yer holes fer a minute! Miss Bucket has invited all of us, students, teachers, staff and elves to help yer selves to some of her valentines candy! Now don't crowd in, be respectful and get the fek out of my way as I'm first!"

Everyone enjoyed a bit of chocolate. Some came back for seconds. The youngest came for thirds and still there was quite a bit left over. She was sure she could've shared this box with everyone at Hogwarts with some left over. It was a most spectacular Valentines day gift.

A father, tired of hearing the stories and rumors of witches and warlocks on the island, left the pub early and staggered home. In the day, he'd have made a romantic night for his dear departed wife Maggie. These days he just had a drink in her memory at the pub and wandered home to his daughter Geraldine. Gerry was nearing thirty and still lived at home. She couldn't bare to leave her father to himself. He wished she'd make a life fer herself but he'd hate to be alone too.

As he walked in the front gate he saw Gerry standing in the garden.

"What are ya doin' out here girl?" Jimmy O'Rourke asked his daughter. She gave no answer. "Didn't ya hear me? What are ya doin' standin' in the damn garden?"

He touched his girls arm, her skin was cold as ice and hard as stone.

"They've fekin' killed her!" The old man screamed in horror, bring people out of their homes from up and down the street. "The witches turned my fekin' girl ta stone!!!"



Chapter 10

Sasporilla Bucket loved to take walks, out behind the school. There was no risk of Muggles seeing her walking amongst the trees here. Droorlily didn't exist in the same universe as the rest of the world. It sat in an alternate universe, the same as the royal city of Avalon. This universe held a world of magic free from muggles.

Sasporilla whistled as she walked amongst the spruce. The smell of nature filled her nostrils as she strolled languidly along. Something moved in a clearing ahead. It was very large and its green colour seemed to shimmer and sparkle in the sunlight.

Sassy pushed forward to where she could see it clearly. It was a very large Emerald Dragon. The creature was sitting on the forest floor digging at it's back paw frantically.

"Are you ok?" Sasporilla asked startling the creature.

It blew a cone of flame at Sasporilla which, though it surprised her, she took control of and spiraled the flames up and away.

"That was very rude!" Sasporilla scolded the dragon.

"Why can I understand you?" The dragon asked.

"Because I have a gift to speak with all sorts of animals and creatures." Sasporilla said. "Do you need help?"

The dragon shifted it's back end and revealed it's back left leg had been caught in a trap.

"I'm stuck." The dragon said. "I've been here three days with nothing to eat."

"How barbaric!" Sasporilla said. "I will free you if you promise not to eat me."

The dragon thought about it for second. He weighed his options and his chances. He'd never met a witch who offered help before, nor had he seen one who could defend against his flames with no wand. She was plump and juicy looking though not fully grown. Though nowhere near a meal she would certainly make a nice snack to help with the hunger pangs, but if he promised not to harm her she would free him, then he would have to live by that promise.

"Agreed." The dragon said.

Sasporilla walked over and looked at the trap. It was most certainly locked and would require more strength to open than she had.

Sassy called on the trees and the vines to wrap around both sides of the trap as she pulled her wand and cast 'Alohamora!' The trap unlocked and with a movement of her hands the vines pulled open the trap releasing the creatures large leg which bled from damage caused by the trap.

"Your hurt!" Sasporilla said lifting her wand. "Let me heal you."

"Why would you freely help a dragon?" The dragon asked. "I eat your kind. Burn your towns. Pillage your gold!"

"I offer help because you need it." Sasporilla said. "I hold no grudge as you've never done anything against me. If you had, perhaps then I would fight you."

"Fight me?" The dragon laughed. "What could one as small as you do to one as large and powerful as me?" The dragon said.

"To underestimate an opponent is foolish." Sasporilla said. "Would you not rather make a friend than an enemy any way?"

"I have no friends." The dragon said.

Sasporilla cast a healing spell which sealed the beasts wounds. "Now you do."

"You are a foolish girl... what is your name?" The dragon asked.

"Sasporilla Bucket." Sassy said.

"I am Xorgon the Emerald one." The dragon said.

"Pleased to meet you." Sassy smiled.

"We are not friends Sasporilla Bucket." The dragon said angrily. "But I do owe you my freedom and my life. I will keep my promise and not harm you and if you need of me for something then call my name. I will wait to repay your kindness."

"Fair enough." Sasporilla said as the dragon flew off.

"My Dragon!" A man yelled as he came charging through the trees. He held, what at first Sasporilla thought was muggle shot gun, but then she saw the double wand ends and realized it was a blast caster. A wizarding weapon designed for hunting, fighting and killing. The man pointed it at the dragon and cast but nothing happened as the weapon turned to rubber in his hands and slumped down. The man turned to see Sasporilla standing poised with her wand pointed.

"I've been huntin' dat dragon fer t'ree weeks now!" The man said. "An you just up an let him go?"

"He was hurt." Sasporilla said. "Why were you hunting him?"

"He's worth a fekin' fortune!" The man said. "Alive he's worth a million galleons. Dead his parts are worth ten times that!"

"Greed!" Sasporilla said not lowering her wand. "You'd kill him for greed?"

"Don't be so judgy ya English tart!" The man yelled. "That would do me an' mine fer life! Rather dan scratchin' by every day."

"But is it right killing an innocent creature to do it?" Sassy protested.

"Innocent!?!!" The man yelled. "It's a dragon! No dragon is innocent! They burn, kill an' pillage!"

"Has that one done any of those things that you know of?" Sasporilla asked.

"That's beside the point." The man said. "He's a dragon, he should be hunted and killed."

"Perhaps I should turn you into a dragon!" Sasporilla said. "See how you'd like being hunted for what people think you are."

"Yer just an idealistic child tree huggin' hippie dat t'inks ya know it all." The man said walking away in frustration.

"Well ya know nothin' ya gobshyte."

"I know how to show respect and compassion to those who deserve it." Sasporilla yelled after him.

Sassy was furious as she walked back to the Droorlily. She was met inside by the Headmaster who just happened to be passing by as she walked in.

"I can not believe the nerve of that horrible man!" Sasporilla said slamming the door behind her.

"Show a bit of grace an' decorum miss Bucket." Headmaster O'Carrol said. "What's the fekin' problem?"

"I freed a green dragon from a trap in the woods behind the school." Sasporilla said. "The man who set the trap was a real wanker!"

"Watch yer fekin' language!" The headmaster said. "That MAN was Kelly the poacher I'd bet. Surprised he didn't try and rough ya up."

"I turned his weapon to rubber." Sasporilla said.

"That fekers carryin' a weapon on Droorlily grounds?" O'Carrol yelled.

"Yes sir." Sasporilla confirmed. "A blaster-caster!"

"I'll be have more'n a few words with him this evenin'." The headmaster said waving his wand causing his cloak to appear and drape down over his robes. "T'anks fer lettin' me know."

The headmaster headed out of the school as Sasporilla returned to her dorm.

Guard Gleason was sitting in his patrol car trying to open the sip whole in his coffees plastic lid. Another night of sitting in his squad car deterring criminals from doing anything in the area of his presence. He always found his thick fingers weren't dexterous enough to manipulate the thin plastic lid. He kept thick straws in the glove compartment he could just jam into the cup and sip his coffee with, but tonight he was all out. He grabbed the edge of the lid firmly in his fingers while holding the cup and the other side of the lid firmly with his other hand. A flash of green light from the alley startle the guard as he pulled the lid to hard and spilled the hot coffee in his lap causing him to scream verbal expletives. A person in a cloak and a floppy hat ran out of the alley carrying a wand. The guard stepped out of the car, the burning coffee searing his lap.

"Jaysus dats hot!" The guard said. "Hey you! What are ya doin' dare?"

Having been seen, the cloaked figure cast a spell at the guard who jumped out of the way as green energy burst against the front of his squad car. The guard drew his night stick.

"Bastard shot at me!" Guard Gleason said as peeked around the corner of his bumper to see the cloaked figure was gone.

Composing himself, the officer grabbed his flash light and shone it around the darker areas of the road. The cloaked figure was gone. He headed into the alley to see what the first blast of green had been.

"Probably some little gobshytes with fire works." The Guard sighed.

There, a pile of knocked over boxes and spilled garbage, was the corpse of Old Mr. Murphy who claimed the witches of the Isle were back.



Chapter 11

The muggles were scared, and they were never more dangerous than when they were afraid. The muggles gathered at St. Corbbin's school for an emergency community meeting.

"I'm tellin' ya," Guard Gleason said, "As crazy as it sounds, I saw the witch with me own eyes!"

"Ya saw the killer, no doubt Brendan." The barman said. "Probably just dressed like a witch because they don't exist!"

"Den explain da damn green magic blasts ya know it all bastard!" The guard snapped.

"Let's try and keep t'ings civil people." The mayor insisted.

"Fire works, light effects, flash bulbs, all of dem we've all seen!" The barman reasoned. "Magic isn't real!"

"Den explain da history of da island!" Someone in the crowd yelled out.

"Legends based on stories!" The barman insisted.

"What about O'Rourke's daughter?" Another person yelled out. "She's been turned to stone sure enough. I've seen her with my own eyes!"

"I can't believe we're a large group of rational people such as yer selves are actually debating magic as an answer!"

The barman said trying to defuse the mob. "What century is it we're standin' in? We're not a bunch a uneducated, superstitious rubes are we?"

The crowd seemed to quiet and looked a bit ashamed. "I t'ink someone's playin' us all!" The barman yelled.

"Playin' us fer a bunch a suckers."

People were starting to agree. If he could defuse the the mass hysteria he might be able to keep Droorlily safe, and the wizarding world a secret at best, an urban legend at the worst.

The lights in the school flickered off and on a cloaked figure appeared carrying a wand. A clearly male voice cast "Avada Kedavra!" Arlene O'Sullivan fell to the floor dead in a burst of green energy. People started to scream and run as burst after burst of green death took the lives of muggles. The barman had no choice. He reached into his coat and pulled his wand. The barman cast a petrification spell but the cloaked wizard saw it coming and deflected it into a muggle who turned stiff as stone.

Muggles poured out of the school screaming into the night as the two wizards dueled in the halls. Magical energy flew from the tips of their wands. Energy deflected and bouncing.

"Why'd ya do it?" The barman demanded. "Why?!"

A gun shot echoed through the bowels of the school as a bullet tore through the chest of the barman who dropped to the floor in a spreading puddle of his own blood. With a throaty chuckle the dark wizard pointed his wand at the small man with a pistol who tried to hide in a door way. The dark wizard folded in upon himself and vanished in a pop.

The girls dorm was alive with sound of rock and roll. Sasporilla Bucket on guitar and Wendy Murphy on the drums. They did more than just jam these days. They actually had a playlist and enjoyed playing these songs

together. Two songs were popular pieces by the Weird Sisters and Parsons Wand Shop. One song they did was a song that they had written together called "Bogart" about the magical creature famed for hiding in cupboards. Moirah Dingle opened the door to their room a crowd of girls, with their hands clamped tightly over their ears, stood behind and around her. Moira pulled her wand and cast "Tost!" The room went silent despite Wendys pounding.

Sassy and Wendy looked at their instruments and then up to see the angry girls standing in the doorway. Sasporilla clear mouthed "Sorry" but Moirah Dingle decided to leave the silence spell on a bit longer as the things Wendy was saying were better left unheard.

"You two are disturbing your dorm mates." Moirah said. "Again!"

"But we sound fantastic," Wendy smiled, "so pull de stick out a yer arse and sod off."

"I apologize ladies." Sasporilla said. "In my excitement I guess I forgot to cast a noise dampening spell."

"Fair enough." Moirah said. "Dats anoder demarit t'da both a ya!"

"A come on Moirah!" Wendy protested. "Dat puts me at nineteen! One more an I'm expelled!"

"Den shut yer noise ya gobshyte!" Moirah said. "It's one in da friggin' mornin'! You should be asleep not tryin' to entertain all o' Galway! Yer sisters need dare sleep! So instruments away, night dress on an' inta bed NOW!"

"Yes of course." Sasporilla said putting down her guitar. "Once again I am sorry Moirah, ladies."

Police cordoned off the area of St. Corbinns school. Bodies were removed on stretchers as detectives investigated the murders. Eye witness testimony made little sense. A wizard in robes casting green death from a wooden stick but the barman lay dead in the hall still holding a similar wooden stick.

"Make way." Chief inspector Walsh said followed by two detectives none of the guards recognized. "Everyone clear the area!"

The two detectives began to look over the evidence as the Guarda stepped outside of the building.

"Is there any proof to the rumors?" The Chief asked.

"Yes." Nick Owlmore said. "I'm afraid it's true. One of our people did this."

"Damn it!" The Chief cursed. "This'll be da end o the peace fer sure."

"Nick." Lyra called from the school room.

Nick and the Chief entered the large room where the meeting had been held. There were various blast marks on the walls, ceiling and floors.

Lyra Lee-Ashwolf pointed her wand at the marks and retraced their paths back to a central casting point. "Looks like we're dealing with just one man."

"Are you so sure it was a wizard and not a witch?" Nick asked.

"The angles suggest the caster was about six feet tall." Lyra said. "That makes it a ninety five percent chance it was a wizard."

"What started all this Cecil?" Nick asked the chief.

"Fisherman saw somethin' unusual on Jordan's island and chanced his way into the school grounds." The chief sighed.

"School?" Lyra asked.

"Droorlily." Nick said. "Irish school for witches and warlocks."

"Apparently he was discovered." The chief said. "An' was chased into da river."

"Stupid and damn sloppy." Nick cursed. "Have we got all the muggle witnesses?" Lyra asked.

"No." The chief said. "Everyone scattered and the word is spreading. Normally I'd say wave yer wands an' fix it but I got dead people. We need t' solve dis before anyone else gets hurt."



Chapter 12

Headmaster O'Carrol met the Aurors at the gate house just before dawn. Many protection and disguise spells had been cast to mask any activity from the eyes of Muggles that they knew were watching.

"Welcome t' Droorlily." The headmaster said, "I'm sorry it has t' be under these circumstances."

"We'd best take this meeting inside," Nick said, "before we're seen."

The aurers met with the schools small staff inside the headmasters office. Each were questioned under the influence of Veritaserum, the wizarding worlds strongest truth drug. None of them was guilty of the attack, that was abundantly clear and their recollection of the events of the night the muggle fisherman sounded the alarm were similar.

"I must admit the way your people dealt with the muggle fisherman was damn sloppy Headmaster!" Nick said.

"But that damage is done and there is no turning back now."

"I understand that aurer Owlmore but what can we do t'fix this?" The headmaster asked.

"We'll need to use a powerful memory charm to wipe everyone's memory of the events and we'll need to replace those memories with new ones to explain the deaths. Bus crash or something." Lyra said. "But first we need to find the killer. If we accidentally obliviate them, we'll never know who did this or why?"

Sasporilla yawned as she sat at the breakfast table across from Deckland Casey.

"Murphy keepin' ya up with her drummin' Sasporilla?" Deckland laughed.

"Yes and no." Sasporilla yawned. "I'm just as bad because I'm other noisey one on guitar."

"Oh jaysus yer both in my girls bad books." Deckland laughed.

"Yes I assume I've not furthered my goal to make more friends for myself." Sassy laughed.

"That's alright you've got a friend in me Sasporilla." Deckland said, his eyes widening at the wild looking woman with the flame red hair that leapt across the room and landed on the bench next to Sassy.

"Shift yer large arse wide load!" Lyra laughed scootching Sasporilla over.

"Wide load?" Sasporilla laughed. "I thought you were trying to park a Mini Cooper beside me!"

"How ya doing cup cake?" Lyra asked Sassy messing up her hair roughly.

"I'm great!" Sassy said. "And not that I'm not absolutely thrilled to see you BUT... and in your case a gargantuan butt, what are you doing here?"

"Working a case." Lyra said. "With Nick."

"Is Uncle Nick here?" Sassy asked looking around.

"He's in one of the class rooms setting up." Lyra said. "We need to see all of you sixth years for questioning."

"Questioning." Sasporilla whispered concerned. "What happened?"

"Can't discuss it." Lyra said. "This is an official investigation kiddo."

The sixth years were gathered and taken to the Droorlily Charms room. The students were brought in one at a time in Alphabetical order. Sasporilla Bucket was first. Sitting inside was the headmaster, the schools Nurse Matron O'Toole, Nick Owlmore and Lyra Lee-Ashwolf. Sassy walked in and told by Nick to place her wand on the table and sit in the lonely seat on the other side of the table from everyone else. Sasporilla did as she was told.

"May I ask what all of this is about now?" Sasporilla asked.

"The Aurors will ask da questions Miss Bucket." Headmaster O'Carrol said nodding at the nurse.

Matron O'Toole walked around the table and over to Sasporillas chair. The nurse wrapped leather straps around Sassy's forearms, holding her firmly in the chair. The nurse drew a small needle from a tray on the table and rubbed a bit of alcohol on Sasporillas arm.

"Just a little stick." Matron O'Toole's smile reflected her companion and reluctance in this procedure.

Nick could see that Sasporilla was complying but her back was getting up. He had to get to the meat of this fast.

"You've been injected with Veritaserum." Nick said. "I will ask you series of questions and you will answer them honestly."

"If you've given me Veritaserum then I have no other choice but to answer honestly." Sasporilla said. "Let me make it easy for you Uncle, yes I'm still a virgin, yes I like boys and not girls in that way, and I have been kissed on more than one occasion by a few different boys."

"You go girl." Lyra smiled.

"Lyra!" Nick snapped. "Are you Sasporilla Bucket?"

"Yes of course!" Sasporilla said. "Who else would I be?"

"Did you go into Galway on January 29th?" Nick asked.

"Yes." Sasporilla answered a bit dreamily as the Veritaserum grabbed full hold. "I went with all the sixth years to the Old Run Market."

"What time did you return?" Nick asked.

"After nine pm some time." Sasporilla said. "Quarter after nine maybe nine thirty?"

"Did you buy me anything in the market?" Lyra asked.

"Lyar!" Nick snapped again.

"No." Sasporilla said. "I saw something nice for you but I didn't bring enough money. I figured I'd have another chance to go back again."

"How did you travel back to Droorlily?" Nick asked.

"We aparated." Sasporilla said. "Pop! Zoom! Pop!"

"Did you see a muggle watching you when you returned to the gate house?" Nick asked.

"No." Sassy said.

"Were you the last one through the gate?" Nick asked.

"Nope." Sassy said. "Last one through was Michael."

"Michael who?" Nick asked.

"Michael Kelly." Sasporilla said. "I followed Wendy and Michael followed me. I think he walks behind me because he likes to look at my butt."

Lyra burst into laughter.

"Were you aware the muggle followed you in through the gate?" Nick asked.

"Not at the time." Sasporilla said. "But the Headmaster chewed us out for it the next day."

"I see." Nick said. "Where were you last night?"

"In my form room with Wendy Murphy." Sasporilla said.

"Can anyone confirm this?" Nick asked.

"Every girl in the dorm!" Sassy laughed. "They complained to Moirah Dingle, the head girl, about the noise from our room. We were playing music."

"We will look into it." Nick said. "That will be all."

As Matron O'Toole stepped forward to release her Sasporilla snapped her fingers, disappeared and reappeared to the side of the table. Sassy held out her arm and with a snap of her fingers the Veritaserum leaked back out of the small hole in her arm latticed with a bit of her blood.

"Now that that's over I have something to say for the record." Sasporilla said, "If anyone wants the truth from me, they only need ask! I do not appreciate having Veritaserum used on me! I let you have your fun and do what you had to do, but you really ticked me off!"

"Sasporilla." Lyra said standing to calm her friend. "People are dead. Muggles and magicals alike!"

Sasporilla stood there silent for a moment. "What happened."

"Looks like a new dark wizard attacked a community meeting." Lyra frowned. "A meeting about witches on this Island."

The questioning of the other seven went just as it had Sasporilla. The children were all innocent of any knowledge of the muggle that followed them that night or the attacks in the village.

Lyra and Nick stopped in on Sassy's dorm before they left.

"Sorry about all that kiddo." Nick said. "Just doing my job."

"Doesn't mean I have to like it!" Sasporilla snapped.

"Do you forgive me?" Nick asked.

"Of course I bloody forgive you!" Sasporilla said hugging her uncle. "But I still don't like it or approve of it!"

"As long as you forgive me." Nick said hugging his god daughter tightly. "When I heard about the troubles and the attack I worried you might get hurt."

"Ya no offence squirt but trouble seems to follow you like stink on a skunk!" Lyra laughed.

"I've noticed." Sassy said. "Some one up there seems to have it in for me."

"You've only been here two months." Nick laughed. "and you're already the number one interogatee in a murder investigation."

Wendelia Murphy walked in a little shaken up. She gave Sasporilla a half smile and flopped down into her bed falling off fast asleep.

"Is Wendy ok?" Sasporilla asked.

"The Veritaserum effects people poorly some times. She had a reaction, but she'll be ok." Nick smiled. "Now, all things considered I think you should accept an offer the Headmaster has made. He's offering to let you go back to Hogwarts for your safety." "What about the rest of the students?" Sasporilla asked.

"They're stuck here until something can be arranged." Lyra frowned.

"Then I'm staying too!" Sassy insisted. "I don't go looking for trouble but I will not run from it, if it means leaving people behind!"

"That's my girl." Nick smiled. "I had to offer as I don't want you hurt, but your as tough as your dad and strong as your mum."

"Thank you." Sasporilla said. "Now tell me what we can do to help with this mess."



Chapter 13

A large mob gathered at the shore of the river Corrib, at Terryland Castle, preparing to get across the river and deal with the witches and or warlocks that hid on Jordans island.

"We've seen da cloaked ones leave their Island and turn our own ta stone. We've seen dem drop ours dead wit' a wave. Well we'll not live in fear of ya!" The Guard yelled as the mob cheered.

"It' high time we made dem answer for dare crimes!" The guard yelled.

"Ya let's give'm a kickin'!" The crowd yelled as they pushed past to cross the frozen shallows of the river.

In all the excitement no one noticed the two aurors in the shadows.

"Nick their headed straight for the school!" Lyra said concerned.

"Aparate ahead of them and warn O'Carrol what's coming. Then back to the ministry and bring back up! I'm going to try and hold them off at the gate house."

Lyra aparated to the gate, well ahead of the mob. She could see no one within sight of the gate house as she slipped in through the gate way and on yo the Droorlily school grounds. Lyra ran as fast as her legs could take her across the quad to the locked front doors of the school. Lyra pounded on the doors furiously trying to get someone's attention within.

A small slot in the door slid open revealing Headmaster O'Carrol. "What the fek do you want at this hour?"

"There's a well armed mob of muggles on it's way." Lyra said turning to run off again.

"Ah fek!" The head master cursed.

Professor O'Dowd and Matron O'Toole came down the hall.

"What's wrong Headmaster?" Professor O'Dowd asked.

"The muggles are coming." The headmaster said pulling his wand and ringing the schools emergency bells. Within minutes, teachers and students gathered in the main hallway. "All right shut yer gobs an' listen. There's an angry mob of muggles comin' here ta do us harm. Matron O'Toole I want ya ta tske the students, hand out brooms sn' get'em to safety. O'Dowd any that'r to young ta fly yet I need ya ta hide'm in da forest!"

"Headmaster." Sasporilla said. "I can't speak for everyone, but I want to stay and fight if necessary."

"It won't be safe miss Bucket." The headmaster said.

"I faced down Voldemorts Death Eaters in the battle of Hogwarts. If things go south I'd rather stand and fight to protect the school." Sasporilla said.

"Fine." Headmaster O'Carrol said.

"Count me in too." Deckland Casey said.

"Yep." Michael Kelly said. "And me."

There was a cascade of volunteers amongst the sixth and seventh years.

"A the fekin' peer pressure." Wendy said. "Fine I'll stay and fight to."

"You don't have to if you don't want to Wendy." Sasporilla said putting her hand on her friends shoulder. "This is serious. People will die if fighting starts. I've been a couple of battles and the only thing that kept me from joining the dead was luck."

"I don't want ta abandon my friends an' run ta safety." Wendy frowned.

"I understand." Sasporilla nodded. "I'm just saying there's no shame in saving yourself."

"Why don't you run then?" Wendy asked.

"Because I'm a stubborn, pig headed, foolish girl with helpful skills." Sassy smiled.

"Well I'll watch yer back Sasporilla." Wendy insisted.

"Fair enough." Saasy smiled. "All right any one with me, grab a broom."

Nick Owlemore changed the look of his clothes to something a grounds keeper would wear. He stepped out the gateway to greet the mob.

"What's all dis about?" Nick asked.

"We're here fer justice on does witches an' warlocks." Guard Gleason yelled, the mob cheering behind.

"Wha'?" Nick said surprised. "No one here but me. I'm fa care taker of dis historic buildin'. I'd be happy ta show ya 'round but ye'll have ta come back in da mornin'."

"We know dare in dare!" The guard snapped. "We know day chased da fisherman wit' dare magic!"

"I chase off poachers wit' fireworks!" Nick said pulling out a fist full of roman candles, lighting them and firing them off into the sky. "See! Just fire works."

"Den how da ya explain O'Rourke's daughter?" The guard asked.

"Stop this!" A womans voice yelled running up from the back. It was Geraldine O'Rourke pulling her newlywed husband by the hand. The crowd gasped. "Stop dis madness ya fools! How could ya t'ink I was turned ta stone? Use yer fekin' heads an' stop dis!"

"Geraldine O'Rourke?" The Guard said. "If you weren't turned ta stone den where da fek were ya?"

"I eloped wit' my sculptor boy friend who proposed ta me by makin' a life size statue o' me and placin' it in our garden. As soon as he asked I said yes. I left my da a note. I can't believe ya all t'ought I was turned ta stone. Are ya all on da drink?"

"See," Nick smiled. "Just a big misunderstandin'. Now if ya'd all just fek off, I'll be gettin' back to sleep."

"What about does who died?" The Guard asked. "Old Mr. Murphy an' da people at da community meetin'?"

"I heard a barman was shot." Nick said. "Bullets'll do dat ta ya!"

"Get yer arse out a da way or you'll get hurt." The guard insisted. "Ya can't fool me. I saw it wit' my own eyes."

The crowd started to calm down. It was becoming clear in the minds of those that had witnessed nothing but had just reacted when things went south that they just might be wrong. Warlocks were just stories right? Magic was for faerie stories, and wasn't real. That's when a dark figure in a hooded cloak appeared. With a quick cast of petrification he turned Nick Owlemore solid as stone before he could reach for his wand to defend.

"I'm da dark warlock you've come ta kill." The hooded figure said with a visibly evil grin amidst the sound weapons being cocked and readied to fire.

The warlock held pushed his wand up into the air and cast "Tonn Soinneáin!" Causing a blast wave of red energy to sweep the crowd and blew them back off their feet and sending them hard to the ground. The warlock stepped into the gateway and turned. "Come an' get me muggles."

Then he disappeared.

The Guard was the first one through the gateway. He was unexpectedly surprised to find the Droorlily school standing before him at the far side of the court yard. The teachers stood ready, wands in hand behind Headmaster O'Carrol who stood with a broad welcoming smile as the muggles flowed through the gate.

"Welcome ta Droorlily school fer magic." Headmaster O'Carrol said.

"My God dare real!" Someone yelled.

"We understand someone is causin' trouble in yer community." The headmaster said stepping forward. "But I can assure ya, it's no one ffrom dis school."

"We saw yer warlock come troo dis gate!" Guard Gleason yelled. "He just attacked us out dare! Don't play de innocent wit' us boy'o."

"We've got children here." Headmaster O'Carrol pleaded. "Please, I'm begin' ya. No violence please."

