

A Queen Revealed

Chapter 1 Summer!

“Ring!” went the bell for the weekend to start. Everybody was staring at the clock waiting for 3:15. The teacher was writing on a piece of paper. When the clocks stroke a quarter after five, everybody ran out of the room. I was the only one who took my time to pack up my things.

Once I was done I went up to Mrs. Serpen. She always wore a long green dress and had her hair up in a bun with a green crunchy. She had dark, dark, green streaks in her hair and had light green lipstick, with dark sparkling green eye shadow. I walked up to her desk and opened my mouth to say something, but Mrs. Serpen said, “Shouldn’t you be gone?” without looking up.

“I thought I would wish you a nice weekend,” I replied.

“Well, you did, now, go!” commanded Mrs. Serpen and pointed toward the door.

I took a big sigh and walked out of the classroom and into the empty corridor. When I just got to the door I heard someone running down the hall. I looked back and saw my best friend, Lilly.

“Hey, Sophie!” she called out to me.

“Wait up!”

I waited for Lilly to catch up with me and when she finally did we walked outside.

“Wanna come to my house?” Lilly questioned as we walked down the steps of the school and turned.

“Nah, I got to go home and get ready for the barbeque,” I replied.

“Oh, yeah!” Lilly recognized slapping her forehead. Then she started to run down the path toward the corner to enter the housing area.

I was puzzled and wondered why all of a sudden she had run away from me. So I called out toward Lilly’s direction, “Lilly!”

Lilly stopped running and turned around upon her heels until she and I were face to face, and then she answered my question.

“I’m going to get ready of course! I need to let my mother know,” she said excitedly.

I chuckled and replied back, “Okay! Sorry!”

Lilly turned around and ran away turning a corner toward housing where she lived.

I just crossed the street for my mother does not return from work as soon as the bell rings at school. Because of my mother would not be home, unlike Lilly I go to the AYA, the Youth Center, where nine-year-olds-or-older go after school until their parents come to take them to their homes. Some children live on base and still go the AYA because their mothers and fathers don't get off work until after school, or some, like me, live off base.

When I had come to the entrance of the AYA I opened the yellow outlined doors. It was loud for people were already on the Playstations, X-boxes, X-box 360s, Wiis, and game cubs. Others were laughing and talking among their amusement, in a little group sitting at a table in a corner were the silent children, like me, were reading and drawing and talking softly and laughing not too loudly. I put my backpack in my cubby and joined the quiet group. As I sat down I saw two of my friends, Jennifer Miller and Suzi Normer. I sat down by Suzi and then a girl across from me that was a talker whispered, "I heard that there is a murderer here on this base."

A rather short girl with short hair who apparently seemed to be shy and easily frightened whispered back, "But h-how could that person get in?" she stammered.

The one who started it all answered back, "I don't know, but I heard my dad whispering to another guy about it. They're going to secure the base immediately."

The girl who was frightened calmed down and started to breathe in and out slightly heavily.

"Good," she sighed and started to draw once more.

I took a book off a shelf that was right behind us. The title read, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. I started to read and then I heard Suzi cursing to a piece of paper that she had been writing on.

Jennifer was motherly and hated to hear bad words, apparently she heard Suzi cursing to the paper and began the motherly part of her.

"How dare you? You mind your manners young lady..." Jennifer didn't finish because it was embarrassing for her to call another a young lady just like a mother would. She had covered her mouth with her hands and was red as a ripe cherry.

Everyone, including me, sniggered and tried to hold back their laughs. Jennifer could barely hold it back. Moments later her humorous personality came in control and she fell down laughing.

Suzi is a mischievous girl and loves to laugh and make people laugh. She always made me laugh and when somebody is crying or is sad she always comforts us and makes us feel better. So I call her one of my favorite friends.

“What are ya gonna call me next... Mom?” Suzi teased and began to laugh even harder.

I saw tears running down Jennifer’s eyes, and I knew her emotional part of her personality came into action. I had to defend her and I did something that changed my life.

“Shut up, Suzi!” said I.

At that moment I had realized what I had done. I had probably ruined my relationship with Suzi, for she gave me a heartbroken look.

Jennifer had looked at me as if she didn’t know me anymore. Then I saw tears in Suzi’s eyes.

