

# Lucky Girl



I'M THE LUCKIEST GIRL  
IN THE WORLD.

I MEAN, HOW MANY OTHER KIDS  
GOT TO HAVE THEIR TWELFTH  
BIRTHDAY IN OCEANIS?



MY MOM'S GOOD FRIENDS WITH MERMAID, AND WE'D VISITED A BUNCH BEFORE, SO I GOT TO BE FRIENDLY WITH SOME OF HER COUSINS.

MANDA! WOW! WOW!

OH, WOW!

BUT THIS TIME WE GOT THE ROYAL TREATMENT. AND I GOT TO BRING TAMAR AND GINA, MY BEST FRIENDS BACK IN OHIO.



HAHAHA! YOU SWIM LIKE KELP!

THERE WERE GAMES --

NO -- NO -- WE'LL GET IT --



CAKE AND ICE CREAM --

THIS IS... WEIRD.

HA HA HA! YOU'VE NEVER HAD CAKE?!

GOOD! BUT WEIRD.

AND EVEN --



SHNH!<

M-MANDA?



MANDA...?

UH...LADY HAMMACHER?!

HNN...



**HUUH!**

-- EVEN A SURPRISE GIFT.

TOAZ BELOW!

AMANDA! AMANDA, WHAT IN...?!



MOM? MOM!




MOM, I CAN FLY!

JUST LIKE YOU!

OH, THIS IS SO COOL!

MANDA, WHAT HAPPENED? TELL ME EVERYTHING, HONEY...

SEE, IT WAS ALWAYS JUST ME AND MY MOM. THE TWO OF US. WE DIDN'T NEED ANYONE ELSE.



MY MOM WAS THE FIRST HUMMINGBIRD. DID IT ALL WITH A FLIGHT SUIT, MESH STOCKINGS AND A BUZZ-RAY.

HM? WHAT'S --

AND MY DAD? WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS.

SHE WAS IN ZARDIA, IN EASTERN EUROPE --

-- AFTER THE FAILED TAKEOVER BY THE CHIEF GENETICIST AND HIS BIO-ARMY BACK IN '83. SHE WAS LOOKING FOR REFUGEES.

SHE THOUGHT HE WAS ONE, AT FIRST, FROM ONE FACTION OR ANOTHER.

BUT WHOEVER HE WAS, HE WAS IN TROUBLE --

-- AND THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR MOM.

BAD KITTIES! BAD! FIND YOUR JAGUAR CHOW SOMEPLACE ELSE!

FLEE! SHE HAS GODLY POWER!

TH-THANK YOU... BUT I FEAR... YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND...

...WHAT YOU'VE M-MADE YOURSELF A PART OF...

EASY THERE, DARK EYES. I'M NOT SCARED OF THOSE CATS --

-- OR WHOEVER'S BEHIND 'EM. AND I'VE GOT FRIENDS...

TURNED OUT IT DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE GENETICIST.

IT WAS ALL ABOUT A HIDDEN CITY IN PERU, KHAPAK IQUN.

THEIR HIGH MINISTER HAD ENTERED A PACT WITH THEIR DARK GOD, JABAJA, TO CONQUER THE CITY AND SEIZE ITS MYSTIC POWER.

HE NEEDED TO MURDER THE QUEEN AND HER ENTIRE BLOODLINE IN A BIG CEREMONY TO MAKE IT PERMANENT -- ONLY DEVEN ESCAPED.

AND CAME BACK WITH HONOR GUARD ON HIS SIDE.

THEY BEAT THE HIGH MINISTER'S BULLY-BOYS AND WRECKED THE SPELL --

NO!  
NO!

-- AND EXCEPT FOR JABAJA DOING THE USUAL VENGEANCE-ON-EVERYONE THING, EVERYTHING WAS COOL AGAIN.

BY THEN, MOM AND DEVEN HAD SPENT SOME TIME TOGETHER -- MADE A LOVE CONNECTION.

SHE CAME BACK TO KHAPAK IGUN A LOT, AFTER THAT.

AND WHILE SHE NEVER TOLD ME MUCH IN THE WAY OF DETAILS -- HEY, SHE'S MY MOM, REMEMBER? --

-- FROM THE WAY HER VOICE HITCHES WHEN SHE TALKS ABOUT HIM --

-- IT MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY SERIOUS.

EVENTUALLY, LIKE THEY WARN ABOUT IN ALL THOSE "HEALTH" FILMS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL --

-- I ENTERED THE PICTURE. HI!

SHE WENT TO TELL HIM.

BUT THE WHOLE CITY...

...IT WAS WARPING OFF INTO SOME MYSTICAL DIMENSION.

TO PROTECT EVERYONE THERE FROM THE VIOLENCE OF OUR WORLD, OR SOME SUCH.

HE HAD TO GO. HE WAS PART OF WHAT MADE THEIR MAGIC WORK...

...LET IT HELP THEIR PEOPLE.

SHE COULD HAVE GONE WITH HIM.

BUT SHE WASN'T PREPARED TO GIVE UP HER WORLD.

SO THEY PARTED...