"Dare'll be no violence as long as ya come quietly." The guard said pointing a borrowed pistol at the headmaster. "Just put all yer wands on da ground and get on yer knees."

Headmaster O'Carrol carefully pulled his wand and imperceptibly cast a spell which broke the gateways tether to the outside world. No one could now get in nor could any of them get out. O'Carrol then slowly lowered himself to his knees.

"See." The headmaster smiled. "We want no trouble."

The other teachers dropped to their knees and lowered their wands.

"All right den." Guard Gleason said. "Yer all under arrest fer da murders of regular people in da city a Galway. Lay face down on da groud wit' yer hands behind yer backs an' don't ya move as yer restrained."

The guard turned to a group that carried torches and gasoline.

"You lot go burn da school." Guard Gleason said.

"Think of da children!" Headmaster O'Carrol said.

"Are dare any children inside?" Guard Gleason asked.

"No." O'Carrol said. "We got dem out yo safety when we heard ya were comin'. Dare miles away by now. But if ya burn da school down, da kids'll have no place ta learn."

"I t'ink we're sll better off wit' none a yer kind around." The guard snapped.

"Perhaps," a voice boomed across the court yard from the roof of the school where the warlock stood, his wand pointed at his own neck, "da world'll be better off wit' out muggles!"

The warlock turned his wand and started casting Bombarda into the crowd who opened fire. Bullets flew as the headmaster and the teachers grabbed their wands and started to protect the crowd from the warlock. Fear and hatred saw bullets hit professors in the back, dropping them to the ground. The warlock apparated away leaving just the outraged muggles to face the professors of Droorlily.

"Now!" Saporilla ordered as she flew out of the skies high above, followed by the Droorlily student volunteer army. The students swooped in unseen and started casting stupify and petrificus totalus at the muggles. The students were able to make to full attacks before the muggles realized where the spells were coming from and they started firing up into the sky. Saporilla dodged and weaved as bullets whizzed by her heard but unseen in the night sky. A bullet tore through Decklands right shoulder and sent him hurtling off his broom and to the ground, out of control.

"Aresto momentum!" Saporilla cast slowing him so that he landed softly on the ground.

"I got one a da bastards!" Formy Kildare laughed as a blast of blue petrified him.

Saporilla landed her broom near Deckland, took off her Hufflepuff scarf and applied it to Decklands wound.

"Ah Jaysus dat hurts!" Deckland protested.

"Keep pressure on it." Saporilla ordered. "I'll try and keep them off of you!"

Saporilla was like a whirling dervish spinning and casting. Petrifying muggles and blocking their bullets. Deckland had never seen anything like it.

A group of muggles had made it to the school. They tried everything they could to break a window but spells protected the glass. A blast of magical energy shattered the ground floor windows of the main building. The muggles looked to see where the blast had come from but only caught a glimpse of a wizard disaperating.

With new found haste they poured gasoline into the school windows and set Droorlily a light. The fire spread quickly through the old wood of the school.

Headmaster O'Carrol turned to see his school on fire. If something wasn't done to get it under control quickly, they'd surely loose it all. The headmaster drew his wand but a bullet rang out from the tip of a muggle pistol.

"Headmaster!" Saporilla yelled as she leapt between him and the bullet which caught her in the chest. Saporilla fell to the ground unconscious as a hundred aurers from the ministry of magic apparated in.



Chapter 14

Sasporilla Bucket lay on the cold cobblestone court yard staring up into the smoke filled black night sky, struggling to breath and coughing up blood.

Sassy couldn't be moved by apparation. The bullet that penetrated her chest had nicked her heart and punched a wide hole in her lung. Matron O'Toole did her best to stop the bleeding and seal up the wound but these measures were only temporary. Without immediate surgery the girl with pink hair would surely die.

"We have to get dis child help now!" Matron O'Toole demanded. "Reconnect dat gate!"

Breaking the gates tether was easy. Reconnecting worlds by a gate was powerful magic that would take wizards and witches who specialized in magical engineering to achieve it.

"We don't have da right people fer dat." Headmaster O'Carrol said. "But I might be able ta do somethin'. After all, dis child saved my fekin' life."

Headmaster O'Carrol stood and began to spin his wand in a circular motion. A ring of light began to appear in the air before him. Two Irish Aurers from the ministry knew that the headmaster was trying to create a wiggle worm bridge between worlds. A type of temporary, unstable and dangerous worm hole. They joined at his side, matching his movements with their wands, adding power to the spell.

Sasporilla was levitated and placed on a stretcher.

Portals opened and closed on the other side of the bridge. Lyra apparated in and saw Sasporilla on the stretcher.

"No, no, no, no, no!" Lyra cried. "What happened?"

"She was shot by a muggle." Matron O'Toole said. "Took a bullet meant fer da headmaster!"

"Brave, stupid, wonderful, idiotic, wonderful girl just hang on." Lyra said.

"I can't stabilize de exit porthole." Headmaster O'Carrol yelled. "We need more power."

Lyra ran over and whipped out her wand. With a mighty scream she cast a burst of wild magical energy into the rings and the image of Hogwarts appeared on the other side.

"Get her through quickly!" The head master yelled. The wizards ran through the bridge carrying Sasporilla on the stretcher. Deckland Casey and three other students that had been hurt were moved through as well. The bridge spell collapsed, leaving Droorlily cut off once again.

"Where's Nick Owlmore?" Lyra asked.

Headmistress McGonagall and Madam Pomfrey were at the front gate to meet those bringing the injured from Droorlily.

"I saw the wiggleworm bridge spell open up and knew something was wrong." The Headmistress said. "What happened?"

"Muggles attacked Droorlily." One of the aurers said.

"We couldn't apparate dis one," Matron O'Toole said as they rushe the wounded inside. "Yer Sasporilla took a muggle bullet t'da chest to save Headmaster O'Carrol."

"We should be taking them to St.Mungos!" Profesdor McGonagall protested, concerned for the injured students safety.

"There's no time Minerva!" Madam Pomfrey said. "I'll handle the triage, but you'll have to bring St.Mungos to us. Tell them what happened and have them bring as much help and equipment as they can carry."

Sasporilla was taken to the infirmary where Madam Pomfrey used every spell and every technique she knew to keep the young pink haired witch stable. It was nearly fifteen minutes before the doctors from St.Mungos arrived. They cast sterilization spells on the room and coordinated it off with magical walls. There was no time left for set up, if they were going to save the girl they had to operate then and there.

One hundred and thirty seven muggles had their minds obliviaded. A select few had memories implanted to explain the deaths of friends or family at the community meeting. Droorlily's main building was a burned out stone shell, leaving only the dorms relatively in tact. Those students who had evacuated were hidden in a forest Glenn north of the school. Emergency measures were taken to reopen the gateway between Droorlily and Galway. Nick was found, still standing paralyzed, at the Droorlily Gatehouse.

Parents arrived in droves, terrified the children reported injured had been of theirs. Most of the students returned home and would have to repeat the semester next year. Those seven who chose to stay were temporarily accommodated at Hogwarts.

Sasporilla was still laid in her hospital bed unconscious and in critical condition after a week after surgery. Karry sat at Sassy's bed side holding her hand. Zac was determined to bring in the best doctors, both magical and muggle, from all over the world. Lyra and Nick stood at the end of the bed trying to keep up hope that their girl would be ok.

"I just don't understand it." The chief surgeon from St. Mungos said. "Physically she's healed, but she just doesn't seem to want to come back."

"She's seen a lot of tragedy in her short life." Nick said. "She's strong and she'll be in there fighting her way back to consciousness. I just know it!"

Sasporilla Bucket stood in a place that could have been Olivanders wand shop, but it was very white and dreamy. The bells on the front door rang as Wysteria and Ridonkulous Bucket entered the shop. They stood there hand in hand looking proudly at the woman their little girl was becoming.

"Mum? Dad?" Sasporilla started to cry and ran into their arms where she became a little girl again. Free of the realities of death and loneliness. She hugged them and never wanted to stop.

"We all thought we'd come and see you while your passing through." Ridonkulous said.

"We all?" Sassy asked.

The small elfen hand of Miss Daisy took hold of hers. "Yes my child, all of us."

Sasporilla hugged the old elf who was more than a sight for sore eyes.

"I loved you all so much and have missed you so." Sassy smiled hugging them. "Have I died? Is this heaven?"

"Let's just say it's first stop on the way." Wysteria said.

"It's a place where things and people you love can connect with you as you make your choice." Daisy said.

"What choice?" Sasporilla asked.

"Whether to move on or go back." Ridonkulous said. "The choice is yours."

"I could stay here with you forever." Sasporilla smiled. "But I know that I have things to do in life that I haven't even begun yet."

"Then go back in peace and enjoy your life." Wysteria said. "Let some one else do the fighting for a while."

"I will always stand strong against those who attack the weak." Sasporilla said.

"That's our girl." the three apparitions said as the ghostly Olivanders faded into blackness.

Melvin Lazarus walked into the infirmary carrying a small bouquet of Sasporilla's favorite daisies and his guitar. He tried as hard as he could not to get teary eyed as he saw the girl he loved laying do still. Melvin placed the flowers in a vase on Sassy's bed side table and sat in a chair near her bed.

"Sasporilla?" Melvin said. "I know you're in there somewhere. You once told me music is magic. I wrote this song for you."

Melvin started to play a soft lilting tune about loss and regret. It was one of the most beautiful songs any one in the room had ever heard. Music could be powerful magic but perhaps the magic she needed to wake her from her comatose state, was older magic still. As Melvin finished his song Karry walked over and whispered something in his ear.

"Really?" Melvin asked.

"It's worth a try." Karry smiled.

Melvin put his guitar down next to the chair and walked over to Sasporilla. He leaned in and kissed her gently but passionately on the lips.

"I love you Sasporilla Bucket." Melvin said.

"I love you too," Sasporilla said her eyes fluttering open, "Melvin Lazarus."



Chapter 15

Sasporilla Bucket still had dull pains in her chest where the bullet had passed through. The doctor told her she may still have pain for a few weeks to come. Those few weeks had turned into a month plus. Sassy had to report to the Hogwarts infirmary every afternoon for a check up to make sure that she was healing properly, and make sure nothing had been missed. The memory of the burning pain and those moments when she was laying on the cold ground gasping for air and knew deep down that she was dying, still haunted her.

Sassy was happy to be home at Hogwarts with her friends Karry and Zac but she was more than happy to be with Melvin. Since his kiss had awoken her from her near death state, she couldn't bare to be apart from him. She found comfort in his touch and strength in his arms. Things she desperately needed more than ever it seemed.

Sassy had been looking forward to Easter break. Not so much to get a break from the heavy sixth year school work load, but she wanted to go back to Droorlily. Something about that night kept replaying in her mind. Something about that dark wizard seemed familiar. She hoped that going back would jog her memory. Lyra Lee-Ashwolf and Nick Owlmore escorted Sasporilla and Melvin to Droorlily. Melvin held Sasporilla's hand as they walked in through the gateway onto the grounds. They were met by Headmaster O'Carrol, and Professor O'Dowd.

"Welcome back." The headmaster smiled hugging Sasporilla. "I owe you my fekin' life Sasporilla Bucket. Y'll always be welcome at Droorlily! If dares anyt'in' I can ever do fer ya just let me know!"

"Thank you sir." Sasporilla said. "Sir did you see the Dark wizard the night of the attack?"

"Yes o' course. Never ferget the feker! What I saw of him under dat hood."

"I thought," Sassy began, "I mean I sort of remember a look on his face. Like a clenched teeth..."

"Lop sided snarl." The Headmaster finished. "Yes!" Sasporilla said excitedly.

"And he had a bit of a growl ta his voice." Headmaster O'Carrol said.

"Sounds like that feker Kelly," Professor O'Dowd said, "da poacher!"

"That's it!" Sasporilla said. "I ran into the poacher in the Spruce forest north of the school. He had trapped an Emerald dragon and I freed him from the trap."

"If it is Kelly da poacher," Headmaster O'Carrol said, "den why would he want da muggles ta attack da school his own son attends?"

"His son?" Sasporilla asked. "Michael?"

"Yes." Professor O'Dowd said. "His boy is Michael Kelly."

"Michael Kelly was last one through the gate the night the fisherman followed the children in." Nick said.

"Dat has ta be a coincidence!" Headmaster O'Carrol said refusing to believe the good student was in any way complicit in the nefarious plot.

"I don't think it is headmaster." Sasporilla said. "But I don't believe Michael knew his father may be using him to alert the muggles to our presence."

"How da ya mean?" O'Carrol asked.

"The back of Michael's muggle made jacket had a reflective safety strip on it." Sasporilla said. "What if his father shone a light off of it to catch the muggle fisherman's attention?"

"Ok but why do it?" Headmaster O'Carrol said.

"Because dragons are a million Galleons live and ten times that in pieces." Sasporilla said. "That's what the poacher growled at me the day I freed Xorgon from the trap."

"Xorgon?" Lyra asked.

"The Emerald dragon." Sassy smiled. "He told me his name when I freed him."

"Ya freed him an cost me a pretty penny ya gobshyte!" Kelly the poacher said stepping out of the rubble of the school holding his blast caster to his own sons head. "Michael figured it out first do I've had ta keep him home fer a few weeks. Locked in his room a course."

"You did all of this for greed?" Sasporilla asked.

"Ten million galleons!" The poacher yelled. "Wit' out this damn school here dare'd be no one ta stop me from huntin' dragons and ud'er creatures on deese lands."

Aurers appeared on all sides of the poacher, Their wands pointed at him.

"Let the boy go and surrender peacefully." Nick Owlmore demanded.

"So ya basterds can send me ta Azkaban?" The poacher laughed. "Me hole I will!"

"Then at least let Michael go so he doesn't get hurt." Sasporilla pleaded raising her wand as well. Melvin stood beside his true love holding her left hand in his right, his wand raised in the other.

A roar in the skies above pulled the poachers attention from his son. Michael ran to the side of the group of aurers closest to him.

Xorgon the Emerald dragon landed on the roof of the boys dorms. Kelly the poacher took aim with a smile. Sasporilla whipped her wand and cast "Fuip!" The tip of her wand transfigured into a long bull whip which grabbed the double barrel of the blast caster and pulled it back and out of Kellys hands. The double blast flying straight up into the air, missing the dragon. Kelly turned and scowled at Sasporilla Bucket who whipped the weapon far out of his reach.

"I'd have gotten' away dis if it hadn't benn fer yer meddlin!" Kelly growled drawing his wand ffrom his coat.

Melvin stepped in front of Sasporilla blocking what his small frame could of his taller girl friend. Aurers wand tips started yo glow as Kelly started to hatefully cast "Ava..."

A blast of dragon fire struck Kelly the poacher turning him to ash. As the fire receded the poachers ashes floated off like confetti on the super heated air.

Michael Kelly started to cry, screaming in the horror of the death of his father. Xorgon took off from the roof of the boys form, shingles rolling down anfmd falling yo ghd gground. Michael took off running across the court yard and grabbed the blast caster.

"Michael no!" Sasporilla yelled.

"You killed my da!" Michael Kelly yelled as he fired both barrels of blast caster, blowing Xorgon out of the air. The large Emerald dragon fell to the earth dead.

"I got ya, ya bastard!" Michael Kelly yelled. "That'll teach ya ta kill my s... da."

"Stupify!" Lyra cast knocking the boy back and knocking the weapon ffrom his hands.

Aurers stepped up as Lyra put him in binders.

"Lyra!" Nick said. "What are you doing?"

"I'm arresting him Nick." Lyra said kicking the boy in the back of legs dropping him to his knees.

"Jaysus Michael was distraught!" Headmaster O'Carrol protested. "He can't be held accountable fer killin' dat beast fer killin' his da?"

Michael Kelly looked up at Lyra his lower lip quivering. "Arrest me if ya want. I'm not sorry fer killin da dam dragon. I'd do it again."

"I'm sure you would." Lyra said punching the boy knocking him to the ground viciously.

"Lyra!" Sasporilla protested. "What are you doing!?!"

Lyra pulled a bottle of Veritaserum. Nick stepped over to Lyras side.

"You got to be kidding me?" Nick said.

"I hope I'm wrong." Lyra said. "I hope I'm wrong. Hold his head back."

Nick grabbed Michael by the hair and pulled his head back roughly. Michael began to struggle as Lyra clamped his jaw and forced his mouth open. Lyra pulled the cork from the vial with her teeth and poured the Veritaserum into Michael Kellys open mouth. Lyra slammed the boys mouth shut and forced the boy to swallow the potion.

"Are you Michael Kelly." Nick asked.

"Yes!" Michael Protested.

"Are you Michael Kelly?" Lyra demanded.

"Yes!" Michael spat.

"Are ya Michael Calvin Kelly Junior?" The headmaster yelled.

"No." The boy spat trying to fight the serum.

Aurers surround him wands drawn as his face started to shift. It was the poacher Michael Kelly Senior!

"Who was that who took your place?" Nick asked.

"My son." The poacher growled.

Sasporilla gasped realizing the person turned to ash before her eyes had been her friend. Sasporilla started to cry at the horror of it all. Melvin took Sassy in his arms and held her tight as she wept.

"Did he help you of his own free will?" Lyra asked.

"No." The poacher spat.

"How was he manipulated?" Nick demanded.

"The Imperious curse!" Michael Kelly senior yelled. "And polyjuice potion."

"You went wit' da kids ta da rùn market didn't ya, ya bastard." Headmaster O'Carrol demanded. "You lead da muggle here!"

"Yes." The poacher said.

"You killed the muggles in town?" Nick asked.

"Yes." The poacher said.

"Michael Kelly senior," Nick said pulling the man to his feet. "You're under arrest for the no less than five counts of murder and use of the Imperious Curse. You'll be tried by the Ministry of Magic for the crimes of which you've been accused. You have the right to a solicitor if you choose to have one. I hope you rot in Azkaban for the rest of your life."



Chapter 16

It always amazed Sasporilla how fast time went when there was no trouble. From the end of Easter break to the end of the year was pleasantly humdrum and mundane. Melvin and Sasporilla were inseparable despite the unseemly rumors and name calling. They were the best of friends and in love, but both refused an inappropriate relationship until they were both of age and both ready for it. Melvin had really started to spring up and was now about five and a half feet tall. As Sasporilla had seemed to stop at five foot six and a bit, they were not that far off each others height any more, though he was still almost a full three years younger than her.

Sunday nights were still the great occasion to get together at Karry and Zacs in Hogsmead. Having been given full permission by his mother to accompany Sasporilla into Hogsmead every weekend, Melvin enjoyed a privilege very few younger students enjoyed.

Sassy, Karry, Zac and Melvin sat around the dinner table laughing heartily at tales from Zac and Karrys honeymoon.

"So we look at the officer and say," Zac laughed, "what do you mean this isn't a NUDE beach?"

"Oh my god you must have been so embarrassed!" Sassy laughed almost falling off her chair.

"What did you do?" Melvin asked.

"We got our beach robes on and got out of their as fast as we could!" Karry laughed.

"Yes and the looks, winks and whistles we got!" Zac laughed.

"Mmmmm." Karry said remembering the news she had as she sipped at her pumpkin juice. "I have a job this summer!"

"Really?" Sasporilla asked. "Putting the old lady out to earn a living to teach her the value of a Galleon Zac?"

"Are you trying to get me killed or cut off???" Zac laughed.

"No seriously." Karry chuckled. "The Hogwarts Library has finally received the collected papers and journals of Albus Dumbledore and they hired me to help review the later years and catalogue them."

"That sounds fascinating." Melvin said. "We could learn so much more about professor Dumbledore and his work through them. You're all so lucky to have known him."

"I don't think anyone really knew Professor Dumbledore." Sasporilla said. "I don't think Harry Potter even really knew him. We just had him as our headmaster."

"So what are your grand plans for the summer Zac?" Melvin asked. Melvin genuinely like Zac and Karry. They were kind, welcoming people who always made him feel part of the gang.

"Believe it or not I also have been offered a job." Zac smiled.

"Vice president of Gringots?" Sasporilla laughed.

"No, hardly." Zac chuckled. "I've been offered a clerk position at the Ministries Justice department. Nothing dangerous, just paper work."

"That's cool." Melvin said. "Perhaps you'll get to work with Ms.Lee-Ashwolf and DI Owlmore?"

"Perhaps!" Zac smiled.

"What about you two?" Karry asked. "How are you going to handle the summer apart? You've been attached at the shoulder all semester, pretty much."

"I'm spending the summer studying my engineering books and playing guitar." Melvin said.

"Except for the days that I'll fly in to London." Sasporilla said. "Those days we'll work on wand ideas and play music."

"That's all?" Karry asked.

"A gentlemen doesn't snog and tell." Melvin smiled as he took a light elbow to the ribs from Sasporilla.

"Speaking of music," Sasporilla interrupted, "Zac did you dig out that old recorder of yours?"

"Yes!" Zac said remembering. "I actually set it up in the living room."

"Wonderful!" Sassy said.

"Recorder?" Melvin asked. "What are you recording?"

"You!" Sasporilla smiled grabbing Melvin's hand and pulling him to the living room. "I asked Zac to get out his personal recorder so I could record the song you wrote for me. That way I can listen to it when we're apart."

"That's why you asked me to bring my guitar." Melvin smiled.

"Yes." Sassy said hugging Melvin. He really liked her warm loving hugs. "You don't mind do you?"

"For my love," Melvin said, "I would move mountains."

"My god Karry." Zac said. "Were we ever that sickeningly saccharine?"

"You still are!" Sasporilla said making everyone laugh.

Melvin sat on the couch, Sasporilla at his side, as he pulled his guitar from its case. He started tuning as he picked and strummed until the guitar was in tune and ready to go.

"I find the physics, math and engineering of guitars. It's fascinating how they all come together with human interaction to create sound." Melvin smiled.

"I know!" Sasporilla smiled. "It was tuning a guitar string that gave me my first ideas on wand design."

"And those ideas on wand design and your love for guitar led me to get my own guitar and write you this song."

"I love you Melvin Lazarus." Sasporilla said kissing her boyfriend.

"I love you too Sasporilla Bucket." Melvin said after the kiss as he started to play.

His technique was flawless as the lilting notes and chords filled the house. His voice was young and just a touch nasal but suited the song perfectly.

"I don't want this moment, to ever end. Where everything's nothing without you."

Sassy snuggled against Melvin as he played. It was times like these she just wanted to hold on to him and never let go.

When he finished the song, Melvin casually placed the guitar down beside him and looked deeply into Sasporilla's eyes.

"I will always love you Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket." Melvin promised.

"And I will always love you Melvin Lazarus." Sasporilla agreed.

Melvin and Sasporilla enjoyed the cool summer evening as they walked hand in hand back to Hogwarts.

"I really hope we will always be together Melvin." Sasporilla said. "But realistically you still have a lot of internal as well as external growth ahead of you."

"What are you saying Sassy?" Melvin asked.

"You're a hundred times smarter than me. You're good at everything you do where as I struggle with things until I get them. I'm just saying your feelings may change over time and I'll understand if you choose someone better suited to you." Sasporilla said looking away a tear betraying her calm composure.

"Look at me." Melvin insisted standing in front of her. "I know you've been hurt before. I will promise you that I will strive to never break your heart. I will always hold you highest and deepest in my heart. I will always love you more every day than I did the last. If for any reason you ever feel that I no longer love you, then I will do everything I can to reassure you that I do indeed. Even if I have to put it in a song."

Melvin walked Sasporilla back to the entrance to the Hufflepuff house common room. The young couple kissed goodnight until the unmistakable 'Ahem' of Professor Sprout brought them to the surface of reality.

"I do believe it's time for you to head for bed Miss Bucket." Professor Sprout said.

"Yes mam." Sassy smiled touching Melvin on the nose as she was ushered inside Hufflepuff house.

Sassy ran up to her dorm room and pulled out her quill and a piece of paper and started to pen a letter.

"Dear Myron;

I was happy to hear you liked what you heard from Wendy Murphy and have found her some drumming gigs for the summer. I know just how excited she is from her last letter. It came as a big surprise to her that we knew each other. As I promised all those years ago I don't make a habit of letting everyone know we're friends.

As glad as I am of her success, I send this recording with trepidation. It's of my boyfriends, (Melvin Lazarus), song that he wrote for me. I feel there is a great musician inside of him that needs to be inspired and fostered by greater muses than myself. Please give it a listen and tell me what you think.

With Love;

Sasporilla."



Chapter 17

The students gathered in the great hall for the end of the year feast. Sasporilla sat beside Karry at the Hufflepuff table talking about the house elves of Droorlily and the wonders Harminster had shown her.

"So you really are royalty amongst the elves?" Karry asked.

"Apparently so." Sassy smiled. "A princess until my uncle passes.

"Queen Sasporilla of the elves." Karry said bowing. "Your majesty!"

"Oh stop you." Sasporilla laughed. "A crown is not something I covet."

"Attention students!" Headmistress McGonagall called out bringing everyone to order. "Before I announce the winner of the house cup I'd like to take this moment to say goodbye to our guest students from Droorlily. You've been most delightful and you will be missed."

Everyone applauded graciously. The Irish students were more than ready to head home to their familiar homes on the Emerald Isle.

"Now the house points." Professor McGonagall said. "In last place this year Ravenclaw with three hundred and thirty seven points. In third place is Gryffindor with four hundred and ten points. In second place is Hufflepuff with five hundred and eighty nine points! And the winner of this years house cup Slytherin with six hundred and twenty five points!"

The Slytherins cheered and blew raspberry's at the other houses. Sasporilla and Karry looked over at the Slytherins and flipped them off with a laugh.

"Not to diminish the win of the house cup by Slytherin but we have another presentation tonight." Professor McGonagall said.

The doors to the great hall burst open to the echo of a wild Irish howl and a flurry of Celtic music. A delegation from Droorlily had arrived, no doubt to bring their students home. The procession was lead by Headmaster O'Carrol and contained most of the Droorlily staff and House Elves! An Irish band played them in, Wendy Murphy playing an Irish drum called a Bodhrán. Wendy smiled at Sassy as they marched by. Sasporilla noticed a shy smile on professor Sprouts face as Professor O'Dowd gave her the wink.

"Hello students a Hogwarts." Headmaster O'Carrol said standing at the podium before the school. "I am Professor O'Carrol, da headmaster at Droorlily."

The Hogwarts students applauded politely.

"Dats nice." Headmaster O'Carrol smiled. "If I could award Hufflrpuff one t'ousand points I would but I can't cause I don't have da fekin' authority ta do so. Every few years a student at Droorlily distinguishes demselves as somethin' really special through study, hard work, bravery or exceptional moral fiber. Well one such student did just dat dis year. She free'd a rare Emerald dragon from da trsps of a poacher and saved my arse from a muggles bullet. I owe her my life and we owe her dis honour. Please come to da front.... Sasporilla Bucket!"

Sasporilla stood up and walked forward. Every eye was on her. Melvin started to applauded and the other students followed suit. Sassy stepped up to the podium beside headmaster O'Carrol who gave the pink haired witch a hug then pulled a medal from a leather box carried by Professor O'Dowd.

"Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket," Professor O'Carrol said Holding up the gold medal on emerald an green ribbon. "I'd like to present you with the Droorlily Medal of Honour."

"Thank you Headmaster O'Carrol," Sasporilla smiled, "but I don't think I deserve this over Michael Kellys memory. He died an unwitting pawn in his fathers nefarious greedy schemes. I think he should be awarded this medal posthumously as he lost his life. All I did was try to shove you out of the way and got hit in the process."