“What did you say?” Suzi questioned as if she were about to burst into tears.

“You were going too far. You made Jennifer cry!” I said defensively.

“You don’t have to say ‘Shut up,’” said Jennifer.

I can’t believe Jennifer’s defending Suzi for something horrible she did to her, I thought in my mind. My head became dizzy and I had probably lost my two friends leading me to one.

“I’m sorry,” I apologized. It was the only thing I could do.

“It’s okay,” Said Suzi and Jennifer.

“This so doesn’t sound like us,” said Suzi. Then she snorted extremely loudly. Suzi and I burst out into laughter. It was way too random! It’s a good cover up!

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Knock! Knock!

There was somebody at the door, supposedly our first guest for the barbeque. I washed my hands from shaping the meat and mother took over.

“Just a minute!” I called out as I ran toward the door and then opened it to find Suzi and Lilly.

“Hey, Sophie!” said Suzi waving. I moved out of their way and gestured my friends to come in.

“Wanna come in my room?” asked I as Lilly and Suzi put their coats in the closet and took off their shoes and placed them by a bench.

“Sure.” Lilly and Suzi replied at the same moment.

“Jinx!” Again my friends spoke at the same time.

“Double jinx,” said Lilly before Suzi could say the same.

“Jinx machine outta’ order please put in another quarter, oh!” Suzi said and snapped her fingers in Lilly’s face.

Lilly gave an angry snarl towards Suzi and Suzi stuck her tongue out in reply.

We walked down the hall and to in door that had a sign upon it that said, “Girls Only!” It had one pink flower the bottom right hand corner.

I opened the door and across from me were a white desk and a pale pink chair. Next to the desk was a snowy white closet. A pink mirror hung on its right door. The carpet was yellowish white.

We turned and saw an electric piano across from a bed with white wood and pink bedding. The bed was against the wall where a poster of Elvis hung.

Next to the electric piano was a pink dresser and upon it was a pink lamp and a pale pink jewelry box. Next to the dresser, which was next to the door, was a toy basket.

“Ya, know you have got to redecorate this room. It’s so, so...”

Lilly was cut off by Suzi, whose favorite color was... “Pink!”

“Yeah, pink,” Lilly groaned.

“Yeah, and you wish your name was Minerva,” I said sarcastically.

Lilly rolled her eyes.

“My mom designed this horrible room,” I explained.

“Do you have Barbies?” Suzi asked searching through my toy box.

“No, I don’t, but I have Holly Pockets,” I answered.

(Obviously I say Holly because I like the name better than Polly Pockets.)

“Awesome! Jackson chewed all mine,” Suzi said. (Jackson was Suzi’s dog)

“Wahoo,” Lilly said sarcastically.

I opened one of my drawers from my dresser and took out a drawer full of Holly Pockets, her clothes, and a mini hotel for the toy’s size.

“I call the Goth one!” Lilly cried. It’s been Lilly’s favorite Pocket ever since she’d seen it.

“I call dibs on the one with brown hair! You know, the one that looks just like me,” Suzi bragged. The Holly Pocket had short brown hair and blue eyes just like Suzi.

“I guess I’ll take the one with the real hair,” I said. And took out one without plastic hair, but real hair that you could brush.

Suzi had already placed the mini house and started to play.

“Oh, what a beautiful day it is,” she made her Holly Pocket say.

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Chapter 2

A Queen Revealed

The next day I went to the comic store to buy my dad a birthday present. My dad is deployed and he loves comic books. To make it worse he forgot to bring his collection of Super Sam comic books, which are his favorites.

So I decided to go and get a new book for his collection. When I finally got to *Mr. Omic's Comic Store* I opened the yellow door and a bell rang. There was a front counter of yellow and beside it on the right was an exit.

Rows and rows of comic books were in front of Mr. Omic, who was sitting at the counter reading a comic. He looked up and saw me, and then went back to reading.

Mr. Omic hates children and snakes, mostly snakes. They're his worst fear and his most hated animal. People say he got bitten by one, others say his brother was murdered by a snake queen because his brother was a hater too. No one knows how Mr. Omic's brother died, but this guy saw a snake women's face leaving his house. Mr. Omic's brother had killed one and they say the snake queen wanted revenge.

Mr. Omic stopped reading and put down the book.