"Highest o' moral fiber!" Headmaster O'Carrol announced and hung the medal around Sasporillas neck against her protests. "Don't ya worry girl, a local sculptor is makin' us a statue t' comemorate da memory of Michael Kelly. He'll be honoured and remembered fer his sacrafices da same way you should be fer yours. No accept da medal graciously ya fekin' dopey gobshyte!"

"Headmaster O'Carrol!" Headmistress McGonagall gasped.

"It's alright Headmistress." Sasporilla said. "I quite like and respect you to Headmaster O'Carrol."

Professor McGonagall stood shocked. Headmaster O'Carrol turned and smiled. "See Minerva," Headmaster O'Carrol chuckled, "she learned de language!"



Chapter 18

The Hogwarts Express chugged along the tracks headed for London. Sasporilla and Melvin snuggled the whole way home.

"I'm going to miss you." Sasporilla said.

"I'll miss you more." Melvin smiled.

"At least we're getting together in a few weeks." Sassy said. "I'm all ready looking forward to it."

"I though we might picnic in the park." Melvin said.

"It sounds delightful." Sasporilla smiled.

"Perhaps we can bring our guitars and play. Melvin suggested.

"Definitely." Sassy said. "I think that and your company would make for a most enjoyable day."

"I honestly believe you are not just perfect Sasporilla Bucket," Melvin said looking deep into her violet eyes, "but you are the perfect girl for me. I love you Sasporilla."

"I do so love you Melvin." Sassy smiled closing her eyes as Melvin kissed her. Seconds, minutes, hours, Sasporilla couldn't tell how long they embraced. Time had no meaning as their lips joined and their souls entwined.

It wasn't until the conductor told them to break it up that they realized the Hogwarts Express had arrived at Kings Cross station and all of the other passengers had disembarked. Nick, Lyra and Mrs.Lazarus looked at them in disbelief through the coach window.

They grabbed there things and left the train into the waiting arms of friends and family.

"Hello Melvin." Mrs.Lazarus said. "You've grown I see."

"Yes mother." Melving sighed.

"Into quite the kisser I'd say!" Lyra burst into laughter.

"I'm sure my boy didn't initiate that display of animal behavior." Mrs.Lazarus insisted.

"Actually mother I did." Melvin said grabbing Sassy and pulling her in for another kiss. "I love her and that's all there is to it!"

"You two haven't....?" Nick asked.

"Not that it's any of anyone's business but our own," Sasporilla said stiffening, "but no. Melvin is to young and neither of us is ready. When we are, if Melvin is still interested in me then what will be will be."

"It's good to see you have a reasonably strong moral compass young lady." Mrs.Lazarus said.

"She got that from her mum!" Nick smiled putting his arm around his god daughter and walked her away.

"I'll see you soon Melvin." Sassy called. "I love you!"

"I love you more." Melvin waved.

THE END



THE LAST TRUE ROCK STARZ

A Harry Potter / Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction
by Darren Kelly

Sasporilla Bucket was very happy to be home for the summer. Buster, the black and white dog her mom had gotten was always pleased to see her. Though he spent most of his time at the Curtiss house he still felt very much at home at number four castle road.

As much as Sassy loved being around her uncle Nick and going over to the Curtiss house to gab with Karrys mum, every other afternoon, she missed being held by Melvin. She missed his touch and his kiss. In many ways she couldn't believe how sappy and silly she was acting. She was head over heels in love. In love with Melvin Lazarus of all people. A younger boy who was a bookish nerd who just set her on fire every time he was near. Sasporilla tried on outfit after outfit for today's picnic. She debated going in just a pair of jeans and a tank top, which said hey buddy what's up. Then she tried on a floral sun dress which said young fresh girl looking for romance in the park. She didn't want to seem too eager. She knew that he felt the same as her and what she wore wasn't all that important. She could wear nothing at all and he'd be just as happy..... what was she thinking!?!

Melvin Lazarus stood in his room trying to decide which t-shirt to wear under his favorite blue plaid shirt. He debated between the black Nirvana t-shirt or the Weird Sisters t-shirt. He'd blend in better in a muggle park in the Nirvana shirt but the Weird Sisters was Sasporilla's favorite band.

Melvin was scent blind to the dense cloud of Axe body spray he'd put on. He grabbed his guitar case and tucked his wand into his shirt's inside wand pocket. Melvin wished he could have Sassy over to his parents house some time. She would probably like his suite. He had his own living area and huge bathroom. His two bedrooms would offer more than enough room for her to sleep over respectfully apart, though there was more than enough room in his bed for two.... what was he thinking!

The Lazarus family driver met Melvin outside with the family town car. The driver held the car door open for his young charge. Melvin slid his guitar case in and jumped in behind it as the car door shut behind him.

"Watch where you're shoving your belongings young man." Mrs.Lazarus said.

"Mother?" Melvin said surprised. "Why are you coming with me?"

"Don't be dramatic dear." Mrs.Lazarus smiled judgmentally. "You aren't the only one with business in the city today dear. We'll drop you off first then come back for you after a reasonable while."

"I'll be with Sasporilla all afternoon." Melvin said. "She's made a picnic lunch and everything."

"How nice dear." Mrs.Lazarus said. "Eating on the grass like a homeless person."

"Don't start mother." Melvin said.

"I'm just saying that for someone of her station, Sasporilla Bucket most certainly does seem to prefer the life of a pauper over one more suited to her families position and title."

"I'm not sure she even knows her family has a title." Melvin said. "And her genuine simplicity is part of what I love about her."

"Your a teenage boy Melvin." His mother said. "You're a bag of uncontrollable hormones that mistakes lust for love. You don't know what real love is."

"If it's what you and father have," Melvin muttered under his breath, "then I'd rather never know real love at all." When the car pulled up to the park Melvin could see Sasporilla over by a large ash tree laying on a blanket apparently talking to her self in a pink floral sun dress and denim jacket.

"No I could just as easily cast a spell to keep you all away while we eat." Sasporilla said as she talked to an assortment of representatives of various insect species that lived in the park. "But as you'd find it unpleasant I'd just rather ask you not to invade our picnic."

"And if we agree?" The ant asked first.

"Then I will leave you a bit of left over food and a whole piece of fruit just for you."

"Deal." The insects agreed.

Melvin walked up to the blanket carrying his guitar. "Hello my beautiful girl."

"Well hello there handsome young man." Sasporilla said sitting up, trying to strike her best sexy pose. "Want some candy?"

"Only the sweet taste of your lips." Melvin smiled putting his guitar against the tree and kneeling in beside Sassy for a kiss.

Lunch consisted of soup and ham cheese sandwiches. Sasporilla had developed quite a taste for muggle soda pop and brought four bottles of cola. A quick chilling spell kept the bottles ice cold.

After lunch Sassy kept her promise and placed a partially eaten sandwich, a full cookie and an apple down off the side of the blanket. The insects swarmed the food but continued to leave the young lovers very much alone.

Sasporilla and Melvin strapped on their guitars and started to play. They jammed for almost an hour. Sasporilla played off of Melvins lead and vice-versa. They played songs and sang. Melvin played a couple of new songs he'd written. They were hardcore songs filled with political opinion, youthful passion and angst.

"That was bloody brilliant!" Sasporilla gasped.

"Did you like it?" Melvin asked.

"Like it?" Sasporilla smiled, "I bloody loved it!"

"I have to agree young man." A familiar voice said as Myron Wagtail stepped out from around the back of the tree. "I think you might just have what it takes."

"Myron!" Sasporilla said standing to hug her dear old friend.

"Mr. Wagtail." Melvin said standing to shake his idols hand. "I'm happy you liked it, but did you really think it was that good?"

"Everything I've heard here today sounded perfect." Myron said. "Tried to plug my ears for the sweet words between snogs though."

Sasporilla and Melvin smiled at each other and blushed.

"In fact I'd like to get you into a studio to record some of your songs." Myron smiled.

"That would be awesome!" Melvin said.

"Now I would have to shop them around but I have a good feeling from what I've heard. I think you might, with the right manager and producer, and the right musicians with you that you might even cross over charts from the wizard to the muggle worlds!"

"I can't believe it!" Sasporilla said. "When I sent you the recording we made of Melvin I had no Idea he could be do big."

"Thanks for the confidence boost." Melvin said sarcastically.

"No Melvin," Sasporilla explained, "I meant I loved the song and hoped others would love your sound as much as I do. I'm just really happy for you that they do."

"Doesn't matter." Melvin said. "My mother will never go for it."

"She and I met this afternoon." Myron said. "She's a tough nut to crack and wasn't thrilled about her child bringing the moniker of Struggling Artist to the family name, but the idea of having a superstar son really caught her interest."

"That's amazing!" Melvin smiled. "When do you want me to go?"

"Tomorrow morning." Myron said. "I'll have a car pick you up and bring you to my studio. I have some musicians I think you'll like that will play with you."

"That sounds great." Melvin smiled as he turned and looked into Sasporilla's excited eyes.

"I'm so happy for you Melvin." Sasporilla said. "My boyfriend the rock star!"

"I can't believe this opportunity!" Melvin said. "None of this would have happened if you hadn't sent in that recording. Thank you!"

The young couple kissed. Sassy would never tire of the melting surrender she felt when in Melvin's embrace.

"Can Sasporilla come?" Melvin said.

"If you'd like her to be there then she's there!" Myron smiled. "If your groupie girl friend would like to come that is?"

"Groupie girl friend!" Sasporilla laughed. "I'm hardly a back of the tour bus bunk sock old man!"

"Oh my god!" Myron laughed. "Language! Where did you ever learn such a term?"

"From hanging around musicians and roadies at your house." Sasporilla laughed.

"I don't understand?" Melvin said.

"I'll explain it to you after." Sasporilla said. "It's an unseemly term."

"Now Sasporilla I need to steal your boy friend away, now that his mother is here." Myron said pointing to the Lazarus family town car pulling up at the park's edge. "I trust you can put this all away and get home safe?"

"Yes of course Myron." Sasporilla said kissing her friend on the cheek. "I'll be just fine."

"I'll help you pack." Melvin insisted.

"No sweet heart." Sasporilla said. "This is your moment to deal with stuffy paperwork and such. I'll be fine, it will only take a tic."

Melvin kissed Sasporilla, grabbed his guitar and ran off to the car.

"You've sent Melvin down the path he was meant to be on Sasporilla." Myron smiled.

"I just hope there is still room enough for me on his path." Sasporilla sighed.

Melvin arrived early with his mother at the studio the next morning. Accompanied by his mother he walked up to studio number seven. Myron sat in the waiting area with two other young people. The girl was short and rather stumpy with long brown hair and the guy was tall and had died spiky blond hair.

"Ah Melvin you're here!" Myron smiled. "I'd like to introduce you to your drummer and base player."

"Hi." Melvin smiled.

"This fine young lady is Stix Murphy." Myron said.

"I understand yer the tiny little puddle a piss gobshyte that is tryin' ta get into my buddy Sasporilla's knickers?" Wendy Murphy said.

Melvin could only stand there dumbfounded. Eventually words came to him. "Yes?"

"Ah jaysus dat a boy!" Wendy laughed. "Wendy Murphy at yer service."

"Oh!" Melvin recognized the name from Sasporilla's letters from Droorlily. "You're the drummer Sasporilla roomed with in Ireland. Nice to meet you."

"Good ta meet ya as well." Wendy said.

"And this is Devon Mislhop the third." Myron said. "He plays a mean base guitar."

"Cal me Krunk." Devon said in what Melvin thought was an American accent. "Everyone at home does."

"Are you American?" Melvin asked.

"You lookin' for fight kid?" Krunk said stepping in. "I'm Canadian."

"Oh I'm sorry." Melvin said. "I misidentified your accent."

"No probs." Krunk smiled holding out his hand.

Melvin shook the older boy's hand gladly. He hadn't meant to insult the young man. The last thing he needed was a fight with a band mate on the first day.

"Ok." Myron smiled. "You three go on into the studio and jam for bit. I want to hear how you play off each other." It was about ten thirty when Sasporilla finally arrived at the studio. She was kept in the waiting room for almost an hour before Myron happened to walk out.

"Sassy you made it!" Myron said hugging his favorite young witch. "You should have just come in."

"Sorry sir." The receptionist said. "I thought she was just some fan since her name wasn't on the list."

"Ah I see." Myron said walking over to the desk. He rummaged through the clip boards of lists until he got to the Myron Wagtail one. He turned it to the receptionist and pointed to Sassy's name under VIP - ALWAYS WELCOME! "I'm so sorry sir I'm new this week." The receptionist said.

"No worries", Myron smiled, "everyone makes mistakes. Just remember this sweet face. This girl is like a daughter to me."

"Yes sir." The receptionist said. "Sorry miss."

Myron saw Sasporilla back to the studio. The band was really rocking. Sasporilla gasped and put her hands to her mouth when she saw Melvin jumping around wailing on the guitar and her friend Wendy Murphy hammering away on the drums.

"They sound amazing." Sasporilla squealed. "They're perfect together."

"I'm happy you like them together." Myron smiled walking over to the intercom and pushing the button. "Take a pause for the cause you animals."

The band wound it up and shut it down. Melvin saw Sasporilla and waved. Murphy looked to who Melvin was waving at and grinned from ear to ear.

Murphy was first out of the booth and jumped on Sasporilla. "Sassy ye skeevy betch yer a sight fer sore arses!"

"I've missed you to you crazy Irish jewel." Sasporilla said.

"What are ya doin' here?" Wendy asked. "Ah ya've come ta take me up on my offer fer a cuddle, it's about fekin' time."

"Stop it you." Sassy laughed. "I've come to see my genius boy friend play."

"What?" Krunk laughed stepping forward arms outstretched to embrace the pink haired witch. "I don't remember us meeting but give me a half hour to jog my memory."

"I believe you'll only need thirty seconds alone for that." Sasporilla laughed.

"Ouch." Krunk said. "Sweet burn."

"Hands off my girl." Melvin chuckled. "The pair of you."

"Hi you." Sassy smiled looking into Melvin's eyes.

"Hi you." Melvin smiled as he kissed his sweet Sasporilla. "Did you like what you heard?"

"I did." Sasporilla said. "I think you all play well together."

"Are you ready to work on the first song?" Myron asked.

"You bet." Melvin said.

"After I visit da little girls room." Wendy said politely. "I have ta powder my nose and take a wicked piss."

"We have not been properly introduced." Krunk said. "I'm Devon, but my friends call me KRUNK."

"It's a pleasure to meet you KRUNK." Sasporilla smiled shaking his hand.

"Krunk is a muggle." Myron said. "His sister is the first witch in their family bloodline. She's attending the Decorria School in Ottawa."

"Canada's biggest school for witches and wizards." Krunk smiled.

"I go to Hogwarts, with Melvin." Sasporilla said.

"We're going to have to do something with your name Melvin Lazarus." Myron said. "We need something snappy."

"I always thought of Vin or Vinny." Melvin said.

"I like that." Myron said "Vin Lazarus, Vinny Arus, No."

"Vinny Laser!" Krunk said.

"Laser?" Myron asked.

"That's good!", Melvin said, "it's a muggle invention that casts a beam of condensed powerful light. It can measure straight lines over miles, burn holes in stone and even carry communications into space."

"Ok then Vinny Laser it is but we'll still spell it LAZAR." Myron said.

"Vinny Lazar." Sasporilla smiled. "Such a rock and roll name."

"Yes it' pretty cool." Vinny smiled.

"Just like my man." Sasporilla said.

"You'll have to beat the girls off with a stick." Myron laughed.

"I only have eyes for one girl." Vinny said kissing Sasporilla.

Wendy made her way back from the washroom. "Ok, all set."

"Did you wash your hands young lady?" Sassy laughed.

"No." Wendy said threatening to push her hands in Sasporillas face. "An' I had 'em wiping my arse too! Come on take a deep breath!"

"All right you three, into the studio." Myron said. "Time is money."

"I love you." Vinny said kissing his girl.

"I love you more." Sasporilla said.

The band went through Vinnys song, that he'd written for Sasporilla, three times before they finally agreed on how it show go from beginning to end. They recorded it in one take. Vinny never took his eyes off of Sasporilla while he sang to her.

"That was brilliant." Myron said. "Take five."

"They are really, really good together." Sasporilla smiled. "I mean to see them sort of an odd assortment, bit of a dead end oddity shop but they sound amazing!"

"You're bloody brilliant young lady." Myron said excitedly kissing Sassy on the top of the head and hitting the intercom switch.

"I want to run a very apropos band name past you three." Myron said. "Dead End Oddity Shop."

"I like it." Krunk said. "Any name attached to a pay cheque is a good one."

"Wow!" Murphy smiled. "Sums us up pretty damn good."

"It's perfect." Vinny said. "I was afraid you were going to suggest my name for the band name. I'd hate that. We're all equal in our band."

"What ever you say boss." Krunk said.

"Yes yer master ship." Murphy laughed.

"Sasporilla came up with it." Myron said.

"Then I love it a million times more." Vinny Lazar smiled.

"Ok you three let's try that one you were playing in the park yesterday. The political idiot song." Myron said.

"Sure." Vinny Lazar said turning back to his band mates.

It took them a bit under an hour to get it together good enough to record. Then it took them about six tries. Considering only Vinny had known the song coming in, it was amazing they'd gotten a finished song so fast.

"Ok people it's time for a meal break." Myron announced. "I had food delivered and set up in the board room. We'll feast and get back to work. If we get a third song out of you, we'll have a demo I can take around."

It was to late for lunch and to early for dinner so they just settled on calling it tea and being done with it. They had burgers, fries, Chinese food and deli. Everyone could find something to eat. Wendy watched Vinny and Sasporilla together.

"I never saw dis side a her before." Wendy Murphy said to Myron Wagtail. "She's so pat'etically in love."

"I know." Myron smiled. "I felt the same way about her mother when I was that age. Never got the chance because her boyfriend was my friend."

"Unrequited love." Murphy said. "Ya English are pat'etic. If ya love someone, tell'm an' let dem decide who day want."

"Sometimes it's not that easy." Myron sighed. "I wish it were."

Dead End Oddity Shop did indeed record one more song that evening. It was written by Myron and was almost made for their sound. It was about loving the small things in life and staying together but it was up beat and bouncy. At the end of the day Myron had multiple copies of the demo made up. This is where the bands work ended for the day and his really began. He would have to shop the band around a bit. He was going to release them on his own label to the magical community but he was positive he could get them a contract to a muggle label as well. Myron Wagtail was not wrong. Within thirty six hours the band was signed to major muggle label for a three album deal. Everything moved like a whirlwind. Stylists lengthened Vinnys hair and gave him contact lenses. He hated they way they felt on his eyes but his physical discomfort and disdain for them gave him a dark brooding look. Photo sessions were held, music videos filmed, new songs were recorded. A tour bus was supplied by Myrons label. It was twice the size inside as the weird sisters bus was. They'd need the space for tutors and class rooms. Myron refused to see the children's education suffer because of this opportunity.

By summers end they had an album in stores. The Dead End Oddity Shop - In Flagrate Delicto. They were on the charts and were starting a world tour.

Sasporilla was at the studio offices at Six a.m. the morning the bus was scheduled to leave. A large crowd of screaming fans had gathered outside. It would have been hard for her to get past security except she apparated inside the buildings lobby. The band was there with their bags, a bunch of roadies going over checklists and Myron. "Just in time." Myron said. "You know it's not to late to reconsider the offer."

"No." Sasporilla said. "If I go along I'll lose my last year at Hogwarts, and I'll be a distraction for Melvin."

"Better yer arse distractin' him den some skinny groupie betch." Murphy said.

"Not to mention", Sasporilla confided in her friends, "the way I've been feeling since he woke me with his kiss... I'm not sure I could keep our relationship appropriate."

"Sasporilla!" Vinny Lazar smiled running over to her and giving her a great big kiss.

"What were you guys talking about?" Vinny asked.

"I was just offering Sassy another chance to come with." Myron said.

"Her wishes are clear." Vinny smiled. "She wants to study hard and get inyo the university of Avalon for wand making. I respect her wishes."

"Not ta mention she's not sure she can keep her hands off ya!" Murphy laughed.

Sasporilla stomped Murphys big toe because it was more lady like then putting her fist her big mouth.

"I'm sorry?" Vinny asked.

"It's nothing." Sasporilla said. "I just wanted you to know that even though I've chosen not to go with you, you'll be in my thoughts every waking moment Melvin Lazarus. I love you and I'll miss you with all my heart. Promise you'll write to me."

"Every day." Vinny Lazar smiled. "You write back."

"Every day as well." Sasporilla said.

Sasporilla looked deep into Vinnys eyes. Her gaze pulled him closer until their lips met and they kissed, good-bye.



Sasporilla Bucket

The Girl With Pink Hair



Return to The Chamber of Secrets

By Darren Kelly

⌘ Harry Potter Universe Fan Fiction

RETURN TO THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

A Harry Potter / Sasporilla Bucket Fan Fiction
by Darren Kelly



Chapter 1

Blossom Kowalski was the proudest, of all Hufflepuff's, of being a Hufflepuff. The great grand daughter of Jacob and Queenie Kowalski she had always held the family whispers of being distantly related to Helga Hufflepuff in very high regards. Today, of all days, Blossom stood in the girls loo in the Hogwarts Express, adjusting her Head Girl pin in the Mirror.

She was honoured to be named Hufflepuff Head Girl by Headmistress McGonagall and Professor Sprout, head of Hufflepuff house. She knew it meant a bit of hard work but she looked forward to lending a compassionate ear to those who needed it and was a bit trepidacious of handing out punishments, even to those who deserved it.

"You can do this!" Blossom's pretty smile reflecting back at her. Her own words of encouragement gave her comfort.

Blossom walked up and down the corridors of the Hogwarts Express looking for Hufflepuffs to engage. It was compartment F on car three that Blossom came upon a Hufflepuff that she knew very well. Sasporilla Bucket, already dressed in her black and yellow Hufflepuff robes, sat amongst a group of nervous first years listening to music with headphones on, and her eyes closed.

Blossom opened the compartment door.

"Hello fellow Hufflepuff!" Blossom said in her most pleasant voice.

It became clear to everyone in the compartment that she was talking to the seventh year witch with pink hair. A young girl across from Sasporilla through an empty candy wrapper, bouncing it off her nose. Sasporilla opened her eyes. She saw the young witch with out of control red hair laughing across from her. Sasporilla pulled off her head phones.

"Do you think that's funny?" Sasporilla asked.

"Ya I do!" The girl laughed. Sasporilla heard an American accent. "But I was just trying to get your attention for her."

Sasporilla looked over at the compartment door and saw Blossom's cringing expression.

"Oh! Hello Blossom." Sasporilla smiled.

"Hello Sasporilla." Blossom said. "I'm just stopping by to say hello to all my fellow Hufflepuffs, and let you know that this year I will be your 'Head Girl'."

"Brilliant." Sasporilla smiled. "I'm happy for you, I know just how hard you worked to get there and might I say no one better deserves the job."

"Thank you Sassy." Blossom smiled. "You're very sweet. I wanted to let you know as well that I will always be here for you if you're having difficulties or just need to talk. I really do want to make this year the best year for Hufflepuffs!"

"With you as Head Girl Blossom I suspect that we will even win the house cup." Sasporilla smiled.

"That's the Hufflepuff spirit I like to hear." Blossom said. "Should any of you first years be deserving enough to be sorted into Hufflepuff then my offer also stands for you."

"Ha!" The wild red haired girl scoffed. "I'm not pathetic enough to be sorted to Hufflepuff. I'll be proudly sorted to Slytherin."

"What is your name young lady?" Blossom asked her best stern voice.

"Katelynn Ashwolf!" The young witch said proudly. "My cousin is an auror!"

"Is your cousin Lyra Lee-Ashwolf?" Sasporilla asked.

"Yes." Katelynn Ashwolf smiled. "So you better watch yourself around me."

"Young lady threats are no way to conduct ones self at Hogwarts." Blossom said.

"It goes for you too." Katelynn said to Blossom, shocking the Hufflepuff head girl.

"I'll have you know brat," Sasporilla said, "that your cousin, Lyra Lee-Ashwolf, was a proud Hufflepuff. She works with my Uncle DI Owlmore and she is his underling, and she is one of my three best friends! So to you I say..."

Sasporillas hand gesture was most unseemly and, in Blossoms opinion, below the Hufflepuff standards not to mention rather unlady like.

"Sasporilla I will be taking note of such a rude gesture in my pad and I will be reporting your attitude Miss Ashwolf to the Head Mistress upon our arrival."

"Narc!" Katelynn said flipping off Blossom and pushing past her in the open doorway.

"How Rude!" Blossom said shocked.

"Another Ashwolf." Sasporilla laughed. "God help us all."

The Hogwarts Express pulled into Hogsmead station. Karry and Zac were standing on the platform jumping and waving. Sasporilla ran off the train and into one of Karrys comforting hugs.

"Good to see you Karry! Zac!" Sasporilla smiled.

"Oh it's great to finally see you to." Karry smiled. "I've made huge discoveries this summer and I can't wait to share them with you."

"Let's get up to the school and we'll fill you in." Zac smiled.

Sasporilla was so happy to be back. She had almost come to think of Hogwarts as her home over the last 6ish years. The towers and spires, the high walls & dark halls. The familiarity of the shifting stair cases and the welcoming warmth of the Hufflepuff common room. All of these things said home to her, more so than any other she had ever known. The only thing missing was her mum and there was no place in this world that she could go to be with her.

Sasporillas Seventh year dorm room was a half sized room. As few students stayed to do there N.E.W.T's, satisfied with going out into the world with just their O.W.L's, it meant fewer sixth and seventh year students. Sadly that was doubly so amongst the female students.

"Nice room." Sassy smiled setting down her guitar case on the bed and placing her Triumphant 1200x broom in the corner. "I wonder who my room mate is?"

"Some hard working, really intelligent, drop dead gorgeous Hufflepuff." Karry smiled.

"Seireena Jacobi?" Sassy asked.

"No?" Karry said playfully smiling.

"Violet Googenhiem?" Sassy asked rummaging in her trunk.

"No." The smile sank from Karrys face.

"Oh my god am I rooming with Blossom?" Sasporilla said looking hopeful.

"No." Karry said getting a bit annoyed. "Me!"

"Oh." Sasporilla said with a disappointed look and went back to pulling out some clothes.

"You brat!" Karry said hitting her friend with a pillow.

Sasporilla burst into laughter, grabbed a pillow from her bed and started to swing. "Oh it's on!"

Pillows smacked into heads and feathers flew around the room, raining down from every angle as Blossom Kowalski passed the open dorm room door. Blossom stopped and backed up. She couldn't believe her eyes.

"What do you two think your doing?" Blossom screamed getting Sasporilla and Karrys attention bringing the great pillow battle to a draw. "Look at the state of this room!"

Sassy and Karry burst back into laughter and fell onto Sasporillas bed. Karry started to tickle Sasporilla.

"Stop!" Sassy protested laughing wildly. "You'll make me pee."

"Challenge accepted!" Karry laughed.

"Stop it you two!" Blossom said stepping into the room. "By the power vested in me by Professor Sprout and Headmistress McGonagall, as your Head Girl I order you to stop this unseemly conduct and get this room cleaned up before dinner!"

Karry and Sasporilla stood and saluted trying not to laugh. Poor Blossom's first day as head girl, and they put her in this position.

"Sorry Blossom." Sasporilla said.

"Ya sorry Blossom." Karry said.

"Honestly I expect this from first years but from Seventh years!?" Blossom said. "I can see I'm going to have my hands full with just you two alone."

"We'll be good Blossom," Sasporilla said, "sorry about all this."

Sasporilla elbowed Karry, Karry elbowed Sasporilla. The tickling began again as they fell to the floor sending feathers flying back into the laughter filled air.

Blossom through her hands in the air and walked out of the room. "Clean up this mess! I mean it!"

It wasn't long before the girls pulled out their wands and cleaned the room to a spotless state. Every feather returned to their pillows and every knocked over item replaced where it should be. The next time Blossom passed by the room's open door she stopped trepidatiously and looked in. Both girls sat on their well made beds chatting in their spotless room. Blossom gave Sassy and Karry a double thumbs up and a bright approving smile, then walked on her way.

"So is anything wrong at home?" Sasporilla asked.

"God NO!" Karry insisted. "Why do you ask?"

"Well your bunking with me rather than Zac at your home???" Sasporilla said.

"We decided it was easier to room here as sometimes my hours in the archive can get quite late." Karry said. "Not to mention it saves money and time on food, cooking, and washing up, laundry, etc!"

"What about your special alone time?" Sasporilla asked.

"That," Karry said tapping Sasporilla on her nose with a finger, "is none of your business young lady."

"You need to employ some house elves." Sassy smiled. "They keep you sorted."

"We've discussed it." Karry said. "Just not sure."

"Perhaps I can talk to Drooble and see if there are any free elves in need of jobs?" Sasporilla smiled.

"That may be helpful, thank you." Karry said. "We should get down to dinner. Once we've got it out of the way I can bring you to my office in the archives and show you what I've found."



Chapter 2

The students of Hogwarts poured into the great hall. Light flickered from the lit candles that floated magically above. They stood out against the starry night sky which masked the rafters of the great hall. Students sat at their house tables gabbing about the events of the summer past.

The first years were brought in and marched to the front by Professor Slughorn for the sorting ceremony.

"See that one?" Sasporilla said to Karry pointing to the girl with wild red hair. "That's Katelynn Ashwolf. Lyra's cousin."

"Really?" Karry smiled. "I'll have to say hello. What's she like?"

"Bit of a nightmare really." Sasporilla said. "I road in on the Hogwarts Express with her."

"Worse than Lyra at first?" Karry asked.

"Different." Sassy frowned. "Didn't see any sense of Lyra's Social Conscience. She's got quite a sense of self importance and seems to have a bit of chip on her shoulder."

"So a typical American?" Karry laughed.

"That's not fair." Sasporilla laughed giving Karry a nudge. "There are good and bad people from all countries."

The sorting ceremony began and as by tradition the children were called one by one, Alphabetically.

"Katelynn Ashwolf." Professor Slughorn called from the role. The name made the Headmistress stop chatting and take notice. She had been advised there would be another Ashwolf at Hogwarts. Headmistress McGonagall only hoped Hogwarts could endure it.

Katelynn Ashwolf sat on the stool with a proud smug look on her face. She knew she was a Slytherin, through to her bones. The sorting hat was lowered onto her wild red hair. The hat latched on and came alive and started to sing.

"I see inside your mind.
I feel inside your heart.
Your hopes and your ambitions
Of you are all a part.
You're not afraid to speak your mind
Or hard work when allowed
You believe your crafty, mean and dark
Of this I see you're proud
You're smarter than most that put me on
But less than the greatest I've seen
Though you believe that with all your heart
You're the greatest that's ever been.
So in any house you'd fit real well
But you know where you belong
In the house of Salazar Slytherin
But in this you are wrong
For I'm the hat so wise
I can sort through all this stuff
And put you in the house that's right
You are HUFFLEPUFF!"

"WHAT!?" Katelynn Ashwolf screamed. "You've gotta be kidding me!"

"The sorting hat makes no mistakes young lady." Professor Slughorn said.

"My cousin will hear of this!" Katelynn yelled storming out of the great hall.

Blossom Kowalski took her duties as Hufflepuff Head Girl very seriously and she saw a young Hufflepuff upset and in need of help, support and guidance. She rushed out of the great hall, after the young Hufflepuff followed by Professor Sprout. One by one the other first years were sorted into their houses. Everyone else seemed happy with their results. By the end of the ceremony Katelynn Ashwolf was escorted back to the Hufflepuff table. Blossom's hair stood on end and Professor Sprout's hat was smoldering.

"Before we begin this new year at Hogwarts," Headmistress McGonagall began, "I would like to take a moment to thank one of our esteemed seventh year students, Ms. Karry Curtiss, for agreeing to stay on with our Library team to continue the work on reviewing and cataloguing the papers of Albus Dumbledore."

Karry stood and gave a polite thankful wave.

"Now let the feast begin!" The headmistress said.

Every student and teacher tucked in to one of the best meals the house elves had ever prepared for the school. Zacs eyes rolled back into his head, like a shark in a feeding frenzy, as he bit into the tender prime rib roast. Karry knew the elves made food that was far better than anything her or Zac could make on their own. Sasporilla enjoyed the roast Chicken. Drooble made the best chestnut stuffing to go with it. Sassy was probably the only non elf to know the secret ingredients were sage and nutmeg.

After dinner Sasporilla and Karry met up with Zac outside the great hall. They headed away from the flows of students that went to their houses. They headed into the library past the counter and the tables, through the shelves of books and to a set of circular stairs Sasporilla had never seen before. Karry headed down them first followed by Sassy, and then Zac.

The steps lead down into a basement filled with shelves of dust volumes and piles of boxes that formed a confusing maze of temporary corridors. Somewhere deep in the back was an old cupboard. Karry reached inside and pulled out her wand.

"Lumos!" Karry cast lighting a lamp hanging in the back over her small desk. Karry stepped in and shuffled to the side of the desk between a stack of boxes to get to her chair. Karry sat and pulled the lid off a cardboard box. From it she pulled a journal and two scrolls.

"While going through the documents of Albus Dumbledore I found that I'd been given the journals and papers for his last ten years."

"Cool." Sassy smiled politely looking around at the claustrophobic space Karry worked in.

"I discovered something very interesting." Karry said opening the journal to a marked page and turned it to face her friend. "Read this."

Sassy looked at the journal. Its parchment pages were inked in the handwriting of Dumbledore himself. The heading read...

'Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket.'

"He wrote about me?" Sassy asked.

"Read it." Karry laughed.

"I met with young Miss Bucket and her mother tonight. They were excited that Sasporilla was to attend Hogwarts. They had no idea the true reasons why the girl was offered the scholarship. She would never master the powers granted by her elven bloodline without the close mentoring and monitoring of other elves.

Once it was discovered that her lack of magical ability was being caused by conflict in her royal elven bloodline and royal Avalonian bloodline."

Sasporilla stopped reading and stared blankly at Karry then at Zac who both smiled at her excitedly. Sasporilla read on.

"As the true heir of Stilskin Elf crown and niece of the current Witch Queen of Avalon, from the founding royal family of Avalon, miss Bucket comes from very powerful blood lines. She has been raised in ignorance of her birth right, and is as humble and kind a soul as I have ever met. We have granted her entry into Hogwarts and agreed to instruct her in all of the ways of magic at the insistence of the Stilskin matron 'Daisy' with all first year tuition and housing paid for by the Avalon Royal house. Both sides have their eyes on the girl for their own political agendas. God help her. An unwitting rope in a game of tug of war. I hope to warn her before she graduates from Hogwarts... Was he serious? "

Karry unrolled the two scrolls. They illustrated both of Sasporillas royal bloodlines, joining the Wizarding Royal house with the Elven Royal house, in her.

"What do you think?" Zac asked Sassy.

"I think I'm going to faint!" Sassy said.

"Get her royal majesty a chair would you love?" Karry asked of her husband Zac who scooted a chair in under Sasporillas back side before it could hit the ground.

"To be honest I don't know that much about the rites and traditions of either royal house but I thought you'd find this exciting." Karry said.

"More overwhelmingly disconcerting than exciting I'm afraid." Sassy cringed. "I now understand so much. Melvin's mothers turn around on me after learning who my grand parents were. The people who attended my fathers funeral. It all makes a lot of sense now."

"Everything except why your parents kept it all from you?" Zac asked.

"No I get it." Sasporilla nodded. "That kind of life isn't the kind of life they wanted. It was the farthest from what they had. They wanted to be simple people and live a simple life."

"And you?" Karry asked.

"Don't really know?" Sasporilla said. "Have to think about it. Learn more about it guess to make an informed choice, but frankly I feel it would get in the way of me bring a wand maker."

"I found a bunch of stuff about Harry Potter." Karry said pulling out another journal and opening it to a page, bookmarked with a Phoenix feather.

"Harry Potter and his friends have left the Basilisk guardian dead and rescued Ginny Weasley from the Chamber of secrets. Luckily they did not search any further and the vaults containing all of the true secrets of Salazar Slytherin remain unopened. All but the one from which I took the Pensive years ago. I have sealed the Chamber of Secrets and collapsed its front entrance. Sealing it off permanently from any students who learns of it accidentally or otherwise. I have left the pit entry open but have magically disguised it so that only someone who knows of its exact location may find it again."

"Wow." Sasporilla said. "I wonder what's down there?"

"That is exactly what I said.," Karry smiled.

"And me." Zac said.

"What is this Pensive, he talks about?" Sassy asked.

"It was a bowl for watching magically stored memories. It was found in his office after they cleared it out of his things." Karry said. "I had to ask someone else on the team who was researching documents from around the time of Tom Riddle. Jasmine Lee."

"Oh my god that horrible American Slytherin girl?" Sassy gasped. "She is so rude!"

"And mean!" Zac said. "I'm honestly happy she finished her N,W,T's and graduated."

"Yes, but like us ,she's going on to the teaching collage here at Hogwarts." Karry sighed. "So she's still around."

"At least I won't run into her in the common room any more." Zac laughed.

Katelynn Ashwolf sat in the corridor out side of the Hufflepuff common room door. She didn't want to be Hufflepuff! She knew she was a Slytherin. She debated just leaving. Running away from Hogwarts and returning home. Any other school must be better than this, if her bring here meant being a Hufflepuff!

"I can't believe cousin Lyra was a Hufflepuff." Katelynn said sniffing and wiping a tear from her eye.

"I know," a voice said from the shadows, "being a Hufflepuff is quite a dark mark on the family. No pun, intended."

"Who's there?" Katelynn asked jumping to her feat.

A taller than average Chinese girl in jade green robes stepped from the shadows. Her long black hair hung straight down to her waist. Her high set cheekbones emphasized her thin slanted eyes.

"My name is Jasmine Lee." the girl said, "you are Katelynn Ashwolf. Daughter of Xander and Holly-Hop Ashwolf. Cousin of Lyra Lee-Ashwolf on her fathers side as I am a cousin on her mothers side."

"So what does that make us?" Katelynn asked.

"Cousins by marriage." Jasmine smiled trying to instill a sense of family bond in the girl.

"What house are you?" Katelynn asked. "I'm Slytherin of course."

"Lucky you." Katelynn said folding her arms and pouting.

"What if I told you I was working on a way to help you prove your worth to the house of Salazar Slytherin." Jasmine asked. "Would you be interested."

"You bet I would!" Katelynn said excitedly. "I'd do anything to be a Slytherin."

"Good." Jasmine grinned. "I'll see about finding you some loyal companions from Slytherin. You'll need help for the tasks ahead. I will be in touch, cousin."



Chapter 3

Every day Zac got a copy of the Daily Prophet by Owl Post. He liked to read it over breakfast catching up on the events important to the day in the Wizarding World. The news was relatively quiet. The big headline was another Death Eater had been captured hiding out in Eastern Europe and was preparing to stand trial.

Zac turned to Rita Skeeters new exclusive. "The Dead End Oddity Shop: New Musical Sensation. Who are they, what are they all about, and what's the truth behind the fame. A Daily Serial on the road by Rita Skeeter."

Zac folded his paper over to the Rita Skeeter article and carried it over to the Hufflepuff table.

Sasporilla had just received a large parcel from Melvin and was in the process of opening it. The first thing on top was today's copy of the Daily Prophet, turned to the Rita Skeeter article and autographed by the entire band, Rita Skeeter and Myron Wagtail.

"I was just going to ask you if you'd seen the article." Zac smiled leaning in to give Mrs.Curtiss a kiss.

"Good morning wife." Zac smiled.

"Good morning Husband." Kerry smiled back.

Sassy rolled her eyes playfully as she went back to digging in the box. Right underneath the paper was a letter.

"Dear Sasporilla;

It's the first night on the bus as we travel to our first concert. I've been told that by morning we will have arrived at our first location, and the stage will be set up. After morning classes will be sound check and warm up practice. Then afternoon classes and the concert. I hope there's room for food in there some where.

We did the first of several scheduled interviews with Rita Skeeter today. She tends to 'spin things' into directions she wants them to go. I don't trust that she will fully tell the truth about us in her articles. If I read anything untrue I will address it with you in my letters.

We sent along a copy of the prophet, autographed. Wendy says it's the little woman's job as faithful home groupie to start a scrap book of our achievements. I have already told her to sod off for you. You can give it away if you want and if anyone at Hogwarts is a fan. Oh speaking of fans, we sent along a big box of swag. There should be enough of everything for anyone who wants something. It was Myron's idea. Make sure you get a T-shirt for yourself. Myron and Wendy say hi by the way.

As I lay here in my bed, in my own private room, I can't help thinking of you. Every time I look out of the tour bus window I hope to see your face in the crowd. Every time I look at your picture I taste your lips on mine. When I look into anyone's eyes I imagine I see your beautiful lavender eyes. I am helplessly and hopelessly head over heels in love with you Sasporilla Imaginarium Bucket."

I love you and I miss you;

Melvin

xoxoxo

Sasporilla stood up with two handfuls of T-shirts, posters and pictures.

"Anyone a fan of Dead End Oddity Shop?" Sassy yelled. "I have free swag for anyone who wants some."

Students from every house mobbed Sasporilla who handed out items smiling and laughing. The best part about one size fits all t-shirts in the wizarding world is that they did indeed adjust to fit any size.

"How did 'YOU' get a box of DEOS swag Sasporilla Bucket?" Katelynn Ashwolf asked snottily.

"My good friend is their producer." Sasporilla said. "Myron Wagtail and my boy friend is Vinny Lazar."

"Ya sure." Katelynn smirked. "Like that could ever happen."

"Did you want to get in on some of this or not Ashwolf?" Sasporilla snapped losing patience with the first year.

"Ya give me a t-shirt and a poster." Katelynn said. "They're my all time favorite band."

Sasporilla handed the girl a t-shirt, a poster, a cd, a button and the autographed copy of the Daily Prophet. "Hope you enjoy it. I'll tell Vinny you like his music. I can fold a letter from you in with mine if you want to get it to him ahead of the other fan mail."

"You do that for me?" Katelynn asked. "Why?"

"Because you're a fan of the band, because you're a Hufflepuff and because you're Lyra's cousin." Sassy smiled.

"Not to mention I know how cool it is to like a band and have a secret in with them."

Katlynn clutched the items tightly. They would surely be her prized possessions. It gave Sasporilla a momentary warm feeling known how the young girl felt. She was the same fan in the shadows of the Weird Sisters all those years ago.

"I don't need any favors from the likes of you." Katelynn said stiffening and walking away with her nose in the air.

"That is one horrible little girl." Karry said.

"I wonder why someone with that bad an attitude was sorted to Hufflepuff?" Zac snorted derisively.

"I wonder what happened in her life to make her that way?" Sassy sighed.

First class after breakfast for Sasporilla was one she looked forward to. Basic wand making with Professor Dingle. She couldn't wait to learn from her favorite professor in all of Hogwarts again. Not to mention she was anxious to tell her teacher how she'd met another girl name Moirah Dingle at Droorlily.

Professor Dingle was already in the class when the students began to arrive. Sassy sat at one of the desks in front. She was anxious to learn everything she could about the actual creation of wands and bounce some of her revolutionary ideas off of her teacher.

"Hello Sasporilla." Professor Dingle smiled. "Did you have a good summer?"

"Yes Professor." Sassy smiled. "You?"

"Yes." She smiled. "I was finally able to get home to Galway to see my family."

"I was there last year at Droorlily." Sassy smiled.

"I remember." Professor Dingle laughed. "The noise you and Wendy Murphy made!"

"Professor?" Sasporilla asked.

Moirah Dingle called Sasporilla up to her desk. Sassy stood and walked over with a quizzical look on her face.

"It's me." Moirah Dingle said. "The Professor you know is the girl you knew."

"I don't understand?" Sasporilla asked. "How is that possible?"

"The wiggle worm gate. The same spell they used to get you to Hogwarts after the attack." Moriah Dingle said.

"At the end of last year I learned the spell. I cast it and thought I'd had it anchored correctly. I didn't take into account the fourth dimensional factor and ended up passing through to London, but fifteen years ago!"

"Oh my god Moirah!" Sasporilla said taking the woman's hand. "What did you do?"

"The only thing I could think to do was come to the most powerful wizard in England and ask him for his help." Moirah smiled.

"Professor Dumbledore?" Sassy asked.

"Yes." Moirah said sadly. "He said that he didn't have the ability to send me back. He said my purpose was to be here in this time and that I should stay."

"That's terrible." Sasporilla said.

"Not really." Moriah smiled. "He got me a job at Olivanders where I learned all about wands from the greatest wand maker who ever lived. I met a man, fell in love, got married and I'm going to be a mother. This is my last year teaching for now. Not so much because of starting a family but because I now know I have taught the person I was meant to teach."

"Who was that?" Sasporilla asked with wide eyed curiosity.

"Take your seat please Miss Bucket!" Professor Dingle said. "The class is about to begin. Welcome ladies and gentlemen to Basic Wand making. If you were hoping for an easy class, this isn't it. By the end of the semester you will know everything there is to know about how a wand works and why. You better be prepared to take lots of notes and pay close attention to the things I tell you. Now anyone who thinks they made a mistake can go and change classes now, no harm, no fowl."

Two students stood up and walked out of class. They weren't really that interested in wand making and were just looking for an easy class to rest, goof off or catch up on home work from important classes.

"All right den," Professor Dingle smiled. "Let's get to work."



Chapter 4

ON TOUR WITH DEAD END ODDITY SHOP (PART 3) By Rita Skeeter

The fascinating thing about travelling with a group of young musicians is observing them, like an anthropologist observing chimps in the wild.

Long days of tutoring and hard work pay off in a palpable sense of excitement during and after a show. The band members retire to their tour bus and attend to the needs of a select group of fans. The youngest of the Dead End Oddity Shop members, Vinney Lazar at seventeen and three quarters, is the most popular with the female fans. On most nights one or more fans accompany the band member back to their private quarters to talk and 'hang out'. (Wink).

Sasporilla Bucket dropped the copy of the Daily Prophet on the table and started to laugh. "Vinney Lazar seventeen and three quarters. More like thirteen and three quarters!"

Sasporilla picked up a strip of bacon from her breakfast plate and nibbled as she pulled out a piece of parchment and her quill.

Dear Vinny Lazar;

I'm your biggest fan! I love your music and need you to know that I love you. The next time you play in my city I'm going to attend your show and hope to be picked to be your special lady, taken to your private quarters to chat and hang out (wink).

Honestly Melvin that Rita Skeeter is horrible making up such stories about you. I don't know what Krunk is like, though I certainly would expect that sort of behavior from Wendy but I know you're simply not that way.

I love you;

Sasporilla

"Writing to Melvin?" Karry asked sitting down next to Sassy for breakfast.

"Oh my gawd!" Sassy said in her best excited young tween girl voice. "I'm writing to Vinney Lazar. My all time favorite rock star! He's gonna read my letter and fly a winged horse to my room and take me away and marry me!"

"You, my dear friend," Karry chuckled. "Are a certified nutter!"

"Here." Sassy said pushing the article over to Karry and pointed at the line. "Read this."

Karry read it as she munched on some toast and poured herself some tea.

"What a lying cow!" Karry laughed. "Melvin is not like that! And most certainly isn't that old!"

"I know it." Sasporilla sighed. "I must admit that as much I do trust Melvin, I don't trust the girls he'll be presented with, their questionable morals or his hormones."

"Myron is there watching over him." Karry reassured her. "If anything inappropriate happens Myron would let you know."

"I know it." Sasporilla smiled. "I feel jealous and possessive and just silly."

"Yes but you see it in yourself and know your wrong." Karry smiled. "Which means your mature and intelligent enough to deal with your feelings as just feelings."

"Thanks." Sassy said having a sip of tea. "You never get jealous!"

"I don't?" Karry said. "I most certainly do! I just deal with it through trust and logic."

Katelynn Ashwolf walked down the aisle followed closely by her two new Slytherin friends, Mary Crowley and Olga Bathory. They past by all of the other students and headed to the head table. They engaged professor McGonagall in conversation. It seemed to be a discussion about something the young girls were clearly passionate about. Headmistress McGonagall stood and called for everyone's attention.

"Students!" The headmistress said. "As of this morning I have decided to reinstate a program that Professor Dumbledore had put in place before his untimely death. From now on, at breakfast and lunch only, you may sit with friends if invited at any house table."

The students applauded. Karry waved to Zac who was already moving to join his wife at the Hufflepuff table. Katelynn was visibly excited to go sit with her friends amongst the very welcoming Slytherin students. Zac kissed Karry as he sat in beside her.

"Good morning my gorgeous woman." Zac smiled.

"Good morning my handsome man." Karry smiled back.

"God." Sasporilla said. "Get a room you two."

"Now, now." Karry said. "Don't hate us because we're in love!"

"I envy you, your closeness." Sasporilla sighed.

Potions and transfiguration were the courses of the day. Sasporilla honestly had a tough time concentrating on her work. All she saw in her minds eye was Melvin being tempted by an assembly line of beautiful women passing by him. She put three shakes of ground dragon throat polyps in the potion rather than two and stirred it the wrong way. The resulting explosion put Sasporilla in the infirmary.

Sassy awoke three days later, unable to see. Her eyes were bandaged. She could hear someone moving around her.

"Hello?" Sassy called out terrified. "Is anybody there?"

"Yes child." Madame Pomfrey said. "You're in the infirmary. Do you remember what happened?"

"I was in potions class." Sassy said. "That's all I remember."

"You brewed a an explosion that would have rivaled on of Mr.Finnigans in his day!"

"Was any one hurt?" Sasporilla asked.

"Minor scrapes and burns." Madame Pomfrey said. "You on the other hand nearly burned the eyes out of your head! What happened."

"I don't know." Sasporilla said. "I was distracted by...boy troubles that probably don't exist."

"We've all been there." Madam Pomfrey said. "If you have concerns you have to talk to the young man."

"Can only write to him for now." Sasporilla said. "He's out of the country."

"Do you trust him as much as you love him?" Madam Pomfrey asked.

"Yes." Sassy smiled. "I was just being dilly after the Rita Skeeter article..."

"That woman and her poison pen cause more problems!" Madame Pomfrey snapped.

"Will I be left blind, Madam Pomfrey?" Sasporilla asked.

"No." The infirmary matron said. "But it'll be a few days until your eyes are healed. They'll be between ninety and one hundred percent."

"What does that mean?" Sassy asked.

"It means, young lady that you'll be fine, but you may need glasses."

Karry and Zac visited Sasporilla in the hospital wing every day. Sassy looked forward to their visits. Even though she couldn't see them, the sounds of their voices brought her comfort.

"So I found something new in the Dumbledore papers." Karry said. "A clue to the location of..."

"Hello Hufflepuffs!" Blossom, the Hufflepuff Head girl smiled as she entered followed closely by Katelynn Ashwolf who had been chosen to carry a bouquet of get well soon flowers from Hufflepuff House.

"How are you feeling Sasporilla?" Blossom asked concerned for the well being of her house mate.

"I feel fine Blossom, thank you for asking." Sassy smiled. "Are those Daises I smell?"

"Yes." Katelynn said shoving the bouquet in Sasporillas arms. "A token from all of us in Hufflepuff hoping you get well soon. Can I freakin' go now?"

"No you may not." Blossom said. "You will stay for a pleasant momentary visit and then you may leave."

"Fine." Katelynn said sitting down hard in a chair, a grumpy look on her face.

"How did Ashwolf make the Hufflepuff cheer squad?" Karry asked.

"I wanted to make her feel more involved in Hufflepuff." Blossom said. "Show her that she's part of our family and welcome. She still doesn't feel comfortable being in Hufflepuff."

"I didn't either at first." Sasporilla said looking in the direction she thought Katelynn may be sitting in. "I had no friends, I was so socially awkward that I didn't know how to approach anyone. All my friends were house elves until your cousin arrived. She chose me as her friend whether I liked it or not. She was brusque and rude, just like you, but I loved that about her."

"Ya sure ok." Katelynn said.

"See." Blossom smiled, "if you give people a chance to accept you for who you are, you'll start to feel more at home in Hufflepuff and at Hogwarts."

By the time she'd turned Katelynn was gone.

"Cheeky little cow!" Blossom shook her head. "Thank you for trying to make her feel more one of us Sasporilla. Even in your condition we can always count on you."

"Thank you for the visit and the flowers Blossom." Sassy smiled.

"Your most welcome my Hufflepuff sister!" Blossom said waving and smiling as she left. Happy and satisfied at a job well done.

Karry watched Blossom leave. Once they were alone again, she spoke. "As I was saying. There is a map showing roughly where the secret entrance is. Apparently there's an ancient stone monolith ten paces from the entrance."

"But the entrance is magically hidden isn't yet?" Sassy asked.

"Yes." Karry said. "Dumbledore wrote that only someone who knows exactly where it is could find it, but I believe that may not be the only way to find it."

"Go on." Sasporilla said intrigued.

"I believe it's possible that others found their way in by accident and couldn't get back out. I believe their disappearances were eventually attributed to misadventure in the Dark Forest."

"If the entrance is in the dark forest the centaurs will likely know where it is." Sasporilla said excitedly.

"I was thinking the same thing." Karry smiled. "If we took the map that's on my office desk to the centaurs you know, maybe they could show you exactly where it was?"

"To what end though Karry!" Zac asked making Sassy jump.

"I forgot you there Zac!" Sassy said putting her hand over her beating heart. "You're to quiet! You scared the life out of me!"

"Sorry." Zac cringed. "But I mean even if you do find the back door to the chamber of secrets, why go in? It could be dangerous!"

"We're speaking hypothetically darling." Karry smiled. "No one would be foolish enough to go down there. God knows what is in those vaults and what traps have been set against robbers."

Katelynn Ashwolf didn't feel that way. This was what she was meant to find out. The fools just handed her the answers and the location of a map! She ran through the Hogwarts halls to the library looking for Jasmine Lee.

Katelynn sat at the table by the spiral stairs and whistled a familiar tune. The long raven haired woman in green robes rose up the steps like a snake from a basket.

"What have you found, cousin?" Jasmine smiled.

Karry and Zac were just about to leave when madam Pomfrey walked in with Headmistress MaGonagall and a man in long white robes.

"Are you ready to get the bandages off?" Madam Pomfrey asked.

"Are you kidding?" Sasporilla smiled. "I thought it wouldn't be until tomorrow?"

"I was in the area." The man in the white robes said. "Thought we'd see to it this afternoon. Hello miss Bucket, I'm doctor MacDonald. I'm your Occulist."

"Pleased to meet you sir." Sassy said holding out her hand groping for Karry nervously.

Karry took her friends hand and gave her some words of encouragement. "It'll be fine"

"Of course it will be ok." Dr.MacDonald smiled. "Now lets get these bandages off Now keep your eyes closed and don't open them until I say."

Dr.MacDonald unwrapped the bandages. Sassy squeezed Karrys hand excitedly. Zac put his hand on Sasporillas shoulder to add a bit of comfort. Sassy felt the last of the bandages fall away from the back of of her head.

"Knox!" Madam Pomfrey cast lowering the infirmary lights.