"Well isn't it my favorite customer," Mr. Omic said in disgust.

I ignored the insult and asked, "Do you have Super Sam edition number 128?"

Mr. Omic got off of his chair and walked toward a shelf of comics.

"It just came in a week ago, but I'll give it to you for free because I'm in a really good mood," he replied handing me the comic I was looking for.

I was confused. He never gave anything for free, and what made him this happy?

"Why?" I questioned.

"Cause I killed two garden snakes this mornin'," he answered.

"Well, I didn't know you hated snakes that much," I replied.

Then he leaned closer and whispered in my ear.

"One attacked me motha' and nearly killed me brotha'. I hate those dang dong things." Then he leaned back and nodded his head a few times.

That was my cue to leave, and so I did. Right as I stepped outside of Mr. Omic's store I heard screaming and ranting for help. Banging and lashing against the walls, crashing of falling shelves, *and snake hissing viciously*. Then everything went silent.

I slowly turned around upon my heels and saw through the windows that the shelves were all knocked down and lights shattered, which made it very dark. I walked toward the door and looked through its windows.

Comics and everything was scattered on the floor and Mr. Omic lay there under a pile of comics. I opened the door and ran to him. I pressed my head on his chest to feel his pulse.

He had none! He was *dead!*

I turned over his bruised body. His face was bloody, he had cuts in his arms and in his hand he clutched a dead garden snake.

“That’s the snake he killed,” I muttered to myself.

Then I heard a clank from the exit and I turned my head to see a Rattlesnake’s tail was leaving the store. I quickly followed and the snake turned a corner and by the dumpster I saw a woman’s head looking straight at me.

Her skin was light green and she had glitter green eye shadow and light pale green lipstick. She looked very familiar. Then it came to me, she’s Mrs. Serpen!

But only her head poked out behind the dumpster so I couldn’t be sure about what I thought so without thinking I took a step forward and whispered, “Mrs. Serpen, is that you?”

Then the snake lady opened her mouth and made a *snake* sound.

Immediately her color faded and she began to disappear. A giant snake spiraled around her from her feet to her head and ended at a point.

I ran toward her to stop her.

“Mrs. Serpen!” I shouted. “Wait!”

The snake stopped spiraling and I walked cautiously toward her. When I faced the snake Mrs. Serpen’s head shot out as her human form and smiled.

She stared in my eyes and I couldn’t look away. I was fixed on her green glowing eyes. As I stared I felt scaly skin circling me and slowly moving up by each turn. I heard hissing of a snake from my feet.

Snakes were acting as rope!

It’s Mrs. Serpen’s stare! She trapped me. She didn’t want a witness. She didn’t want to be caught so she is going to kill me!

Then I felt the snakes start to grip around my hand. The grip of the strong snakes was breath taking. I tried to move my hand but the snakes didn’t move. I tried to scream, but Mrs. Serpen’s stare stopped me.

When the snakes covered my hand I pulled as hard as I could and my right hand broke free! The snakes still continued as Mrs. Serpen did.

With all my might I slapped Mrs. Serpen so hard her stare stopped and she squealed with agony. The snakes stopped and disappeared setting me free.

Mrs. Serpen's head returned in the spiraling snake and it disappeared with her.

Chapter 3

Alone for the First Time

"Mom, I'm telling you! Mrs. Serpen is a snake woman!" I explained to my mother who kept objecting my theories.

"Oh, and you expect me to believe in the boogiemán!" she cried and pushed me out the door to walk to school.

"Don't you go around telling lies!" my mother ordered and slammed the door shut in my face.

I couldn't believe it! No one, not even my little brother, David, would believe me! I just hope Lilly will.

I had no choice but to walk to Lilly's house and pick her up. I just had to walk across the street. When I got to the door I heard dogs barking, snakes hissing, cages rattling, and shouts of Lilly's mother.

I knocked on the door and the shouts from Mrs. Donem, Lilly's mom, and the door opened. A tall woman with dark brown hair, wearing an apron, with red eyes as if she had had a hard, hard, day appeared. She was wearing short pants and an orange T-Shirt. She was holding a wooden spoon in one hand and leaning against the door with the other.

Mrs. Donem turned her head around into the house and called out Lilly's name, then turned back to me.