"All right", Dr.MacDonald said, "now open your eyes very slowly."

Sasporilla opened her eyes. She looked at the blurry shadowy figures around her. The headmistress cast Lumos Increaseo, raising the light levels in the room slowly. The dark blurry objects became light blurry objects.

Dr.MacDonald j

Held his wand up to Sasporillas eyes and cast Oculus Infenday. The doctor was suddenly able to see through Sassy's eyes.

"Oh dear." The oculist sighed. "I see we have the worst case scenario."

"What?" Karry asked holding back a scream.

"She will need to wear glasses from now on."



Chapter 5

Sasporilla awoke to a rather blurry Saturday morning. She looked around the dorm room at all of the things that used to be clear and sharp up until a few days ago when she almost blew the eyes out of her own head. Sassy reached over to her night stand and slipped on her new glasses. Everything became clear and sharp again. She would just have to get used to wearing them.

Karrys bed sat empty and made. Karry and Zac went home to their house in Hogsmead on weekends now to freely live as a young married couple should.

Sassy stretched and sat up. It was still a bit early for breakfast. She decided to do her morning ablutions and return to the room to get dressed and write a letter to Melvin.

Dear Melvin;

I'm sorry I haven't written in a few days but I've been in hospital due to an accident in potions class. I am ok, so please don't worry but I'm now rocking a hot librarian look as I'm now forced to wear glasses. I hope I didn't

worry you to much not writing. I love you more each day and can not wait to see you again. Even if it is through two pieces of curved glass.

How are you enjoying the tour? Playing on stage in front of all those people must be terrifying at first. What are your tutors like? I miss you and think about you every day and dream about you every night.

Hope you're having fun.... but not TOO MUCH fun!!!

I love you;

Sasporilla

Sasporilla was surprised to see Karry and Zac standing with Headmistress McGonagall Mr.Filch and Ms.Pince the librarian.

"This is an outrage!" Ms.Pince shouted. "To think one or more people broke through all of our security spells and stole some Dumbledores personal papers!"

"Calm down Irma." The headmistress said. "Mrs.Curtiss are you sure you didn't misplace them?"

"No headmistress." Karry insisted. "They were in a box next to my desk. They've taken specific documents, and I suspect for a specific purpose."

"And what would that be?" The headmistress raised her eyebrows.

"Someone is looking for the chamber of secrets." Karry said.

"Impossible!" Minerva McGonagall scoffed. "I was part of the teachers who sealed it off. No one is getting in there ever again."

"Not through the front door no!" Karry insisted.

"What are you saying?" The headmistress asked.

"Dumbledores journal and a map I found amongst the papers showed the existence of a back entrance in the dark forest." Karry said.

"Who else knew of this?" Headmistress McGonagall asked.

"Myself, Zac, Ms.Pince and Sasporilla Bucket." Karry said.

"Well then miss Bucket." Headmistress McGonagall said looking past Karry. "As you're now officially part of this conversation would you care to join us?"

Sasporilla stepped out from where she was hiding and eavesdropping.

"Hi everyone." Sassy smiled sheepishly.

"Did you remove documents from Mrs.Curtiss' office?" Headmistress McGonagall asked.

"No mam." Sasporilla said. "I didn't know anything about what was going on until I accidentally overheard you all talking about it now."

"You won't mind if we search your room and your things?" Ms.Pince asked.

"I won't be happy about it," Sassy said folding her arms defiantly, "but I give my permission just to be ruled out as a suspect so we can get on with finding who stole the documents."

Sassy went for a walk around the grounds while the library police tossed her room. She understood the importance of the documents and couldn't help but wonder who could have stolen them. Sassy stood at the edge of the Black Lake rumbling in an attempt to get the attention of Francis, the giant squid. Sadly he didn't answer today. Probably napping in his deep underwater cave or on the far side of the lake playing pranks on the people of Hogsmead.

Sasporilla decided to have a good nature romp, something she hadn't done now for quite a while. Sassy started to jog and then broke into a full run. She could feel her heart beating as it matched the beat of her running feet against earth. With a leap she took off into the air spinning and turning becoming as air. She roared the currents and flew above the clouds. She wafted back to soar above the trees of the dark forest. Sassy reached out and touched the leaves as she passed along the tree tops until she was as the trees and ground, the vines and the rocks. She past from earth to water in one fluid motion. She swam amongst the mer folk and down to Francis' cave where she found him sleeping soundly.

The surface of the black lake exploded in a burst of flame as Sasporilla shot back into the air as living flame. She spun and dipped in the sky, writing "I love Melvin" in flames above the lake.

Sasporilla landed and took human form again at the side of the black lake by the edge of the dark forest.

"Very impressive." Someone said from the trees.

"Hello?" Sasporilla asked looking into the forest. "Who's there?"

"My name, young woman is Fawkes." A bright red bird in a tree said to her. "and you are?"

"Sasporilla." Sassy smiled. "Sasporilla Bucket. Are you a phoenix?"

"Yes I am." Fawkes said. "I used to live in the School but my wizard was killed, so I went away on a flight of mourning."

"Of course your Fawkes!" Sasporilla said in recognition. "You were Dumbledores bird."

"I was his friend and he was mine." Fawkes said.

"Do you miss him?" Sassy asked.

"Terribly." Fawkes said. "Every day."

"I'm sorry for your loss, Fawkes." Sassy said. "I liked professor Dumbledore."

"He would be happy to know that Sasporilla Bucket." Fawkes said. "I know that he was quite fond of you as well."

"What brings you back to Hogwarts?" Sassy asked.

"I have specific need of someone with your 'NATURAL' talents." Fawkes said flying down and landing on a rock near by.

"Like what?" Sasporilla asked.

"I'm afraid that as I get older I find it more and more difficult to find my flame in the burning time." Fawkes said.

"I need to absorb large amounts of flame to rekindle my own inner flame."

"I would be happy too." Sasporilla said.

"Thank you." Fawkes said spreading his wings.

Sasporilla drew upon her inner flame and wrapped herself in it, then through her flame at Fawkes. The phoenix absorbed the flame and fluttered as playfully in it.

Within moments Fawkes flew up into the air and spun playfully.

"The flame feels so good Sasporilla Bucket." Fawkes said. "You have helped me more than you will ever know, and when you really need my help, I will return."

With that, Fawkes the phoenix flew away into the morning sky. Sasporilla walked back into the school and down to the Hufflepuff common room. Professor Sprout stood arguing with the headmistress. She was not happy at the accusations of one of her girls nor the search of her dorm room, even though Karry Curtiss was present to oversee the whole affair.

"Is it over?" Sasporilla asked. "Can I go back to my room?"

"You may Miss Bucket." Professor Sprout smiled. "Not surprisingly, they found nothing incriminating in your room."

Karry was in the dorm room remaking Sasporillas bed as Ms.Pince straightened her trunk.

"Did you find my secret stash of stolen crown jewels?" Sasporilla asked.

"No but we found your secret stash of chocolate frogs." Karry laughed.

"I was just holding them," Sassy said with exaggerated nervousness, "you know, for a friend."

"Sure." Karry said doubtfully. "Just like to chew the chocolate. Never swallowed right?"

"That's too easy." Sassy laughed.

Karry blushed when Ms.Pince gasped.

"On that note." Ms.Pince said. "I do believe I will make my exit. Good day ladies."

Sasporilla flopped down onto her bed and Karry crawled in next to her. The girls lay side by side looking up at the ceiling blankly.

"I am so sorry Sasporilla." Karry said.

"For what specifically?" Sasporilla asked sternly.

"For getting you involved in this whole thing?" Karry said turning on her side to look at her friend.

"No." Sasporilla said.

"For making you a suspect?" Karry pleaded.

"No." Sassy said suspiciously.

"All right!" Karry said sitting up. "I ate one of your chocolate frogs."

"I bloody knew it!" Sasporilla laughed starting to tickle her friend.

"I couldn't help myself." Karry laughed. "I've really been craving chocolate lately."

Sasporilla stopped at the word 'CRAVING'!

"Karry are you....?" Sasporilla asked.

"I might be ya." Karry blushed.

"Oh my god!" Sassy squealed and hugged her friend. "Oh wait. Do you know who the father is?"

"Shut it cow!" Karry laughed. "I haven't gone to do the test yet but I'm late."
"Well late doesn't mean you're going to have a baby." Sassy said.
"Chocolate cravings, morning sickness, those things do add up I'm afraid." Karry whinged.
"So have you told Zac?" Sassy asked.
"No." Karry said insistently. "I don't want him to know until I know for sure."
"Fair enough." Sassy said. "You need to take the test."
"I need to figure out who took the documents and why!" Karry said. "I knew, Zac knew, you knew, and none of us would have done it. Someone must have overheard us talking about it."
"Madam Pomfrey was on the ward." Sassy said.
"I think we can rule her out." Karry said.
"Well Blossom brought the Daisies when we were talking about it." Sasporilla said. "But Blossom wouldn't steal from you. She is way to kind and honest for that!"
"No I can't see her wanting to break into the chamber of secrets." Sasporilla said. "Her Idea of excitement is collecting socks."
"She does have quite a collection." Karry chuckled. "Wait! Katelynn Ashwolf was with her."
"Lyra's cousin?" Sasporilla asked. "She's a stuck up brat but I can't see her being a thief?"
"Well for now they are our only two suspects." Karry said. "I have to report the possibility of both of them to the headmistress."
"Ok." Sasporilla sighed. "I'll come with. After we can head into town and you can buy a test from the apothecary and a chocolate frog for me!"
"Are you ever going to let it go?" Karry asked.
"Never."



Chapter 6

Hufflepuffs gathered in the form halls as both Blossom Kowalski the head girl, and Katelynn Ashwolfs rooms were turned upside down as Ms.Pince and Professor Sprout searched for the missing documents. Blossom stood outraged beside Headmistress McGonagall.
"I can not believe this is happening to me!" Blossom said. "I am no thief! I have a hard time believing any Hufflepuff could ever be a thief!"
"I hope not Miss Kowalski." Headmistress McGonagall sighed.
Katelynn Ashwolf leaned against the wall staring at the Headmistress with confident defiance. She knew for a fact there was nothing in her room. Like she would ever steal anything! Even if she did she wouldn't be stupid enough to leave it in her room.
"This room is clear headmistress." Professor Trelawny said stepping out of Katelynns room. "I saw no incriminating evidence though I see great danger in this child's future."
"Tell it to your tea cup Hippie." Katelynn said. "Can I go in and do my home work now?"
"You may." Headmistress McGonagall said.
Katelynn let out a snort of Derision and walked into her dorm room.
"Not surprisingly Headmistress," professor Sprout said. "I found nothing out of the ordinary."
"Thank you Professor Sprout." Blossom said proudly.
"I'm afraid this means we have no possible suspects which means everyone is now suspect." Headmistress McGonagall said. "As of now all students, professors and staff will submit to searches."
The search took days. The entirety of Hogwarts was searched from top to bottom. Every student had their things tossed through. The dorm rooms were all thoroughly searched. Many stashes of inappropriate materials and contraband were seized and sent to the room of requirement for storage. However the documents were not found. Sasporilla, Karry and Zac sat at the Hufflepuff table going through the mornings owl post. Sasporilla finally received a letter from Melvin.

Dear Sasporolla;

Myron has informed me that you are the daughter of dear old family friends of his and our biggest fan. I am so pleased to hear that you like our music. Myron assures me he will be sending tickets for you and some of your friends the next time we are in your town. To answer your question yes life on the road is hard but we have the best of everything so be assured we are all ok.

Your biggest fan;
VINNEY LAZAR

"What the???" Sasporilla said. "I don't understand???"

"What is it?" Karry asked placing some letters down on a small parcel.

"I got a strange letter from Melvin." Sassy said. "I think he was trying to make a joke."

"Here let me see it." Karry said.

Sassy handed the letter over to Karry. Karry had a twisted puzzled look on her face as she read it. Sasporilla moved on to a letter in a purple foil envelope. It was from Myron Wagtail.

Dear Sasporilla;

There was an... incident. When Vinny learned of your accident he demanded to be taken to Hogwarts an hour before the show. He was inconsolable and out of control. His mother took him off to calm him down and afterwards he seemed fine. He played the show then came back to the bus and never mentioned you once.

I let it go that night, but the next day he didn't mention you. I knew something was wrong. Mrs.Lazarus had gone and you appeared to have been obliterated from Vinnys memory.

I tried every memory charm reversal that I know and nothing worked. I am consulting with Flitwick and Dillingger. If anyone knows a reversal they will.

I'm sorry my darling Sasporilla but for now Melvin Lazarus seems lost and only Vinny Lazar exists. I will watch over him and try to fix his memory.

Take care;
Myron

Sasporilla slammed the letter on the table, started to cry and ran out of the great hall.

"Sassy,?" Karry called after her friend.

Karry picked up the letter and gave it a quick read. Karry handed the letter to Zac and got up to run after Sassy.

"What happened?" Zac asked.

"Something with Melvin." Karry said.

Zac read the letter and cringed. Zac gathered up the mail and put it in his wife's bag. Karry hadn't gotten around to opening a small parcel she'd received.

Karry found Sasporilla sitting on the back steps sobbing. Sassy hugged her friend tight and cried on Karry's shoulder.

"It will be ok." Karry tried to reassure her friend as she stroked her pink hair comfortingly. Karry hugged Sasporilla, who sobbed inconsolably.

Zac walked up and looked at his wife holding her weeping friend. Karry was near tears herself. She felt do bad for her friend.

"There, there now Sassy." Zac said. "All spells are reversible!"

"Except for the unforgivable curses." Sasporilla said causing her to start weeping again.

"I think perhaps you should take Sassy back to your room and let her calm down." Zac said.

"I think that's a sound idea." Karry said as Zac handed her the bag she'd left behind on the table at breakfast.

"I put your post in there love." Zac said helping Karry get Sassy to her feet.

Karry got Sasporilla back to the Hufflepuff dorms. Professor Sprout, who was just on her way to green house number two, stopped concerned by Sasporilla's obvious sadness.

"What's happened?" Professor Sprout asked.

"Boy trouble." Karry said.

"Oh dear." Professor Sprout said helping Karry get Sasporilla to her room. "I'll have some tea sent up for you dears. That will fix you right up."

Sasporilla laid on her bed and wept until she could cry no more. One of the house elves appeared at the door with a tray of tea. Sasporilla's weeping caused the elf obvious concern.

"Is miss Sasporilla all right?" The elf asked.

"Boy trouble, I'm afraid." Karry said.

"I'm not one to intercede in others affairs." The elf said snapping her fingers, magically instilling a sense of calm in the young witch.

"Thank you Gimbly." Sasporilla smiled. "I do feel a bit better now."

"It is the least I can do miss." The elf said. "Please enjoy the tea."

Sassy sat up and sipped tea with Karry sniffing and wiping away the last of the current tears of heartbreak.

"Time to stop feeling sorry for myself and decide what I'm going to do about all this." Sassy said.

"That's a girl." Karry smiled. "What do you have planned?"

"I need to talk to Mrs. Lazarus." Sasporilla said. "I'll send her a letter, no, a howler!"

"Good for you." Karry smiled.

Karry dug in her bag and pulled out the owl post Zac had stuffed in. Underneath was some paper and a quill.

"Here," Karry said handing her friend the writing implements, "Get it out of your system."

"Thanks." Sasporilla sniffed. "What is the parcel?"

"Don't know." Karry said. "I never got the chance to open it."

"So then, open it!" Sasporilla insisted as she started to write.

Karry opened the parcel and gasped. Inside were the missing documents of Albus Dumbledore but they had been torn up and partially burned.

"I simply don't understand why someone would do this?" Headmistress McGonagall said confused at the state of the destroyed Albus Dumbledore Documents on her desk.

Karry, Zac and Sasporilla stood on the other side of the desk.

"Someone is obviously looking for the back entrance into the Chamber of secrets." Sasporilla said.

"But who would be so foolish and reckless?" Karry asked.

"There are many people who would covet the Basilisk bones." Zac said. "Not to mention the value of what ever secrets lay in the vaults."

"So you believe 'Burglary' is the motive for the theft," The headmistress said, "but why destroy the documents?"

"To stop anyone from following." Sasporilla supposed.

"The part that really concerns me is that someone broke into the school and stole the documents from your office." Headmistress McGonagall said.

"No professor." Zac said. "This was an inside job."

"How are you so sure?" Karry asked.

"I saw the owl that delivered it." Zac said. "It was the red barn owl that belongs to Hogwarts."

"That's the Libraries owl." The headmistress said.

"Wow that's adding insult to injury." Sasporilla said.

"Indeed." Zac frowned.

"Who ever the culprit is, we know they have plans to, or assist someone in, entering the Chamber of Secrets." The Headmistress said. "And when that happens, it is sure to affect us all."



Chapter 7

It was the better part of a week by the time Sasporilla Bucket received a reply from Mrs.Lazarus who was clearly not thrilled with receiving a howler in the middle of a charity luncheon, in front of her posh friends.

Miss Bucket;

Though I have the greatest respect for your family and their status, I feel that your relationship with and influence on my son are inappropriate, counter productive and dangerous. That is why I chose to irradiate you from his memory.

I would appreciate you no longer contacting my son or my family.

Mrs.B.Lazarus

Sasporilla was heart broken but was determined to get Melvin back. Some how, some way Sassy would discover how Mrs.Lazarus removed her sons memory of her, and how to restore them.

"That Bloody woman is impossible." Sasporilla said to Karry.

"I take it that is Mrs.Lazarus' response to your howler?" Karry asked holding out her hand for Sasporilla to pass the letter to her.

Karry looked the tersely worded letter over. It was pretty much the answer she had been expecting.

"You're right." Karry said. "She is impossible!"

"Have you found anything in the books about restoring memories?" Sassy asked.

"Quite a bit actually." Karry said pulling out her note book, "Most spells effect the area of the brain where short term memory resides. Very few spells can target deep rooted memories without destroying everything around them. However all of these are reversed the same way, with one of three reversal spells. I believe we're dealing with something unknown to most. Something not in the books."

"We have to find out how she did it!" Sassy insisted.

"The unfortunate truth is that I don't have as much time now to search the library stacks as I used to." Karry frowned apologetically. "Between this years work load and my helping with the Dumbledore papers."

"I understand Karry." Sasporilla said. "I'll search the library, just point me in the right direction."

"Well now that we're seventh years we have full access to the restricted section." Karry said. "Perhaps try in there to start."

"Will do." Sasporilla said. "I had been debating the supervised hike in the forest today but I think this is a bit more important."

"I agree." Karry said. "But a good walk can clear your head. Bring focus."

"True." Sasporilla supposed. "But I do think I'll pass on this one."

Sixteen students signed up for the nature hike into the dark forest. Hagrid lead the way, with Jasmine Lee teaching student and professors assistant, taking up the rear. They stuck pretty close to the path as they hiked through the forest marveling at flora and fauna.

They caught a glimpse of centaurs who kept their distance from the students. Though some of the younger centaurs were overly curious. Hagrid was very surprised the spiders were also keeping there distance. Though he wasn't taking the students close to the spiders domain, fresh meat walking through the forest usually brought them out.

Katelynn Ashwolf, Mary Crowley and Olga Bathory stuck to the back by Ms. Lee snapping off twigs and branches, throwing poison berries at other hikers, and mocking nature in its all its glory.

"This is so BORING!" Katelynn sighed as she kicked a rock into the forest catching a squirrel by surprise sending it scurrying off.

"Hagrid." Jasmine Lee called. "Perhaps this would be a good time for the children to rest."

"Aw right!" Hagrid smiled. "Jus' up ahead there's a clearin'. Tha's where we'll take a stop."

In less than a minute the forest opened up into a huge clearing with, a circle of fallen trees surrounded a well used fire pit. The hikers wandered over to logs and had a seat. Hagrid gathered some twigs and a small log for the fire pit while Ms.Lee prepared a lovely spot of tea with small cakes that she brought from the school.

A quick wave of the wand heated the tea. Ms

Lee levitated a cup and a faerie cake to each hiker but she carefully carried a larger cup over to Hagrid.

"Here you are Hagrid." Jasmine smiled. "Please enjoy."

"Ta Jasmine." Hagrid smiled. "Yer an angel ye are."

Hagrid finished the large cup of tea, which still looked small in his giant hands, in one sip. He wasn't as fussy on Faerie cakes but didn't want to seem impolite so he popped it in his massive gob and swallowed it whole.

Katelynn Ashwolf sat on a log off to one end away from the others.

"I thought you said this was suppose to be fun and adventurous." Olga Bathory said scowling at Katelynn.

"Just be patient." Katelynn said sipping her tea never taking her eyes off Hagrid.

It wasn't long before Hagrid started to feel sick and turn a little green. Pain and nausea filled his stomach then he began to get sick, along with most of the hikers.

"Oh dear." Jasmine Lee said. "What so ever could be wrong?"

"I'm affeard we'll have ta call tha hike off." Hagrid said vomiting behind the log.

"I'll get you all back to the school." Jasmine said apparatring the sick students in pairs back to Hogwarts.

Sasporilla and Karry had been preparing to head to Hogsmead and were passing through the front gate when Ms.Lee arrived with the first group of ill students from the hike.

"What's gone wrong?" Karry asked.

"I don't know." Jasmine said frantically. "Most of the hikers became very ill after tea! Can you get madam Pomfrey? I need to gather the rest."

"I'll fetch her." Sasporilla said running off into the castle.

"I'll tend to these." Karry said. "You fetch the rest."

"Thank you." Jasmine said turning and disappearing.

Sasporilla ran though the halls of Hogwarts and crashed though the doors of the Hospital wing.

"Madam Pomfrey!" Sasporilla screamed.

"Merlins Beard child!" Madam Pomfrey said tersely. "You frightened the daylights out of me!"

"Sorry Madam but there are loads of sick students in the front court yard." Sassy said out of breath. "The hikers all got sick."

"Oh dear." Madam Pomfrey said. "I'll need professors and volunteers. As many as you can round up girl. Go quickly."

"Yes Madam Pomfrey!" Sasporilla said heading to the great hall. No matter the time of day there were always people there.

Ms.Lee apparated back to the clearing where four students remained in good health and Hagrid who got worse every minute.

"I will take Hagrid back to the school." Jasmine said winking at Katelynn. "Don't you lot move. I'll be back for you as soon as I can."

Ms.Lee grabbed Hagrids arm and disapperated.

Katelynn Ashwolf stood whispering with Mary Crowley and Olga Bathory while Poppey Rosegarden, a fourth year Hufflepuff girl sat apart from the meaner younger girls.

"Let's look around!" Katelynn insisted.

"We have to stay put." Poppey said. "Ms.Lee ordered us to stay here."

"Who cares." Mary Crowley ssid.

"She'll be a while." Katelynn said. "By the time she gets back, we'll be back!"

"Ms.Lee will never know!" Olga Bathory said. "Besides, maybe we can find what made them sick."

"Yes it can't have been the tea." Katelynn smiled. "Or we'd all be sick."

"I didn't drink the tea." Poppey Rosegarden said suspiciously. "I don't care for tea."

"Well all of us did!" Olga Bathory said drawing her wand. "Did you poison it?"

"No of course not!" Poppey insisted.

"Put your wand away Olga." Katelynn said pleasantly. "She was no where near the tea! She couldn't have tampered with it."

"Thank you Katelynn." Poppey said watching the Slytherin girl lower her wand.

"Look you do what you lot want." Katelynn said. "I'm going to look around."

There were four paths out of the clearing. Each ran in true directions, North, south, east and west. Katelynn and the girls headed west leaving Poppey Rosegarden behind. Poppey sat in the silence for a moment thinking how stubborn and foolish the young girls were, going off on their own in the dark forest. Even if they were staying on a path.

"We were told to stay here." Poppey insisted yelling after them, until she heard something move and growl in the long grass near the trees. "Wait for me!"

The girls walked about a hundred yards down the path. The map had shown three snakes braided together. She didn't know what it was but had sensed it's important. There Katelynn saw what they were looking for. There were three trees that grew together like snakes coiled around each other.

"This is interesting." Katelynn said walking over to the trees and looking up at them. The trunks thinned the higher she looked but they remained entwined. Near the top they bent almost imperceptibly south west. Katelynn looked in that direction and saw stone standing distantly between the trees.

"This way." Katelynn said.

The other girls followed closely behind as Katelynn left the path and entered the dark forest, never taking her eyes off of the stone. As they neared the trees thinned into small clearing. A monolithic ancient stone stood in the clearings center.

"This is it." Katelynn said "I can't believe we've found it!"

"Found what?" Poppey asked.

"The marker stone." Katelynn said. "It's a lost historical site."

"I've never heard of this." Poppey said. "And I've read sll about Hogwarts and it's grounds."

A large black wolf jumped trough the trees and snapped at the girls. Katelynn and her friends instinctively tightened there ranks snd pulled their wands.

"Flippendo!" Katelynn cast flipping the wolf end over end back into the trees.

Poppey stood petrified, terrified by canines of any kind.

"Poppey!" Katelynn said. "Draw your wand and get over here!"

More wolves leapt from the trees lead by the black wolf. A large grey tackled Poppey Rosegarden and snapped at the girls throat. Poppey screamed and drew her wand as they started to roll along the ground trying to gain the upper hand on one another. Suddenly they fell through the solid earth and out of site.

"Insendio!" Katelynn cast to late to hit the wolf that was attacking Poppey, and it scorched a small stump beside where the girl and the wolf who disappeared.

The wolves circled the three girls who stood back to back, wands drawn, prepared to defend. The beasts growled and gnashed there teeth as they grew closer. The coiled like springs preparing to leap!

"Canustanday Asendsllay!" Jasmine Lee cast throwing the pack of wolves far off into the distance.

"They won't trouble you anymore ladies." Jasmine said.

"Quickly", Katelynn said grabbing Jasmine by her cold hand and pulling her to the scorch mark on the ground, "a wolf pulled Poppey over here and they disappeared."

Katelynn looked down as her own feet felt as if they teetered on the edge of the ground. She lost her balance and started to fall. A thin cold hand grabbed her and pulled her back to solid ground.

"Be careful." Jasmine Lee snapped. "I've lost one of you today, I have no intention of losing another!"

"Poppey is in there, down there, where ever that is!" Katelynn said. "We have to help her!"

"It's a pit." Jasmine said. "A deep whole, very deep. She will not have survived the fall. I will return you to the school once I tell you, what to tell them."

Sasporilla Bucket and Karry Curtiss tended helped Madam Pomfrey attend to the sick in the court yard as Jasmine Lee appeared with the three girls.

"Help!" Ms.Lee shouted. "The girls were attacked by wolves and they've taken Poppey Rosegarden."

Normally Rubious Hagrid would have lead the way on a rescue of this magnitude but today he lay unconscious in the infirmary. It was up to Mr.Filch and a select group of professors to try and hunt down the wolf pack and bring back the girl in whatever condition they found her in. Ms.Lee lead them to the clearing where everyone had gotten sick and from where the wolves attacked.

They hunted for days before they found any sign of the wolves and hunted them down. There was no sign of the Poppey Rosegarden anywhere. By the end of the week they had resigned themselves to having lost a student To the dangers of the forbidden forest.



Chapter 8

The diagnosis Madam Pomfrey came up with for the hikers sickness was some sort of aerosolized venom. Some kind of spitting or spraying snake or perhaps nest of snakes that that hikers unwittingly wandered through.

"The patients are responding well to a general antivenin." Madam Pomfrey told the headmistress. "I'm giving Hagrid a larger dose as I've believed he received the lions share of venom from whatever the source."

"I'm glad something is working." Headmistress McGonagall said. "I hope it is the miracle cure we're all hoping for."