"Hey, Sophie," she greeted.

I stood there thinking about what to say or warn about Mrs. Serpen.

"Uh, we can't go to school today." I insisted.

Mrs. Donem looked puzzled.

"And why not?" she asked in an English accent, as well she smiled as if this were a joke.

"Mrs. Serpen is a snake lady." I explained hoping Mrs. Donem would believe me. Then I noticed Lilly's face and saw that she was deeply frightened and concerned.

Mrs. Donem laughed and said, "He, he, he. You have the craziest imagination. Mrs. Serpen can't be a snake lady. She's a teacher." Then she shoved Lilly out of the house and through her black book bag toward her.

“Have a nice day at school.” Mrs.Donem said and slammed the door shut. After Lilly stared at me.

“It can’t happen.” She nearly yelled.

“What?”

Now *I* was deeply concerned what had happened to Lilly.

Lilly lifted her backpack and started walking toward school. I started walking with her as she walked.

“Ten years ago, so I heard,” she began and I listened very closely not to lose a word. “Mrs.Serpen or the Snake Queen, Marza, land was full of snakes. Hundreds, thousands, even of different species, even ones we never heard about, lived in her forty-mile-long of land. Year by year smalls bits of the land was cut down to create our base, so I heard, soon, so I heard, she only had a mile left of her land. Her population of snakes dropped from millions, to hundreds. Finally, after nine years of destroying her land, when she had only half a mile left, we cut down the rest of it to build our base. The snakes flee and Marza was helping them. Only about fifty remained.”

“What happened to Marza?” I asked, I had been pulled into the words of Lilly and the story grabbed me.

“Marza created a spell only strong enough to disguise her enough to look human, so I heard. *And* that dress you she wears every day?” Lilly questioned and I answered with a nod yes.

“It’s not a dress, so I heard, it’s her snake skin made to look like a dress. As it goes down it becomes more like a dress until at the end it is a dress. People say she moved here to find the Scale Killers and destroy them. The Scale Killers, so I heard, disguise themselves as local people here. Mr.Omic is one.” She explained and we turned the corner to meet the school grounds.

“What do you think she’s going to do?” I asked, because she would never keep her job after last night’s incident.

“Quit her... I mean... I have no idea.” Lilly answered and I became suspicious. At that moment I just noticed something, Lilly looked like Marza, or Mrs.Serpen; I noticed her mother looked almost exactly like Marza without the make up and outfit. I began to worry what to do. Finally I had the guts to say,

“What’s your real name?” Lilly just stared at me in a quite puzzled expression. Then she calmed down and smiled sadly, as if she was sorry, at me.

“So... you finally found out.” She sighed with woe. “My real name is Marsa. I bid you farewell, my clue to you.” She said and handed me a green

slip of paper. A poem was scratched on as if the person who wrote it was in a hurry.

Then, as Marza did, Lilly or Marsa, now, began to disappear as a snake coiled and spiraled around her, and in a boom she disappeared. I was left there, staring, at the place where Marsa disappeared. Again, I was left with nothing to do. Should I run to Marsa's house? Or run home? Or go to school and see what Marza's plan is? Also, since Marsa or Lilly left, my heart filled with sorrow and longing for the loss of my best friend who has always been there for me. I'd have to do without her, if I make it. I figured that if I go for school it would be wiser; I walked down the sidewalk of the school grounds feeling guilt's power victimizing me.

If I hadn't questioned Lilly, Marsa, she would still be here and I wouldn't be alone for the first time.

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I sat down at my seat, Mrs.Serpen wasn't here yet, and I couldn't help but wonder, maybe she moved. No sooner did the bell ring at 8:25 for school to start. Everyone looked around the room for Mrs.Serpen to return from the weekend, but she never entered the classroom. After five minutes of waiting the intercom came to life and Principal Mosley's voice came.

"Room 96," she said and we were room 96. "Is excused for the day; Mrs.Serpen unexpectedly moved and we have no sub for you because of the event so sudden." After Principal Mosley's speech a little tune sounded as the intercom silenced.

Everyone ran out of the classroom, and soon I was left there staring at the intercom in a corner of the classroom.

"She's moving to another town to terrorize." I thought out loud. "Now I know I must stop her. By becoming a Scale Killer."

TO BE CONTINUED...