The first thing Hagrid saw when his eyes fluttered open was the concerned face of Sasporilla Bucket, sitting beside him wearing a volunteer smock.

"Well 'ello Sasporilla." Hagrid smiled. "What er you doin' out 'ere?"

"You're in the infirmary Hagrid." Sasporilla said. "Do you remember what happened?"

"We were on a hike." Hagrid said. "We stopped fer a rest. Ms.Lee handed out tea an cakes. Thought I heard somet'in in the trees, then I got sick."

"Well Rubious!" Headmistress McGonagall said. "Nice to see you're feeling better."

"Be right as rain soon enough." Hagrid smiled. "Are the kids ok?"

"All but one I'm afraid." Professor McGonagall said sadly. "I'm afraid after most of you took ill, the girls were attacked by wolves."

"Wha'?" Hagrid said struggling to sit up and falling back on to the groaning bed.

"Hagrid lay back!" Madam Pomfrey insisted. "And lay still! You are in no condition to sit up!"

Sasporilla stepped over to Karrys side.

"Thought I'd let the Professors talk." Sassy said.

"Yes I imagine there will be a lot of hard feelings, finger pointing and blame." Karry said.

"I imagine they all feel responsible in some way." Sasporilla said. "I know if I was in charge, I would feel that way."

"Do you want to get some lunch?" Karry asked.

"Yes." Sassy smiled. "With everyone doing better I think we can safely take a break. Not to mention I'm starved!"

The great hall was positively stuffed with students at lunch. Zac sat at the Hufflepuff table waiting on Karry.

"I was hoping you were coming for lunch!" Zac smiled giving his wife a kiss. "How is every one doing?"

"They're all responding to madam Pomfrey's efforts." Karry said.

"Even Hagrids come around." Sasporilla said. "To be honest I was rather pensive when Hagrid started groaning. I was thinking of poor Poppey being taken by wolv...."

"Pensive!" Karry said. "That's it! It was right in front of me the whole time!"

"What?" Sassy said.

"Dumbledore!" Karry said. "He had the Pencieve! A way to view old memories."

"Ok, so?" Zac said.

"The memories were removed individually and stored in bottles. They looked like shining silver threads! The spell that was used to retrieve the memories is very rarely known!"

"But I'll bet Melvins mother knows!" Sasporilla said with a spark of realization.

"Exactly!" Karry said.

"So you think they can't restore Melvins memory," Zac said trying to put the pieces together, "because the memories are no longer in his mind to be restored!"

"Exactly!" Karry and Sasporilla said.

"That horrible woman has Melvins memory of me stored in a bottle some place." Sassy frowned.

"The only question now is how the memories can be restored." Karry said. "I'm not sure they can be returned once they've been physically removed. I believe they can only be viewed or experienced in something like the Pencieve."
"Well we'll need to find out." Sasporilla said. "I have an idea of how we can find the memories she's stolen but we need to find out how to restore them."

"Jasmine Lee has most of the documents concerning the Pencieve." Karry said. "But I think the Pencieve itself was taken by the ministry."

At the other end of the great hall Katelynn Ashwolf sat at the Slytherin table with Mary Crowley and Olga Bathory. The girls argued quietly but intensely over soup and a sandwich.

"Look." Katelynn hissed. "I don't frankly care what Ms. Lee said."

"But if we go down there we may get stuck!" Mary scowled.

"Or worse," Olga added, "what if there are more creatures down there?"

"Then we'll use our and the spells we know!" Katelynn insisted.

"We're bloody first years." Mary Crowley reminded her confident friend.

"Look, if we go down and find Poppey, dead or alive, we'll be heroes!" Katelynn said. "If we find and get into the chamber of secrets we can keep what we find. Even if we find nothing in these supposed vaults, we'll have gone in and stood in Salazar Slytherin's Chamber of Secrets. The headmistress would have to change my house for that! Only true Slytherins could really get into the Chamber!"

"When do we go?" Mary Crowley asked.

"Get your gear and we'll meet by Hagrid's hut in fifteen minutes." Katelynn smiled. "We'll probably be back before anyone knows we're gone."

Sasporilla followed Karry and Zac down into the library storage room. New protection spells had been put in place to stop further crime.

"Who goes there?" A large stone knight asked crossing its two swords.

"Karry Curtiss with guests." Karry had to announce to the new stone guardian of the basement stacks. "Zac Curtiss and Sasporilla Bucket."

"Pass." The stone knight said.

"Thanks Ralph." Karry smiled.

"Your welcome Sam." Ralph said.

"Sam?" Zac asked as they walked past.

"It's from an old muggle 'cartoon' that my father found funny."

"Cool." Zac laughed. "I love muggle cartoons."

"I haven't really seen any." Sasporilla said. "It wasn't something I grew up with."

"I'll have to show you some, some time." Zac laughed.

"I'll look forward to it." Sassy laughed.

The trio arrived at an old stone archway that gave way to a tiny alcove where Jasmine Lee's desk was. A shimmering magical barrier blocked their way.

"Jasmine are you in there?" Karry called out. There was no answer. "She must be away."

"Just our luck." Sassy said disappointed.

"Well she's probably got plans for the weekend." Zac said.

"Perhaps we should take a well earned break and head home for the weekend?" Karry said.

"Yes please." Zac said.

"You two have fun." Sasporilla smiled politely.

"No, no!" Karry insisted taking her friend's arm. "This includes you!"

"Thanks guys I'm flattered but I'm just not into that sort of thing!" Sassy laughed.

"Shut it you!" Karry laughed. "I meant you're invited you perv."

"Well now that you guys brought it up???" Zac smiled.

"Shut it!" Karry and Sasporilla gasped and laughed hysterically.

"Men!" Karry said. "Really the thoughts that grace your minds!"

"God bless them." Sassy winked as they left the school for the weekend.

Chapter 9

The sun was hanging lazily on the horizon when Katelynn, Mary and Olga arrived at the monolithic stone by the edge of the secret back entrance to the chamber of secrets. Katelynn pulled a long rope from Olgas bag.

"Don't know why I had to carry all the heavy stuff?" Olga protested.

"I'm the smart one, Mary's the powerful one and you're the big one." Katelynn said. "The big one is always the work horse."

"So because I'm biggest I'm the bloody pack mule?" Olga yelled.

"Yes." Katelynn said matter-of-factly. "Now help me tie this around the big rock."

The girls tied it around and tested its strength and the solidity of the large stone they'd anchored it too.

Katelynn began to lower herself below the illusion that covered the hole. She entered a stone crevasse that looked hundreds of feet deep. The blackness swallowed Katelynn Ashwolf as she struggled to lower herself.

Becoming painfully aware that she was descending blind, Katelynn hung on to the rope with one hand and

drew her wand with the other. "Lumos" she cast, revealing the rock walls of the chasm around her. Katelynn saw the cave bottom about sixty feet below her. The young witch held her lit wand in her teeth as she lowered herself quickly to the solid rock below.

"Help." A weak voice said from the darkness.

Katelynn pointed her wand towards the voice. Poppey Rosegarden sat against the chasm wall.

"Poppey!" Katelynn yelled running to the girls side. "You're alive!"

"Barely." The older girl said pointing to her obviously broken arm and twisted broken legs.

"Who are you talking to?" Mary Crowley asked walking over. "Holy cow! How did you survive the fall?"

"I landed on the wolf." Poppey said. "It didn't make it."

"Who are you two talking to?" Olga Bathory asked. "Poppey! Wow still alive? Guess you're tougher than we thought."

"Never mind the petty nonsense." Katelynn said. "We have to get her back to the school. She needs medical attention."

"We'll be heroes!" Mary laughed.

"You'll be expelled." A voice hissed from the darkness. Ms.Lee stepped out into the light. "When she tells them the truth you will all be expelled as liars."

"You lied to." Katelynn said.

"I retold them the story that you three told me." Ms.Lee smiled.

"I won't tell anyone, please just get me home!" Poppey promised.

"Silencia!" Ms.Lee cast silencing Poppeys voice. "Be thankful I leave you with what's left of your life."

"Ms.Lee why?" Katelynn asked rethinking her allegiances to this woman.

"We are to be the ones who discover the wonders of the Chamber of Secrets." Jasmine Lee said. "The true children of Salazar Slytherin!"

Jasmine Lee folded back upon herself and shifted into the form of a large serpent. Olga and Mary followed, wands lit, as Jasmine slithered into a small cave opening and away.

"There's some food and water in here." Katelynn said placing her bag down beside Poppey. "I have to follow them. I hope you understand. With luck we'll be done soon and I'll do what I can yo get you out of here. One way or another you'll be rescued. I promise."

By bed check the girls hadn't returned. Blossom Kowalski was beside herself with worry, pacing in the Hufflepuff common room. The clock chimed eleven PM. No student, that was not signed out with preapproved permission from a professor, parent or guardian, was to be out of bed at eleven PM.

"Right then!" Blossom said standing and straightening her head girl pin. "If you're going to so BLATANTLY flout the rules, Katelynn Ashwolf, then you will be shown there are consequences for your disobedience. Oh yes!"

"Who are you talking to Blossom." Professor Sprout said from behind scaring the head girl who screeched with shock! "Good gracious girl! Settle yourself."

"I'm sorry Professor Sprout but you startled me." Blossom said holding her heart. "I've been giving a young Hufflepuff time to get back to the dorms before curfew."

"Who is missing?" Professor Sprout asked and raised her eyebrows.

"Katelynn Ashwolf." Blossom said. "She was not in her room at bed check."

"I see." Professor Sprout said. "Perhaps we should talk to her room mates then."

"Yes Professor." Blossom said following the Hufflepuff house matron into the girls dorm.

They stopped at dorm room HG-Five. A quick knock on the door announced their presence. Professor Sprout lead the way in as Blossom followed. The girls didn't as much as stir as they walked across the room to Katelynn's bed.

"Lumos." Professor Sprout cast illuminated the young girls empty bed.

"Well it would appear you are correct Miss.Kowalski." Professor Sprout said. "I believe we have just cause to search for a clue as to her whereabouts."

Blossom began to search the bed first. Nothing hidden underneath, There was nothing under the covers. Under the pillow was a folded piece of parchment. Blossom unfolded it and started to read.

"Blossom. I'm counting on your being a stickler for the rules. If your reading this then I'm in trouble. We found the back entrance to the chamber of secrets. I know for a fact Poppey Rosegarden fell into it with the wolf. I drew a rough map on the back. Please get help.

Katelynn Ashwolf."

"Professor." Blossom said. "You should see this!"



Chapter 10

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

The incessant pounding on the front door of Mr.&Mrs.Curtiss of Hogsmeads home awoke everyone in the house at two a.m.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

Zac was still tying up his robe as he ran down the steps to the foyer.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

"Keep your knickers on!" Zac yelled opening the door to see Headmistress McGonagall, Professor Sprout, Madam Pomfrey and Blossom Kowalski standing on the front stoop.

"I assure you Mr.Curtiss that even in my hurried state," the headmistress said, "my knickers are on."

"My apologies Headmistress." Zac smiled embarrassed.

"May we come in?" The Headmistress said. "We desperately need to speak to Karoline."

"Yes of course." Zac said stepping back and holding out his hand.

"Who the hell is it at this ungodly hour?" Karry yelled as she came to the top of the stairs tying her rather short robe. "Oh! Headmistress." Karry said embarrassed. "Professor, what are you doing here at this hour?"

"Katelynn Ashwolf and her two comrades have gone missing, on my watch." Blossom said not half hysterical holding up the note. "They said Poppey fell into the chamber of secrets."

Karry came down stairs and took the note from Blossom Kowalski. The young witch read the note then turned it over.

"I know where that is!" Sasporilla Bucket said appearing behind Karry fully dressed and carrying her broom.

Karry jumped, startled by her friends sudden appearance. "Don't do that!"

"Sorry." Sasporilla said grabbing the map. "I know that clearing! It's not far from the centaurs winter camp."

"And if this is the marker stone that was written about then entrance is within ten feet of it." Karry said. "This also means Katelynn either stole the documents or knows who did as she directly refers to the Chamber of Secrets."

"I agree, but we haven't time to worry about that now! We are trying to put together a group of volunteers to go get the girls." Headmistress McGonagall said.

"You work on that," Sasporilla said, "We'll get there fastest."

"Once there we can send up a marker flare." Zac said. "Show the resr where we are."

"I was hoping you'd volunteer." Professor Sprout Smiled. "You do your houses proud."

"We'll get dressed." Karry said.

"Professor Sprout." Blossom said stiffening. "As this happened on my watch, and I am Hufflepuff head girl, I want to volunteer to go with them."

"You don't have to Miss Kowalski." Professor Sprout said. "This was not your fault and you did exactly the right thing by bringing it to our attention."

"I insist!" Blossom said firmly. "Please?"

"We could use the extra wand." Sasporilla insisted. "Plus Blossoms knowledge of spells rivals that of Karry's. In a pinch we could certainly use her!"

"Very well." Headmistress McGonagall nodded.

Blossom smiled from ear to ear, very happy that she would be in some way, able to help find the missing girls.

"Do you have a broom Blossom?" Sassy asked the Hufflepuff head girl.

"Not one of my own." Blossom frowned.

"It's ok." Zac said coming down the stairs fully dressed followed by Karry. "We have extras. You can have the lend of one, if you can ride."

"Yes I'm fully licensed." Blossom said proudly.

"You may need these." Madam Pomfrey said handing the young people leather kit bags. "There are well marked first aid potions and bandages. They should help if the girls are injured in any way."

"Thank you madam Pomfrey." Karry said slipping hers into the bag at her side.

"Here are your brooms." Sasporilla said handing Karry and Zac their Nimbus two thousands and Blossom one of their spare clean sweeps.

Everyone stepped outside into the cool quiet streets of Hogsmead.

"Ok I'll fly lead." Sasporilla Bucket said taking control. "We'll fly in a diamond formation. Karry and Bloss on my Left and right respectively, Zac riding in back incase of trouble."

"Got ya." Zac said.

"What's all that about?" Blossom asked Karry as Sasporilla secured her goggles.

"Sassy spent a summer with broomers." Karry laughed. "Now she takes her riding very seriously."

"Oh!" Blossom cringed.

The four seventh years pushed off and took off into the air. They flew low across the waters of the black lake and up over the tree tops of the forbidden forest. Sasporilla was both angry and worried. Katelynn Ashwolf was an arrogant little first year, but she was Lyra's family and a Hufflepuff. She just hoped they could get to the girls before anything bad happened.

The clearing appeared below them as Sasporilla dove down and followed the path to just about where the map showed the girls went through the trees. The night was so dark it was impossible to make out any detail.

"Lumos Solem" they cast but even with the sunlight spell, they couldn't make out anything past the tree line.

"We need to split up." Karry said. "See what we can find in every direction."

"That's not a good idea this time of night." Sasporilla said. "I guarantee we already have hungry eyes on us."

"Well what do you suggest we do?" Blossom shouted terrified they were already to late.

"Calm down Blossy." Sasporilla said. "I have an idea."

Sasporilla placed her wand to the side of her neck and shouted "FAWKES!"

With a screech of recognition Fawkes, the phoenix, flew out of the sky and landed on a log.

"Fawkes," Sasporilla said, "I need your help. Some Hogwarts students have gone into the secret back entrance of the chamber of secrets. We can't find it in the dark but we know we're close. Can you help us?"

"Yes I know where it is!" Fawkes screeched. "I pulled the Potter boy, and others out through there. Follow me!"

"Follow Fawkes!" Sasporilla yelled as they lifted into the air on their brooms.

The phoenix lead them over the trees to the second clearing over. He came in and landed on the ancient standing stone. The seventh years landed close to the megalith. It was Sasporilla who first spotted the rope tied to the base of the stone.

"Here!" Sasporilla said. "They tied a rope to this stone."

Karry followed the rope, her wand out and lit, until the rope disappeared into the dark ground.

"It's been swallowed by the ground." Karry said, not realizing she was not on as solid ground as she thought, as she turned and lost her footing. Blossom reached out quickly and grabbed hold of Karry stopping her from falling into the disguised chasm.

"Um..." Blossom said. "A little help here?" Blossom said with a polite sence of urgency.

Zac reached in and helped pull Karry back onto solid ground.

"Thanks for the hand Blossom." Karry said.

"No problem." Blossom smiled.

"Disguising the opening is brilliant but damn dangerous!" Zac cursed turning and holding his wand high into the air. "Excandesco!"

A brilliant red flare shot into the sky and stayed there, marking the site for the rescue party who followed.

"This must be where Poppey fell in." Blossom said

"If so," Karry said, "then she's been down there a long while. With luck she's still alive."

"Only one way to find out." Sasporilla said hovering her broom down through the illusionary ground and down into the chasm.

"Lumos Solem!" Sasporilla cast lighting the chasm around her.

Karry, followed by Blossom then Zac flew down the same way.

"Help me please!" Poppey screamed seeing the light of Sasporillas wand. "Please don't leave me here to die!"

Sasporilla touched down on the rocky floor and dropped her broom to run over to Poppey's side.

"Your ok Poppey." Sassy said. "We'll get you out of here."

"Thank you." Poppey cried. "The others just left me here because she told them to."

"The others?" Sasporilla asked pretending yo be ignorant.

The others landed there brooms and came over. Karry pulled the first aid kit from her bag.

"Katelynn, Mary and Olga." Poppey said. "Katelynn wanted to rescue me, but the woman ordered them to follow her."

"What woman?" Karry asked.

"I didn't really see her," Poppey said. "She was in the caves that way just out of my line of site. I think she had a snake with her. I heard it hiss. They all followed her, that way."

"She's got a broken arm," Karry said pouring two small bottles together into a beaker, "and both her legs are broken. God knows if she has internal injuries. Drink this up."

Karry handed the beaker to Poppey. The two liquids rolled and bubbled giving off a frothy blue mist.

"What is it?" Poppey asked.

"Something to treat your injuries." Karry smiled gently.

The girl reluctantly drank the horrible tasting elixir down.

"Ack." Poppey grimaced. "That tastes ghastly."

"Can't all taste like butter beer." Sassy smiled as they watched the girl drift off into a magical slumber.

"Ok." Karry said. We'll have to put these casting rings on her. One on the hand of her broken arm and on a toe of each foot."

"Cobblenphaseo!" Sasporilla cast at Poppey's boots causing them to fall off as if made of air.

"Nice one!" Karry said. "Where did you learn that?"

"Made it up." Sasporilla said. "Tried on shoes too tight for me one time and my feet swelled. Was cheaper than cutting them off!"

They placed the rings on Poppey's hand and feet. "Inplastrill!" Karry cast. The rings began to swirl and expand straightening the limbs and encasing them in a magical plaster cast. Luckily Poppey lay unconscious as the casts set. Had she been conscious the pain would have been excruciating.

"Now," Karry began, "How will we get her out of here?"

"I'll take her up." Zac said getting on his broom. "I'd apparate her but in her unconscious state I'm afraid she'd be splinched, so... LEVICORPUS!"

Poppey's body floated up into the air. Zac pushed off with his broom and followed the injured girl up to the surface.

Sasporilla, Karry and Blossom watched Zac take Poppey up and through the illusionary cap.

"Ok." Sassy said. "Let's go find the girls."

"Shouldn't we wait for Zac?" Blossom asked.

"He'll catch us up." Karry said. "I'll mark our path."

Karry left a glowing yellow arrow pointing down the tunnel they took. Sasporilla lead the way following the foot prints in the dust and filth as best she could. Bones of animals, beasts and people, unlucky enough to have fallen into the hidden chasm, littered the tunnel floor.

The caves were part of an intricate maze of natural and man made structures that intertwined in a confusing and frustrating pattern. There were times the foot prints became lost in the bones underfoot. Sasporilla used Her instincts and intuition. She found snake scale, scraped off onto a rock, and knew that was the way the girls had gone.

Blossom was most uncomfortable and upset by treading on the bones of the dead, though she was pleasantly surprised there were no spider webs. She hated when they got in her face and worse her hair.

Karry placed another mark on the wall as they stepped into a large open cavern. A stone walkway ran between two long shallow pools and were lined with heads of serpents. The skeleton of the gigantic basilisk lay in pieces on the path. A giant carved stone face of Salazar Slytherin formed the wall the girls stood before.

Sasporilla ran over to the basilisk and pulled a couple of fangs and grabbed a small bone, shoving them in her bag. Karry looked at the image of Slytherin and contemplated how to get in. Karry pulled her note book from her bag.

"Dumbledore said the door to the true Chamber of Secrets was slytherins mouth but the key was in his tongue?"

"Well how are we to get a key that's in his tongue when we need said key to open his mouth!" Blossom yelled frustrated.

"How did Harry Potter get through the great vault door at the other end?" Sasporilla asked rejoining the other girls.

"I made a note of that." Karry said flipping back a couple of pages. "He spoke parcel tongue!"

"The thief may have thought they'd destroyed the information." Sasporilla said. "But they didn't count on our Karrys meticulous note taking."

"Thanks." Karry smiled embarrassed. "But I don't see how that helps?"

"In two ways." Sasporilla smiled. "It explains why who ever the mystery woman is would bring a snake and..." the next words out of Sasporillas mouth were in snake language, causing the mouth to grind open before them.

"...and it told me the key was Parcel tongue."

"Of course." Karry jumped excitedly.

"You speak snake language?" Blossom asked.

"I can speak to any animal or beast in their language and understand them. It's a gift I can control, but honestly don't fully understand."

"Well it worked!" Karry said. "Let's follow them in."



Chapter 11

Sasporilla stepped through the opening in the mouth first. She had to duck slightly but there was more than enough room to comfortably step through. She surmised Salazar Slytherin was likely large for his time, but less than average for hers. Karry followed after, and then by Blossom. The corridor was dark but LUMOS soon lit their way. The corridor they stood in was rounded and ribbed, very organic, like the inside of a throat.

"This is very creepy." Blossom said.

"It's bloody brilliant." Karry said. "Slytherin is playing with our minds. Make us feel as though we're being swallowed alive."

They walked down the corridor to a vault which stood wide open and empty. The green marble walls were lined with empty broken shelves and the amount of old basilisk skin that lay dried and rotted around it revealed the basilisk was more than likely the guardian of this vault.

"This is the vault Dumbledore sacked." Karry said stepping inside.

"What was in it?" Sasporilla asked.

"Not really sure." Karry said. "I didn't have access to those years of documents. That was Jaz Lee's lot."

"I find it hard to believe Albus Dumbledore, the greatest wizard of our life time, ever burgled a vault!" Blossom scoffed.

"Sorry Blossy but it's true." Karry said handing the Head Girl her notes.

Blossom gave them a good quick read.

"I must admit." Blossom said sadly. "I'm rather disillusioned."

Sasporilla stood along the back wall. "Karry come look at this."

Karry took her notes back from Blossom and flicked to the back page as she walked over to investigate. Sasporilla held her lit wand to the mark of the deathly hallows carved into the green marble wall.

"Interesting." Karry Curtiss said turning to her notes.

"What do you think it means?" Sasporilla asked.

"I think we're looking at the back door to this vault." Karry said. "Dumbledore said he marked the spot, but he never came back."

"How do we open a door that we can't even see?" Blossom asked. "If it's there at all."

"Sasporilla tried speaking parcel tongue. It did not work. Karry tried "Alohamora", to no avail.

"Revelio!" Blossom cast, the spell striking the deathly hallows symbol causing it to light up. The center line of the symbol turned ninety degrees clock wise as the circle spun counter clockwise and the triangle spun off the wall and turned upside down. An illusionary green marble wall faded out revealing an open doorway beyond. The girls stepped through and reformed behind them covering the doorway. Karry marked it by drawing a yellow line around it with her wand.

"At least we can find it on the way out."

The girls looked around. They stood in a great cavern. Bats hung restlessly above. A greenish slime sat in puddles on the cavern floor amongst the broken stalagmites. The girls walked across the cavern to where it split into three tunnels. Wind blew hard from the two outer tunnels for a while then drew air back, in a rhythmic pattern.

"Which tunnel do you think they took?" Sasporilla asked.

"The path of least resistance, I would imagine." Karry said. "That would be the middle one."

"Do you think it would have the next vault?" Blossom asked.

"I imagine all three of these tunnels have vaults of some sort." Karry said. "But I think the person leading is looking for something very specific."

"Like what." Sasporilla asked.

"I wish I knew." Karry mused. "I wish I knew."

The girls followed the path into the center tunnel which opened into a large room that appeared to be carved into the heart of huge ruby. At the center of the room were two statues of emerald serpents. A very obvious vault door sat at the far side of the room.

"Well at least we have no problem finding the door in here." Sasporilla said stepping through followed by Blossom.

"No wait!" Karry said as the emerald serpent statues came to life and encircled the girls in their coils.

A human shape formed in the ruby wall and stepped through. A living ruby statue of Salazar Slytherin who carried two bells, one in each hand.

"You must choose one bell to ring to free your friends. One will free them and open the vault, the other will cause the serpents to crush them, to death." The statue said. "Both serpents speak. One always tells the truth while the other only tells lies. This is Both my gift, and my curse. You may ask only one question, to only one of the serpents. After that you must choose which bell to ring. Ask your question wisely."

Karry thought for a moment. This was surely a test of intellect and logic. Blossom and Sasporilla tried calling to Karry from amongst the coils of emerald serpents but their voices were silenced.

Karry walked up to the serpent statue on the left, the one with its coils wrapped dangerously tight around her best friend.

"Serpent on the left." Karry asked. "If I ask the other Snake statue which bell to ring, the one on the right or the one on the left, which one would it tell me ring?"

"RRRRright." The serpent hissed.

"So if you're the one who always tells the truth then the statue on the right is the liar and he would tell me the wrong bell to ring and that would be the one on the right. And if you are the liar then you would still want me to pick the wrong one and that would be the one on the right there fore.."

Karry took the bell on the left, took a deep breath and rang it. The serpents uncoiled and released the girls. The ruby statue of Salazar Slytherin walked over and opened the vault the disappeared, rejoining the body of the ruby walls.

"That was bloody brilliant Karry Curtiss!" Blossom said. "I'm very impressed with your logical prowess."

"Actually I saw the same puzzle on my fathers favorite episode of Dr. Who." Karry laughed. "Thank goodness for my fathers love of Muggle TV and science fiction."

Sasporilla swung open the vault door. Inside was a huge ancient library. Quills floated in air, adding information to volumes of books which floated back and forth past them. One set of shelves were piled high with volumes of books, while the shelves across the from them were nearly empty. Karry Curtiss walked up to the stacks and pulled down a volume. Karry was clearly shocked by what she found.

"What is it?" Sasporilla asked.

"My families name is in here." Karry said. "It lists my family as impure."

"I would imagine that's what all of this is." Blossom said. "Salazar Slytherin hated muggle borns and mixed bloods like my family and yours. He felt such hate in his heart he'd want updated lists to take down all impure families."

"Why didn't he do it?" Sasporilla asked.

"Because after he left Hogwarts he disappeared." Karry said.

"What if... no." Sasporilla said.

"What?" Blossom Kowalski asked.

"No it's to crazy." Sasporilla said. "To far fetched."

"Tell us!" Karry ordered.

"What if he never really left." Sasporilla mused. "What if he came back here with the intent of using the information to 'Save' the pure bloods some day. What if he's still here?"

"That was a thousand years ago." Blossom laughed. "No one lived that long ever!"

"It's possible." Karry said matter-of-factly. "There is no history of him after he left Hogwarts and no grave was ever found. There fore we can't discount the possibility knowing how powerful Salazar Slytherin was and all of the impossible things we've learned are actually possible."

"What do you think is in the books and scrolls in the other rows?" Blossom asked.

"I imagine it's the sum total of Salazar Slytherins knowledge." Karry said. "Heart and mind."

"What?" Sasporilla asked.

"Heart and mind." Karry Curtiss said. "That is what this repository represents, his heart and mind. Think about it, we passed through a mouth in a carving of his face. We passed through a hall which looked like a throat or gullet or whatever. Then we came to two windy passages like the lungs and one that lead to a room carved out of ruby and lead to his heart. I do believe this is all representative of the body of Salazar Slytherin."

"Wow." Sasporilla and Blossom said in unison.

"Let's find the door out and kerp looking." Karry said.

Zac built a large bon fire, easily seen in the dark forest. Hopefully it would give anything that was thinking of attacking them second thoughts. He kept the injured student close and his wand at the ready, just in case. His flare still hung high above him in the night sky.

"Where in the hell are they?" Zac said he heard the unmistakable roar of an engine in the night sky above. Hagrids motorcycle came into a landing in the small clearing and skid to a halt. Others on brooms began to touch down. Hagrid helped Madam Pomfrey out of the side-car and they rushed to the aid of the injured girl.

"Sorry we took so long." Hagrid apologized. "We was waitin' on them!"

"Kingsly Shacklebolt lead aurors Nick Owlmore and Lyra Lee-Ashwolf, as Ms.Pince gathered the seventh year student volunteers.

"Mr.Zar.... Mr.Curtiss." Kingsly said holding out his hand. "I see you've retrieved one of the missing girls?"

"Yes Minister." Zac said shaking his hand. "Poppey Rosegarden. She's alive but in a bad way. We sedated her."

"You did a damn fine job is what you did." Madam Pomfrey said. "We need to get her back to Hogwarts straight away. We need a wiggly worm gate... now!"

The most experienced and powerful amongst them opened the gate and stabilized it. Madam Pomfrey lead the way through, followed by two volunteers who carried the injured girl on a stretcher. Once they were safely on the other side they closed the gate and turned their attentions back to Zac who hovered on his broom above disguised chasm entrance.

"Follow me."



Chapter 12

Sasporilla lead the way down a twisty hall stone hallway. The sound of the girls footsteps echoed with the obvious sound of dripping water.

"I wonder if we're under the black lake?" Blossom asked.

"It's possible." Sasporilla said. "But it doesn't smell like water. The air smells a tad acrid."

Whatever the smell was in the air, it's subtle burn was more than enough to concern them.

"Ladies I do believe we should wrap our scarves around our mouths and noses." Karry said.

The Hufflepuff scarf, one of the greatest tools in any Hufflepuffs kit, were pulled from their necks and wrapped around the lower half of their heads. As they walked forward down the winding tunnel, the girls saw a body laying in the darkness ahead.

Light from their wands revealed it was Olga Bathory. Most of her right arm was melted off and lay in a ragged puddle beside her pale body. Two round doors sat open, one in the floor and one in the ceiling. A greenish liquid dripped loudly from the small upper chamber.

"Poor girl." Blossom said. "It looks like some kind of acid."

Olga Bathorys eyes popped open, shocking the trio as the girl started to scream. Karry searched her bag. There was nothing that stopped the effects of acid but there was a potion to block the pain.

"It hurts!" Olga screamed. "Help me please. I want my mom!"

Karry splashed the numbing potion on the girls wounded stump. As Olgas pain lessened Karry applied a magical foam.

"That should help a bit until we get you back to Hogwarts." Karry smiled.

"Thank you." Olga said in a teary quivering voice. "She used me."

"Who used you?" Sasporilla asked.

"MS.Lee." Olga said.

"Ms.Lee?"; Karry asked. "Jasmine Lee?"

"Yes." Olga Bathory nodded. "She had me open the top hatch. I was the Whatever the smell was in the air, it's subtle burn was more than enough to concern them. and the strongest. The acid poured out and covered my arm. She laughed when the acid ate my arm away. She laughed!"

Olga Bathory broke down in hysterical tears again.

"We need to get her out of here and to qualified help before the acid on her does more damage." Sasporilla said.

"I'll take her out." Blossom said. "I'll get her to the surface and see if I can link up with the search party."

"Thank you Bloss." Karry said. "We have to push on and stop Jasmine Lee before she gets one of the girls killed."

Blossom helped Olga to her feet and propped the injured girl up on her shoulder. They rushed off down the hall as fast as the weak girl could travel.

"How are we getting down there?" Sasporilla asked. "With all that acid residue?"

"If we had an alkaline agent to counteract the acid I'd use that but we don't." Karry thought allowed. "But now if I remember correctly, Professor Snape had said something in first year potions about cleaning up acid."

The girls thought very hard. It monotone droning voice of Severus Snape often placed students into a place where his voice just passed over them, rather than the lesson sinking in. Karry closed her eyes and started to mimic professor Snape.

"In the inevitable case that you spill acid on your work space..." Karry droned slowly reminding Sasporilla of the lesson and encouraging her to join in. "... sprinkle bicarbonate soda on the acid and wait for it to stop bubbling. This will neutralize the acid and make it possible to clean up, that's it!"

"Do we have any bicarbonate soda?" Sasporilla asked.

"I was going to make cup cakes this weekend." Karry said looking through her bag. "I stopped at the shop and bought a box of baking soda and a box of baking powder because I couldn't remember what the recipe called for."

"Yes I remember." Sasporilla said impatiently. "I told you it was baking powder and when you got home you found out I was right and you put in the kitchen."

"And left the baking soda, a bicarbonate soda, in my bag!" Karry smiled pulling the bag small box from her bag. Karry sprinkled the soda everywhere. It bubbled and spewed as it reacted and interacted with the acid neutralizing its effects. Karry pulled some gloves from her bag and handed a pair to Sasporilla.

"Where these as we climb down, then toss them away." Karry said. "The acid is basically neutralized but it still may be a tad corrosive."

"Got ya." Sassy said putting on the gloves as she looked down the floor hatch. A small ladder went down to a crystal grate below. The acid had flowed through the grate and ran off through some underground reservoir to god knows where? Sasporilla climbed down the powder dusted rungs of the ladder down to the tunnel below, closely followed by Karry Curtis.

Zac touched his wand to the glowing yellow arrow Karry carved on the rock wall. It revealed a yellow string of light which ran down the tunnel in the direction.

Blossom was excited to see lit wands on the other side of the open mouth doorway of the stone carved head of Salazar Slytherin.

"Help!" Blossom yelled. "I have an injured girl!"

Zac popped his head in through the door way and saw Blossom supporting Olga Bathory on her shoulder.

"My god!" Zac gasped reaching to take the injured girl from Blossom. "What happened?"

"Some sort of acid trap on a vault." Blossom said unshouldering the burden of the rather heavy first year to Zac.

"What were you first years thinking?" Zac said as he helped the girl through the opening into the outer chamber.

"It wasn't them." Blossom insisted. "It's Jasmine Lee. She stole documents from Karrys desk and shes risking these girls lives to open trapped doors to advance whatever devious plan she has."

"Well we have to get this girl medical help immediately." Kingsly Shacklebolt said.

"I'll take 'er." Hagrid said. "My motor bikes faster'n yer brooms any day and I gots the side car an' all. Besides I'll never fit myself through tha' tiny door."

"Good man Hagrid." Zac said handing off Olga Bathory to the gigantic grounds keeper who took back off down the tunnels they'd traversed from the chasm.

"We need to get back in." Blossom insisted. "Karry and Sassy are in danger."

"You lead Blossom." Zac smiled. "We'll follow."



Chapter 13

Sasporilla Bucket and Karry Curtiss stood at the base of the ladder facing a corridor lined with skeletons dressed in tattered rotting robes and firmly holding wands in their bony hands. Sasporilla took a step forward and the skeletons turned to face her. The skeletons readied their wands in a dueling stance.

"Uh oh!" Karry cringed.

Spells began to fly back forth. Sassy and Karry deflected as many as possible but they were greatly outnumbered. Time slowed as Sasporilla saw the unmistakable green glow of death spells form on the skeleton wand tips. Sasporilla grabbed Karry tightly and disappeared as green death filled the room. The girls reappeared behind the skeletons.

"BOMBARDA!" The girls cast in unison.

Skeletons exploded into clouds of bone as the ball of explosive force blasted its way down the hall. As the dust cleared panels in the wall slid open. New skeletons stepped through and picked up the wands that lay amongst the wands on the floor.

"This isn't good." Sasporilla shouted as the creatures turned to face them.

"CONTORTO!" a loud voice cast. The skeletons twisted and rolled. Bones snapped as they bent into unnatural shapes.

"CRIATURA DESTRUCTI!"

The skeletons wailed as they turned to dust. The wall panels began to slide open.

"Apretado!" Karry cast jamming the sliding panels. Skeletal arms reached out but could not reach the wands.

As the dust cleared Karry and Sassy were relieved to see Kingsly Shackbolt standing poised, wand still at the ready. Zac stood to one side, Lyra stood to the other with Nick Owlmore in behind.

Karry and Sassy rushed forward into the arms of their loved ones. Zac grabbed Karry and kissed her passionately. He hugged his wife so hard she thought she would surely snap in two. Sasporilla wept as her uncle Nick took her in his powerful arms and gently hugged his god daughter.

"I'm glad your ok." Nick said. "But I could kill you for coming down here. It's far to dangerous, even for a seventh year."

"I love you too uncle Nick." Sasporilla hugged tighter.

"Have you found Katelynn yet?" Lyra asked.

"No." Karry said. "She's still with Jasmine Lee."

"Evil cow." Lyra said. "She always claimed to have some sort of connection to Voldemort. Her parents are nomag muggles like mine."

"Well we know they can't have gone this way." Minister Shackbolt said looking at the dead end wall.

"Things are not always as they seem in the chamber of secrets, minister." Blossom said. "Karry and Sasporilla have shown me that. REVELIO!"

The dead end stone wall faded away revealing a circular vault door with a fan of serpents adorning it.

"Most impressive Miss...?" Kingsly Shackbolt asked.

"Kowalski, Blossom Kowalski, sir." Blossom smiled.

"There's a job for you in my office when you graduate." Kingsly smiled. "If you want it."

"Thank you sir." Blossom smiled politely.

"All right let's get this open." Sasporilla said. "Sassha san shigin."

Parcel tongue quickly caused the vault door mechanism to unlatch as a metal snake curled along the edge. The heavy door swung open revealing a wall of water. The room inside was massive and filled floor to ceiling with gold and jewels. A treasure trove of riches rarely seen.

"Wow!" Zac said. "That's a lot of gold, even by my standards."

Karry dipped her finger into the water and pulled it back out. She sniffed it, then tasted the water on her finger, and spit it back out.

"No ill effects." Karry said. "Not poisoned but it is salt water."

"If we're going in we'll need to cast a bubble-head charm." Sasporilla said.

"Or," Zac said, "you could go in on your own, do your freaky become a water girl thing and scope it out."

"Good idea!" Karry said. "There's no telling how big that room is and even a bubble head charm only lasts about an hour."

"Water girl thing?" Blossom asked.

"Miss Bucket has many special abilities." Minister Shackbolt said. "She has full command of the elements, control of elven magics and weaving as well as able to converse with animals and plants."

"You seem to know an awful lot about things I've never told you about?" Sasporilla said curiously.

"We keep files on all powerful witches and wizards miss Bucket." The minister of magic said. "In case someone turns to the dark arts we need to know all we can about them."

"Just protecting the public." Sasporilla smiled.

"Indeed." Kingsly smiled. "Glad you understand."

"Yes I understand how fascism works and the excuses they make to justify it." Sasporilla said. "We'll be talking about your file policy after this is over."

Sasporilla placed her hand on the wall of water. She reached out with her feelings until she connected with the water. Sasporilla's body became as water in human form and she flowed into the room. Sassy swirled around the treasure up and over the piles on piles until she reached the ceiling.

She could see large schools of fish swimming amongst the chests and piles.

She moved along the seemingly endless ceiling moving faster and faster until she felt herself being pulled uncontrollably forward. Water swirled in a circular motion going up into the ceiling like an upside down whirlpool. She spun along and around the vortex until she was able to pull away and swim back to the doorway.

She arrived at the vault door but as water she couldn't pass beyond. No matter how she pushed and willed herself through she couldn't breach the door way. Sasporilla reformed as human before their eyes. She placed her hands against the magical barrier and pushed with all her might, but could not push past the barrier. Air started to escape her lungs as she struggled. Spells hit the barrier in every effort to dispel it. Karry pushed her arm in and grabbed hold of Sasporilla. She held her hand out to Zac who pulled on his wife. Lyra ran up and grabbed hold of Sasporilla and pulled on her friend as Nick pulled on his partner. Sasporilla slipped through the water barrier and fell to the floor gasping for air. Karry and Lyra helped Sasporilla to her feet.

"You ok kid?" Lyra asked.

"Ya!" Sasporilla coughed. "That was bloody close."

"Well I was worried you might not fit through that door way that fat butt of yours."

"Fat butt?" Sasporilla said. "I thought you were carrying two floatation vests in your back pockets!"

"Good your ok." Lyra laughed.

"There's an all encompassing vortex pulling any one up and through about a mile in."

"A mile?" Kingsly asked.

"Yes, it's a huge room minister." Sasporilla said. "Problem is there are schools of fish. I didn't get a good look at them but I get the impression they're man eaters, attracted by any flesh that goes in the water."

"What makes you think that?" Karry asked as Sassy stepped away from the open door she revealed a large school of fish floating in her form behind her. Their huge sharp teeth gnashed and bit.

"I see your point." Karry said.

The fish swam away and disappeared behind distant piles of treasure. Sasporilla knew they were out of the site of human site, but were close enough to attack when the first body breached the barrier.

"Could the girls have found another way around?" Nick Owlmore asked.

"I very much doubt it." Sasporilla said. "I believe they followed this path and were sucked up by the vortex. Lee would have cast bubble head charms on Katelynn and Mary, and on herself of course. I just hope neither of the girls were attacked by those fish."

"Then we have no choice but to travel on." Minister Shackbolt announced. "We'll travel two groups. Miss Bucket will lead the way for the first group with the Curtiss' and our guest Aurors and myself. Ms.Pince will lead the group of volunteers. Now I must say that as much as I appreciate all of the help our volunteers have provided, I will not blame anyone who wishes to turn around here and go back to the school."

Ms.Pince looked at the volunteers. No one moved. Wands out, every one of them were ready for the challenge, the adventure and the danger.

"That's it then." Sasporilla said. "Let's do this."

Sasporilla stepped through into the water casting the bubble head charm. She swam forward just a bit when the first school of carnivorous fish appeared.

"Stupify!" Sasporilla cast, most of the fish swimming directly into the blast slowed to a stop. A few swam around the stunned group and attacked Sasporilla. They bit into her limbs as she tried to get them off of her. Blood started to cloud the water around Sasporilla as she ripped the fish from her arm tearing out small chunks of flesh with them.

"Stop this." Sasporilla demanded of the fish.

"We hunger." The fish said. "We got very little of the last ones through. The other school got so much more."

"We are not your food." Sasporilla insisted. "We are people."

"People are food!" The fish laughed and attacked again.

Karry cast "IMMOBULOUS!" at on coming schools as Sasporilla individually stupified the creatures off of her.

Sasporilla swam to Karrys side and touched her head to her friends. "These fish aren't listening to reason."

"What are we going to do?" Karry asked. "There are too many of them."

"Swim to the ceiling and follow it straight in until you feel the pull of the whirlpool. I'll take care of the schools of fish."

"Be careful." Karry insisted as she pushed off and swam up to the ceiling the others following her lead. Sasporilla became as water and flowed around the group of swimmers. As fish attacked she struck at them as a living spinning ball of water. As others appeared she attacked them the same way. The fish were confused. They had never been attacked by the water before.

"This is your last warning." Sasporilla said returning to almost human form.

"Eat her!" The fish attacked. Every school swam towards her and swarmed biting into her still watery flesh. Then they realized their mistake. She was changing becoming as air. A bubble of air so large the water was pushed away and they fell to the floor gasping. None escaped as the air pressure held them firmly against the treasure room floor. Sasporilla watched as her friends were pulled into the whirlpool and vanished up. Sassy became as water again and pushed her way through to the vortex, leaving thousands of fish dead in her wake. She spun in the whirlpool and could feel and see through so much of the water around her. She was losing herself, becoming the water. She struggled to reform as flesh in the hard centrifugal currents that pulled at her. She clawed at the water and found air, tried to breath the air and found water. Her head struck something hard and all went black.



Chapter 14

Karry helped others up as she breached the surface of the water. They had arrived at a large stone pier that jutted far into an underground sea of a huge cavern a hundred miles long. Natural phosphorescent rock in the caverns ceiling cast dim light through out. A huge dark stone city sprawled throughout the caverns depths, along its floor and up its walls. A golden step pyramids sat st the cities center.

Sasporilla rose up to the surface limp and unconscious. "Levicorpus!" Karry cast levitating her friend from the water and onto the pier. Karry listened to her friends chest. There was no heart beat. Karry pointed her wand at Sasporilla and cast "RESUSITO!" Sasporillas body jumped and she rolled onto her side. Water blew out of the pink haired witches mouth as her eyes opened and she gasped for breath. Sassy sat up as she continued to cough up water.

"Get it out." Karry said helping her friend.

"Everyone ok?" Sasporilla asked.

"Thanks to you yes." Karry said.

"I had to kill those fish." Sasporilla said sadly. "I hate myself for having to do it. They were just following their nature."

"I know." Karry said. "But if you hadn't we'd have lost more people than we're trying to save. It was us or them."

"Why can't it ever be everyone lives and all win?"

"That would be a wonderful world indeed." Karry smiled. "Can you stand?"

"I'll be fine." Sasporilla smiled looking around. "Where are we?"

"The ancient lost city of GrazaKadabrass," Kingsly Shacklebolt said, "would be my best educated guess. Dark stone buildings and a gold step pyramid at it's center."

"The ancient dark wizarding city?" Karry gasped. "I thought it was just a myth."

"That's what we all thought." Kingsly said. "The hub of all dark magic, it was destroyed in the ancient war between the forces of light and darkness."

"But wasn't it to have been banished to an unreachable place on another world?" Karry asked remembering the stories.

"Apparently it was." Minister Shacklebolt said holding out his hand to the city. "Don't forget, the world Avalon is in, though it shares with space with our world, still isn't our world. GrazaKadabrass was banished here."

"It looks long abandoned." Sasporilla mused.

"Not surprising." Karry said. "It was banished thousands of years ago. I'm sure those who could escape did so long ago. The rest like perished."

"But whichever the situation you can bet dark traps were left behind." Kingsly frowned.

"Minister!" Seventh year volunteers Jamie Gryffin and Horace Munchen yelled as they ran down the dock.

"What is it?" Kingsly asked. "What's the matter?"

"We've found something we think you should see sir." Jamie Gryffin said. "Right away."

The seventh years lead the way from the pier to the beach where the rest of the rescue party gathered. Minister Shacklebolt gasped at he saw what it was the gathered around. The badly dismembered corpse of a young girl in ripped and bloodied Slytherin robes. Carnivorous fish, though dead, still hung on to bits of her torn flesh.

"Mary Crowley." Sasporilla said.

"Are you sure?" The minister of magic asked.

"Olga Bathory and Mary Crowley are Slytherin. Katelynn is Hufflepuff. Since Olga was rescued and that's what's left of a Slytherin robe, simple deductive reasoning and logic says that has to be Mary Crowely."

"Good job." Karry said, rather impressed by her friend. "We just might make an academic of you yet!"

"She'd make a damn fine auror too!" Lyra smiled.

"Like her dad." Nick said.

Sasporilla was embarrassed by the praise and looked away. She saw footprints that lead from the beach into the city. One small pair of shoes and the unmistakable slither marks of a large serpent.

"Karry." Sassy said pointing to the foot prints.

"Looks like Katelynn went with the snake into the city." Karry said. "But where is Jasmine? I see no sign of adult foot prints accompanying them?"

"Perhaps the snake followed her and erased her foot prints." Nick surmised.

"Or she's an animagus or worse." Lyra said.

"Well whatever the number it appears our trail leads into GrazaKadabrass." Kingsly Shacklebolt said. "And to that pyramid of gold."



Chapter 15

Kingsly Shacklebolt lead the rescue team from the beach into the ruin city of GrazaKadabrass. Dark empty buildings sat in horrific silence as the group past. Shadowed doorways stood empty, wooden doors long rotted off and reduced to dust which covered the cracked cobblestone streets.

"This is creepy." Sasporilla said.

"Ya." Karry shivered holding Zacs hand. "I get the sense that we're not alone here."

"I sense it too." Sasporilla said looking around, wand drawn. "Gives me the willies."

The softest of sounds brought the rescue party to a halt. Everyone fell silent. Laughter, it was the laughter of a child!

"Katie!" Lyra yelled running off towards the sound.

"Lyra wait!" Nick yelled running after her, the rest following.

The group of rescuers ran about a block, lead by the gentle playful laughter of a young girl. Lyra came to a halt when she saw the girl standing in a shadowy door way. The girl was about six, maybe seven years old. She stood there smiling dressed in something that looked like loose leather strips or some sort of dark sea weed. The girl laughed.

"Come here child." Kingsly called and waved to the girl.

She simply shook her head no and waved for them to follow her inside. The minister of magic took a step forward but Nick Owlmore stopped him from proceeding.

"I wouldn't Minister." Nick said pointing his wand at the girl. "LUMOS SOLEM!"

The girl jutted forward and split in half to reveal razor sharp teeth that ran in vertical rows through her torso. The teeth snapped at them but couldn't reach. The body was suspended on a long black tentacle and pulled back into the shadowy building.

"Beware the Lordrum." A small voice said from the side. "The Lordrum are hungry."

Sasporilla saw him first, a black skinned elf, with silver eyes and thin sporadic snow white hair.

"Hello." Sasporilla said. "My name is Sasporilla Bucket, of the Stilskin blood line."

"Ah!" The creature said. "I am Jrux, of the Xorgo."

"What are the Xorgo?" Sassy asked.

"The Xorgo are us." The black elf said holding out his hands as other black elves appeared from the shadows.

The witches and wizards drew their wands in self defence startling the elves.

"Lower your wands." Sasporilla commanded. "They've given us no reason to react."

"What are they saying?" Karry asked.

"Don't you understand him?" Sasporilla asked.

"No." Kingsly Shacklebolt said. "They are speaking some strange dialect of ancient elvish."

"Well I understand him." Sassy smiled. "I will interpret. They are called the Xorgo. His name is Jrux."

"Hello Jrux." Kingsly said. "I am Kingsly Shacklebolt. Minister of Magic."

Sasporilla Bucket translated.

"You have a talent for tongues I see Sasporilla Bucket." Jrux said. "You must warn your people to beware the LORDRUM!"

"What is the Lordrum?" Sasporilla asked.

"A tentacled horror that lives inside the blackest areas of the BLACK CITY. Their tentacle tips can take on the shape of their preys young. Instinct to save an abandoned child lures you to your death."

Sasporilla translated. People started to murmur.

"Your light hurts them." Jrux said. "They will not try to lure you again, but if your people stray to close they will be eaten."

"What else is he saying?" Kingsly asked.

Sasporilla told them dark elves dire warning.

"Ask him if they saw the missing girl?" Kingsly said.

"Have you seen one of our missing girls and a snake?" Sasporilla asked.

"Not I." Jrux shook his head, turning to the others who had gathered and asked of his people if any had seen them.

"I have." A young elf, skin as black as night, slowly raised her hand.

"Please come tell the half elf, Sasporilla." Jrux said.

The small elf pushed forward through the crowd and stood before Sassy looking up at her frightened.

"Why are you afraid?" Sasporilla asked.

"I've heard the stories." The girl said. "Witches and wizards that come to eat elves. You're the boogieman!"

"I assure you." Sasporilla said bending down with a reassuring smile. "We are the farthest thing from monstrous witches and wizards. We are kind and caring and I promise we will not harm you, what is your name?"

"I am Kreeli" the small elf smiled.

"Where did you see girl and the snake?" Sasporilla asked.

"I saw them walking through the grand plaza a while ago." Kreeli said. "They were heading to the Pyramid of Slyth."

"Thank you." Sasporilla said reaching into her bag and pulling out a licorice wand and handing it to the girl. "This is candy. It's sweet on the tongue."

"Thank you!" Kreeli smiled and ran off into the crowd to try the candy.

"They're headed to the golden step pyramid." Sasporilla said.

"Can they show us a safe path to the pyramid?" Kingsly asked.

Sasporilla asked Jrux. The little black elf gibbered and jabbered as he shook his head and pointed.

"Jrux assures me there is no safe way." Sasporilla sighed. "The most direct way is the main street we were following from the pier. He will shows back there."

"Thank you." Kingsly bowed.

"Your welcome." Jrux bowed back.

The Xorgo disappeared back into shadows as quickly as they appeared. Only Jrux stayed to show them the safest way back to the Royal Road.

"Sasporilla Bucket." Jrux said. "Xorgo are those of us left from the Banishment of the Black City. Who is our Royal lord now? A king or a queen?"

"Technically there is no royal head for elves." Sasporilla said sadly. "The closest is my uncle who has no clue of his elven heritage."

"How is it you know?" Jrux asked.

"The elves educated me on my so called birth right, a few months ago." Sasporilla said. "I have no interest in being queen, but my uncle would make poor king."

"So better to say nothing then let the elves suffer." Jrux smiled.

"Something like that." Sassy smiled humbly with an air of regret. "Our elves suffer enough. Slaves to most witches and wizards for a thousand years, and it's the fault of my royal bloody family."

"When was this done?" Jrux asked.

"Hundreds of years ago." Sasporilla said.

"And you feel responsible for the acts of family dead before you were born? Decisions made by others?"

"That still effect our people, yes." Sasporilla said. "If I could change things to free all elves I would, but we would have to have places for them to live and purposes for them so they don't just flounder."

"Sounds like the kind of thing a true leader would say." Jrux smiled. "I like you Sasporilla Bucket."



Chapter 16

Sasporilla gasped as the rescue party passed a large stone building with a very familiar logo.

"Karry, Zac look." Sassy said pointing at the building.

"Gringots?" Karry said.

"I guess they really are the oldest wizarding bank." Zac said. "This could explain Salazar Slytherins vast fortune. If he discovered this city?"

"Then his vaults are likely full of ancient dark wizard devices and Gringots gold." Karry said.

No one saw a small group of student volunteers break off and duck into the ruins of the ancient bank. It wasn't until the boys started to scream and flashes of spells lit up the interior, that they realized greed had got the best of four of the seventh years.

"Damn stupid!" Kingsly yelled turning to run to their aid.

"No!" Jrux yelled holding out his arms. "They're already dead!"

"Wait!" Sasporilla yelled. "What do you mean Jrux?"

"The Goblins that haunt the shadows of that building steal the voices of their victims to lure more in." Jrux said.

"By the time you here screams your people are dead."

Sasporilla translated.

"Damn." Kingsly said. "Nobody break away form the group! Four of you are now dead because of greed. Curiosity killed the cat, remember that!"

The pale white faces of goblins who had been without sun for millennia, peered from the shadowy doors and windows of the ancient Gringots. Their razor sharp Cheshire smiles accented by the smeared red blood around their wide mouths.

"Bombarda!" Lyra cast angrily, causing an explosion which cracked ancient rock. Goblins ran back into the buildings shadowy depths.

"Auror!" The minister of magic yelled. "Holster that wand and that attitude!"

The group fell silent as they approached the grand plaza. A huge stone square a mile wide in each direction.

"This is where I must part from you." Jrux said. "The dangers are great from here to the golden pyramid."

"Thank you for your help Jrux." Sasporilla smiled warmly. "Wish us luck."

"You will need it." Jrux bowed and vanished.

"Where has the elf gone?" Nick asked.

"He said it's far to dangerous from here." Sasporilla said.

"Coward!" Kingsly muttered angrily.

"Excuse me?" Sasporilla said. "Jrux did just what he promised to do and might I remind you, he wasn't obligated to do so in any way! This is our problem not his, not the Xorgos! I will not have you calling these poor elves COWARDS!"

"Sasporilla?" Karry said. "Calm down!"

"My apologies." Kingsly said reluctantly.

"Let's continue on." Sasporilla said motioning to the main road which lay on the far side of the square.

The rescue party was wide open, walking through the center of the great square. They could feel the eyes of many hungry horrors that lurked in the dark buildings around the square.

"STOP!" a disembodied voice boomed from above them.

The group of witches and wizards halted and looked up. The gigantic face of Salazar Slytherin appeared in the air in crackling green fire!

"What do you seek?" The booming voice of the great wizard asked.

"I will answer this." Kingsly Shacklebolt said holding his hand out to silence anyone else who may answer. "We're looking for missing Hogwarts Students!"

"Yes." The voice hissed. "A child and a cursed one seek to find me."

"Seek to find you?" Kingsly asked.

"They are not worthy." Slytherin said. "But one of you IS worthy."

A ring of green flame encircled Zac Curtiss and in a flash, he disappeared.

"Zac!" Karry screamed. "That's my husband! Return him at once!"

"You dare order me? mudblood!" Slytherin said out raged.

Kingsly, Nick, Lyra and Sasporilla began to cast a magical Barrier as they motioned everyone to move. Green energy flew from the eyes of Salazar Slytherin's image, struck the barrier and deflected away.

The unmistakable hiss of parcel tongue filled the square as Slytherin called the foulest of his creatures. Giant shadow serpents slid from windows and doors. The black creatures slithered towards them from all directions.

The rescue party was surrounded.

Spells flew from the ends of wands, crashing directly into the beasts and passing straight through with little or no effect. Stone exploded in a shower of dust when the minister of magic cast "Bombarda Maxima!" The blast made the shadowy serpents scatter but didn't leave scratch on them.

"They're impervious to magic!" Kingsly Shacklebolt yelled. "If anyone has any bright ideas now would be the time to speak up!"

"Bright!" Sasporilla laughed. "LUMOS SOLEM!"

Sunlight beamed from her wand cutting a swath through the shadow serpents. The creatures writhed in agony as light turned their bodies to floating embers and ash.

"Lumos Solem!" was cast by everyone in the party sending out a circular wave of light that destroyed the shadow serpent onslaught. The witches and wizards cheered with excitement, reveling in their victory.

"Good show Miss Bucket!" The Minister of Magic said.

"Is everyone ok?" Sasporilla asked looking around. Everyone was there, except the students lost to the goblins and Zac Curtiss. Blossom was doing a head count.

"I do believe we have everyone Sasporilla." Blossom said.

"Thank you Blossom." Sassy smiled.

"We'd best get across this square and up those steps into yhe pyramid before anything else attacks." Kingsly said leading everyone on with a wave.

"Sasporilla?" Karry asked with quirt sadness. "Why do you think he had to take my Zac?"

"Slytherin said he was worthy." Sasporilla said taking her friends hand and pulling her along beside. "I can only assume if we look in that book on the shelf back in the vault, it will show Zac's family, the Zarcazzians, were of pure blood. I can't imagine there would be to many families who can truthfully claim that these days."

"But what does he need a pure blood for?" Karry wept.

"I wish I knew." Sasporilla cringed. "I wish..I..Knew."



Chapter 17

Sasporilla Bucket stood at the bottom of the Gigantic gold step pyramid, looking up at the one thousand stairs that lead up to huge open double doors. The others were beginning the long arduous assent. This seemed like a very easy task and Sassy wondered what sort of traps were in store for them.

One of the volunteers, a Hufflepff named Vellma Sporknitz, stopped to pull a small knife from her pocket. She tried loosening one of the gold bricks that made up the Pyramid steps.

"Just what do you think you're doing?" Blossom Kowalski yelled as she grabbed the girls ear and twisted it until Vel rose up to look her in the eye. "We've lost enough people to greed already Vellma Sporknitz! Have you learned nothing from their deaths."

"Sorry Blossom." Vellma said. "I didn't think one brick could do any harm."

"You should have just stopped at you didn't think!" Blossom shouted at the girl pointing on. "Now move it!"

"Ok, ok!" Blossom said.

"Trouble?" Sasporilla asked catching up.

"Nothing my training's as prefect and head girl didn't prepare me for." Blossom smiled.

"You go girl!" Sassy chuckled.

Kingsly Shackbolt was the first to make it to the top of the stairs. The giant gold doors were opened revealing an inky black passage inside. A ghostly full bodied image of Salazar Slytherin flickered in before him.

"I see that you are all quite determined to step inside my Palace, my prison, my tomb!"

"We only want the children back." Kingsly said. "Once we have them we'll leave you in peace."

"Peace I will have." Salazar Slytherin chuckled. "Pieces you will be!"

With the snap of his fingers Salazar Slytherin flickered out, and something large moved just inside the shadow of the pyramid.

"Wands ready!" The minister of Magic ordered.

There was no blast of flame or guttural roar as the great skeletal dragon stepped forth from the shadow into the dim phosphorescent light of the cavern. It swatted at the group with its gigantic bone hand and sent people jumping in all directions. It turned an swiped with its great bony tail. Sassy and Blossom ducked, still on the steps and not quite to the top with others, as the tail passed over them. Witches and wizards were knocked knocked back as if hit by a speeding bus. Few would recover from that blow. Kingsly Shackbolt was thrown of the top and sent rolling down the side of the step pyramid. He came to a halt somewhere about half way down.

"You ready?" Sassy said to Blossom pulling her wand.

"Ready." Blossom nodded.

Nick Owlmore, Lyra Lee Ashwolf and Karry Curtiss were the only ones still on their feet when Sassy and Bloss hit the top of the stairs.

"BOMBARDA MAXIMA!" Sasporilla cast blowing a large whole in the creatures lef rib cage, causing the left arm to fall off.

Bones reformed from splinters and reconnected themselves to the dragon who took a lunging bite at Sasporilla. Blossom dove and tackled the pink haired witch out of the skeletal dragons path. The pair landed hard on floor.

"Thanks." Sassy smiled.

"Any time!" Blossom said.

Karry and the two aurors were trying every spell they could think of. Nothing worked. Sasporilla attempted to communicate with the beast but it had no language, no reason. It was a dead, reanimated thing. The question was, what power kept this long dead beast animated?

The creature flapped its massive bone wings. Small shards of bone flew off and filled the air with shrapnel.

"REPALLO!" Sasporilla cast forming a barrier that reflected the shrapnel around her and her Blossom. Karry, Lyra, and Nick ducked behind a corner. Sasporilla looked behind in time to see the shards of bone slow, stop and begin to return.

"Get down!" Sasporilla said throwing Blossom to the floor as the bone shards flew over them.

"Thanks!" Blossom smiled.

"Your welcome Bloss." Sassy said. "I wasn't going to let you be hurt!"

Sasporilla looked over at the dragon as the bone shards reformed onto the ends of its wings. Something glinted on the beast's ankle. It was a polished metal shackle with a few links of chain running behind it. Anything old enough to have been on this creature, and still looked as if it was that new, was surely to be the magical source of the dragon's animation.

"PERDERE COLAPHIZO!" Sasporilla cast.

Purple energy flashed from her wand's tip and struck the beast hard in the ankle. The beast looked down as the metal shackle began to crack releasing bright magical energy. The beast threw its head up and back as if in agony. The bone dragon began to shudder and the bones began to fall apart, the bones crashing to the ground, exploding into dust.



Chapter 18

LUMOS brought magical torches to light in the dark inner halls of the golden step pyramid. Sasporilla, Karry and Blossom followed the minister of magic Kingsly Shacklebolt and his two aurors, Nick Owlmore and Lyra Lee-Ashwolf.

"It seems very quiet in here minister." Nick said.

"Yes." Kingsly replied. "Too quiet. I find it hard to believe Salazar Slytherin's little surprises end at the door."

Spiral steps lead down into the heart of the step pyramid. Thin alcoves lined the round walls as the rescue team descended into the depths. Mummified wizards in ornate robes, their hands crossed over their chests holding their wands, stood one each in the alcoves.

"Who do you think they were?" Sasporilla asked.

"The dark wizards of GrazaKadabrax is my educated guess." Karry said. "Don't be surprised if they spring to life and attack."

"Surprised they haven't all ready." Sasporilla said looking into the face of one of the withered corpses. "Oy! You got any shifty plans mate?"

Karry laughed.

"Sasporilla Bucket!" Blossom scolded. "That behaviour is most disrespectful!"

"Sorry Blossom." Sassy said. "I was just fooling around, I mean no disrespect to the dead."

At the base of the steps was a large room ornately carved from solid diamond. At the far side of the room was a pillar of emerald with the grimacing figure of Salazar Slytherin entrapped within.

Katelynn stood beside a large serpent facing the pillar of emerald. Zac stood to the other side his hand shaking above a crystal ball.

"Zac!" Karry cried trying to run to his side but stopped by an invisible force.

Katelynn and the huge serpent turned, surprised by the sudden appearance of witches and wizards. Katelynn's eyes were fixed and glassy as she stood there mesmerized.

"It's no use," the serpent hissed, "you will not breach the barrier."

"What is that thing saying?" Lyra asked. "Tell it to move away from Katie!"

"Why can't we get to Zac?" Sasporilla asked in snake language.

"Because." The voice of Slytherin echoed through the diamond chamber. "Only one pure of blood may pass the barrier."

The ghostly image of the great old wizard himself, Salazar Slytherin appeared beside Zac.

"Once this worthy boy touches the orb of GrazaKadabrax my essence will transfer into him, and his will be trapped in my imprisoned grizzled body. I, Salazar Slytherin, the greatest wizard in history, will live again!"

"Don't touch it Zac!" Karry yelled.

"He fights against my will," Slytherin laughed, "but he will succumb!"

"I want him dead!" The snake hissed.

"Why?" Sasporilla asked.

"Salazar Slytherin cursed my family a millennia ago. My ancestor, the daughter of an Emperor, refused his love. He cursed her into serpent form and this curse is carried by all of her daughters. Neither human, nor snake, and at the same time both. My mother, Nagini was so cursed. We are maladictus, the cursed children. To kill him will free us all."

"No one will stop me Maladictus!" Slytherin laughed.

"We will stop you." A woman's voice said

as three spots lit up in the diamond floor. One Red, one blue and one yellow. The ghostly images of the other three Hogwarts founders. Godric Gryffindor, Rowena Ravenclaw and Helga Hufflepuff. "We imprisoned Salazar Slytherin over one thousand years ago for his mad plans to destroy any person not of pure magical blood. Muggles and half-bloods alike!"

"It would have been a utopia!" Slytherin mused.

"It would have been a hell of your design." Helga Hufflepuff cursed.

"How exactly do you plan to stop me, Helga?" Salazar Slytherin walked to the edge of the barrier. "Ask me nicely to stop?"

"You are still as arrogant Salazar." Godric Gryffindor said.

"You don't believe images of us can stop you, do you Salazar?" Rowena Ravenclaw smiled.

"No." The old wizard said. "That's why I'm wondering what you three have up your sleeves?"

"There is nothing up our sleeves." Blossom Kowalski said in the voice of Helga Hufflepuff, stepped forward into the yellow spot, Otello Perumbram stepped into the red spot, and Katelynn Ashwolf stepped into the Blue. "Our heirs however, all half bloods or less, are worthy accepting vessels who have volunteered to do it for us."

Salazar Slytherin sneered as the young witches and wizard drew their wands and pointed them at the old wizard. Not his image, but the old man himself trapped in his prison of emerald.

"LIBERABITO CAPTIVI!" The heirs cast.

The emerald prison faded away. The ghostly image of Salazar Slytherin walked into its body as he returned to life. He took a deep breath, allowing air to fill his lungs for the first time in one thousand years.

"Fools!" The old wizard roared. "What hope of stopping me do you have now that I live again!"

"No!" Zac cried as he ripped himself free of Slytherin's powerful mental hold. "Orbay Perderum Artificia" Zac cast shattering the ancient orb of power.

The three Hogwarts house founders released their hold on the heirs. The three young people stood their bewildered.

"What's going on?" Katelynn asked looking at the old wizard. "Who the hell are you old man?"

"Silence insolent girl!" Slytherin hissed at the young Hufflepuff. "SILENCIO!"

Blossom stepped in front of Katelynn and cast the old wizard's spell aside.

"You will not harm this student as long as I'm Hufflepuff Head girl!" Blossom said defiantly.

"You may be head girl," Salazar Slytherin laughed, "but your no Helga Hufflepuff. AVADA KADA...!"

Jasmine Lee, in serpent form's fangs, sunk into Salazar Slytherin's neck silencing his spell as she twisted and coiled around him. The old wizard struggled against the crushing serpent's coils.

"We can't let that thing kill him." Kingsly said.

"That thing is Jasmine Lee." Sasporilla said. "Her family was cursed by Slytherin a Millennium ago. Her mother was Voldemort's snake Nagini!"

"Stupify!" Kingsly cast loosening the snake's grip on Salazar Slytherin.

The old wizard slid the beast off of him. Blood ran down the side of Slytherin's neck and flowed across his lips as he pointed his wand at the snake. "AVADA KEDAVRA!" The old wizard himself casting green death at Jasmine Lee, leaving the young woman forever trapped in death, as the thing she hated being the most.

"Salazar Slytherin!" Nick Owlmore said. "You are under arrest for the murder of Jasmine Lee."

Salazar Slytherin cast a healing spell on himself and levitated back to his feet and floated above the diamond floor. The old man mumbled something under his breath as his voice boomed inside the heads of the rescue party.

"You stand before the great and all powerful Salazar Slytherin. I am one with magic and have gone beyond death! You are as unworthy of life as the last mud-blood pretender to the throne who stood before me. He called himself Lord Voldemort."

"What is he murmuring?" Kingsly asked. "It sounds like some kind of very old enchantment."

It was too late they first heard the shuffle of rotted leather sandals and bones behind them, as spells caught them all from behind. The rescue party flew in all directions, shattered by explosive blasts and tossing spells. The mummified dark wizards of Graza Kadabra were reanimated liches! Wands forward they continued the attack. Sasporilla sat up, wand ready, at the feet of one of the liches. Its wand was pointed directly at her but the undead wizard didn't cast. Its hand shook as if it fought some outside control.

"Help us!" The creature begged. "We want only to rest."

Sasporilla saw the glow formed on the end of the wand and snapped her fingers, disappearing from the spells path, reappearing behind Salazar Slytherin.

"You don't think any of us are worthy of you?" Sasporilla Bucket yelled forcing him to turn away from the battle, but he maintained his control over the dead. "You stand before royal blood, and consider yourself worthy?"

"You? Royal blood?" Salazar Slytherin scoffed. "I think not."

"My great grand-father was a prince of the Stilskin!" Sassy said proudly.

"Evilish royalty!" Slytherin mocked. "In my world they will be our slaves. So will you, filthy half-blood."

"My other grand parents are the Duke and Duchess of Essex and My aunt is Witch Queen of Avalon!"

Salazar Slytherin was taken aback. If what this girl said was true, then to harm someone of the royal houses of Avalon was punishable by death.

"Then what is your command your royal highness?" The old wizard smiled as he bowed.

"Release your hold on the dead and let them return to their alcoves to rest in peace and cease this attack on these good people!" Sasporilla ordered.

"You see if you were true Avalonian royalty you would have body guards." Slytherin chuckled. "And if you were elven royalty then those filthy Xorgo would never allow me to harm you! AVADA KEDA..."

Jrux jumped forth from the shadows and stole Slytherin's marble and gold handled, snakewood wand right out of his hand and disappeared again. The Xorgo appeared from the stairwell and rushed the undead wizards, jumping on their backs and grabbing them by the legs. Liches fell in the swarm of dark elves.

"You were saying?" Sasporilla smiled.

Salazar Slytherin turned and ran. He pulled a lever which caused the top of the diamond room to crack and break apart. Razor sharp shards rained down around them. One sliced Sasporilla's right forearm as it crashed to the ground. Casting any spell amongst this deadly rain would only reflect back or away and strike an innocent. Sassy pictured a large platform and snapped her fingers. A giant barrier formed between the falling shards, the rescue party, the Xorgo and the liches. Everyone looked up in defence of the shards but saw them stopped. The undead wizards fell where they had stood, lifeless once again.

Sasporilla ran after Salazar Slytherin. The crafty old wizard pulled another lever and jumped onto a circular staircase which rose into the air spiraling towards an open hatch in the top of the pyramid. The pink haired witch climbed the steps as fast as she could as they rose higher and higher. The top of the circular staircase's center pole tapped the cavern roof dispelling an illusion of solid rock as it passed on to a man made stone ceiling. The pole stopped as it touched the carved stones. A panel slid open and Salazar Slytherin walked up and out.

Sasporilla Bucket reached the top of the stairs to see the old wizard standing, back to her, in a very familiar hallway. They were in the Hogwarts dungeon hallway that ran near the Slytherin house entrance.

"You crafty old sod," Sasporilla said, "you've been under our feet the entire time!"

"Yes." Slytherin hissed. "Manipulating weak minded young Slytherins for years. Grooming their prejudice and hatreds. Grooming those worthy to find and release me. Now the worthy will be my army, my subjects will do my will."

"I'm sorry." Sasporilla said sadly.

"For what girl?" The old wizard asked turning to see the girl standing strong with her fingers freshly snapped. Salizar Slytherin attempted to walk towards her but her but his feet and lower robes had turned to stone.

"I'm sorry but I can not allow you to continue on." Sasporilla said.

"Turn me to stone?" Slytherin hissed. "That's your plan? Someone will turn me back! This is Hogwarts!"

"No." Sasporilla said sadly. "They won't."

"What have you done?" Salizar Slytherin struggled against the effect.

"I've made the spell permanent and Irreversible." Sasporilla said. "Elven magic. You will spend the rest of your physical existence as a statue, no longer able to manipulate anyone or control anything. You will be dead."

"I am Salizar Slytherin." The old wizard screamed. "You can not do this to me!"

Slytherins and Hufflepuffs came out of their houses to see who was screaming. They saw Sasporilla Bucket levitating a new statue of Salazar Slytherin into place in the hall by Slytherin house.

"What are you doing Bucket?" The Slytherin head boy asked.

"Just a new bit of decoration." Sasporilla smiled.

"Who authorized this Bucket?" The head boy asked.

"I did." Minister Kingsly Shacklebolt said appearing from behind the statue, leading the missing girl Katelynn Ashwolf.

"Oh minister!" The head boy said. "Where did you come from?"

"All students back to your dorms!" The voice of Headmistress Minerva McGonagall ordered. The students turned and headed for their houses, the whispered murmur was deafening.

"You've found her!" The headmistress grasped her hands with excitement. "We will talk about your reckless actions later young lady. The others?"

"No." Kingsly said sadly as more people began to appear from behind the statue.

"I'm sorry headmistress." Sasporilla said. "Mary Crowley was killed by carnivorous fish" Sasporilla said, "and Jasmine Lee was killed by an unforgivable curse by Salazar Slytherin."

"Salazar Slytherin?" The headmistress asked looking at the new statue. "Is this?"

"Yes." Sasporilla said. "Salazar Slytherin, the man himself. I've turned him permanently to stone."

"But that's a death sentence!" Blossom said.

"I know what I've done." Sasporilla said as Nick Owlmore gently grasped his god daughters upper arm. "And I will answer for it."



Chapter 19

Blossom Kowalski and Karry Curtiss escorted Katelynn Ashwolf to McGonagalls office. They sat in the chairs just outside the great double doors awaiting the Headmistress to summon them in.

"I can't believe they put Sasporilla Bucket in custody!" Blossom said. "She was defending everyone in our world from that mad man!"

"I'm sure the Wizengamot will drop the charges once all truths come out." Karry Curtiss said.

Katelynn sat silently. She no longer had the look of defiant superiority on her face that everyone had grown used to. She saw the truth of all she'd done and was not proud of herself for how she had acted.

The large office doors opened. Professor Sprout stepped out. "You may go in ladies."

Katelynn stood and proceeded in first, followed by Blossom and Karry. Headmistress McGonagall sat behind her desk and stared at the first year Hufflepuff with a steely gaze and pursed lips.

Katelynn Ashwolf stood before the Headmistress bold as brass, refusing to divert her gaze from that of Minerva McGonagall.

"Before you yell at me and Expel me Headmistress," Katelynn said. "I want to say something."

Professor McGonagall nodded, curious to hear what the girl had to say.

"I am not going to blame anyone else for this but me." Katelynn said much to the Headmistresses surprise. "It was my vanity, wanting to be Slytherin that lead me to Ms.Lee and her plan to steal the documents from Mrs.Curtiss. It was my fault Poppey fell into the Chamber of Secrets and was so badly hurt. It was my fault we left the school to find Poppey, which lead to us following Ms.Lee into the Chamber getting Mary Killed. It is my fault people died trying to rescue us. My fault Salizar Slytherin was released from his prison. My fault that Sasporilla Bucket was put into the position she was and had to make the decision she did to save us."

"Is that everything Miss Ashwolf?" Headmistress McGonagall asked.

"No." Katelynn said. "I'm sorry for all the trouble I've caused."

"Very well." The Headmistress said. "I will ask your advocates if they have anything to say. I will start with you Mrs.Curtiss."

"I believe Miss Ashwolf is genuinely contrite." Karry began. "Though she wants to take ownership for all responsibility of what happened I must disagree. She is a child, emotional and naive. Katelynn was misled by Jasmine Lee. She was promised her house would be reassigned to Slytherin house if she complied to Jasmine Lees requests. The two girls, Mary Crowley and Olga Bathory were assigned to be Katelynns friends to help Jasmine maintained control over an impressionable Hufflepuff. When Poppey was in danger Katelynn organized the rescue because her conscience couldn't leave an injured girl in danger. Despite the orders of Jasmine Lee."

"Thank you Mrs.Curtiss." Minerva McGonagall said. "Anything else?"

"I have forgiven Katelynn for her part in the burglary of my office and the destruction of the documents, as she told Jasmine Lee of the location and Lee did the rest." Karry said.

"Thank you." Headmistress McGonagall said sternly. "Miss Kowalski you're up."

"Thank you headmistress." Blossom smiled. "I am in agreement with everything my esteemed house mate has said. I also must add that I saw no sign of the greedy, narcissistic, mean child we all knew down in the Chamber of Secrets. I saw a child under the hypnotic control of a Maladictus. I have also seen a new attitude in young Katelynn. A sensitive, competent girl. Polite, helpful and thoughtful of others. If she keeps it up Katelynn Ashwolf may be prefect material some day."

"Really?" Professor McGonagall said. "That is very high praise indeed coming from you Miss Kowlski."

"Thank you Headmistress." Blossom smiled proudly.

"Miss Ashwolf." Headmistress McGonagall sighed. "You are guilty, by your own admission, of conspiracy of theft and destruction of priceless Hogwarts property. You endangered the lives of Hogwarts students. You have accepted responsibility for the entire fiasco and as everyone else who could be construed as guilty, the entirety of sentence falls on your shoulders. Full expulsion followed by criminal charges that would surely see you placed in Azkaban for the rest of your life."

"Headmistress!" Karry and Blossom gasped.

"Do you feel that judgement is fair Miss Ashwolf?" Professor McGonagall asked, eye brow raised curiously.

"Yes Headmistress." Katelynn said stiffly.

Professor McGonagall saw the small shake in the girl and the tears that welled in the corner of her young eyes.

"Very well then." Minerva McGonagall said standing. "One weeks detention, for being a silly innocent, easily mislead little girl, and I trust you have learned a lesson from all of this Miss Ashwolf?"

"More than one." Katelynn hung her head humbled and relieved. "Thank you Headmistress."

"One more thing." Headmistress McGonagall said. "You will be deducted twenty house points for your actions. However Mrs.Curtiss and Miss Kowalski, and Miss Bucket in absentia, will be awarded fifty points each for your bravery in this matter."

"Thank you Headmistress!:" Blossom said excitedly.

"Thank you Headmistress." Karry said. "Now about Sasporilla, how are we going to get her out of these unfair charges?"

THE END

A BOWTRUCKLE IN MY BACK YARD

A Silly Poem by Darren Kelly



Just outside my back door
Like all Fine days before
I took a walk through the garden in my yard
The sun shone bold and bright
My doggie on my right
I recited words of wisdom from the Bard
The rose blooms I stopped to smell
I smiled at a bee and left him well
For I would not see him marred
Then by the tree
Just as clear as can be
Stood a Bowtruckle in my back yard

I said "Hello little friend!"
For I dared not offend
This tiny guest that stood at my feet
I held out my hand
With no threat or demand
Just intentions to pleasantly greet
He climbed up on my arm
Knew I meant him no harm
Said it was I that he had come here to meet
We went in for some tea
And a biscuit or three
As he told me a story so sweet
How he'd come a long ways
Many miles, many days
To find a muggle so wise and discrete

Their green forest home
Where the Bowtruckles roam
By muggles had been torn down
His family was found
Now imprisoned and bound
In a cage in a work yard in town

He begged me for help
This sprig of a whelp
Who had turned my whole world upside-down.
So I smiled and said yes
Promised I'd do my best
For the story he told made me frown

We got into my car
Though it wasn't to far
We knew that we had to prevail
Bowtruckle lives were at stake
Make no mistake
In our mission we dared not Fail
Drove in the work yard
Past the sleeping night guard
Was a note on a rusty old pail
To the highest one bid
Or For 500 quid
The note read Forest Creatures For sale

If I'd money to spare
And I hadn't a care
I would buy them and set them all free
But as I was broke
So before the guard awoke
We had to sneak inside to see
To the side was a large cage
Inside bowtruckles did rage
We had to set them free!
The clock went tic-tok
As my friend picked the lock
The Bowtruckles climb all onto me

Well we ran for the hills
Drove to north Seriffvilles

Forested sanctuary
Where more Bowtruckles lived
And a wave I was given
As they left me excited but wary
So I said my good-byes
Tears welled in my eyes
As this burden I would have to carry
Though hard to conceive
No one would ever believe
A story so fancifully Faerie!

Upon returning home
Feeling very alone
A knock came at my front door
I said there's just no one here
Which sounded quite queer
To these people I'd not seen before
They knock once again
Most insistent and then
They did something they hadn't before
The door lock unlatched
And a new plot was hatched
As the magically pushed open my door

Men in long overcoats
Asked to hear my anecdotes
Of magical creatures of yesterdays date
So we sat in the parlour
Tea and biscuits from the larder
And I told them my tale so great
I was born a squibb I was told
Chose muggle life which was bold
And my memory was wiped to that date
So they hoped I'd understand
And the men shook my hand
Pointed wands and said OBLIVIATE!

I stood there alone
In my parlour by the phone
To remember things seemed awfully hard
So I warmed up some tea
For my doggie and me
Had a feeling I couldn't discard
That something so grand
Lightened my life so bland
Sat a shadow I could not regard
So Just outside my back door
Like all Fine days before
I walked the garden in my back yard



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Darren Kelly married 50+ year old who is very much still in love with his wife of more years than she'd care to remember! He has many hobbies and enjoys writing and working on art in CGI or sketching. He is a dog lover and loves the books of J.K. Rowling and films of Harry Potter.

Darren Kelly is a very private person though he will always take time to talk with friendly people.

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