

## **The Story of the Sea Lion, Esmeralda and The Dream Giver**

by Peter Dunnet

*Everybody has a dream for their life. You may not have discovered it yet, but it is there in the corner of your heart waiting to be discovered. It was placed there before you were born by..... The Dream Giver'.*

### **PART 12. The Wedding.**

#### ***The Wedding of Weddings***

Not in recent history had there so much excitement in sea lion colonies. Word had spread far and wide that Maximus' daughter Princess Esmeralda was to marry. The news had even reached as far as the West Australian and Tasmanian communities. The invitations for the wedding were made from compressed seaweed paper (like a parchment) and the lettering embossed in a regal font. The invitations had fine gold seaweed scrolls at the four corners. They were very impressive by sea lion standards. The tiara mentioned previously was made of white gold. The setting to house the pearls would have the appearance of thin interwoven strands of coral. The main central black pearl would be offset on either side by five smaller pearls. These would graduate in size getting smaller on each side of the black pearl. Esmeralda's wedding dress was embroidered with small mother of pearl shells in intricate designs. It was stunning to say the least and a garment fit for a princess.

#### ***Ordinary's Family***

Ordinary's family had gone through a lot of change since Ordie had freed many parts of the sea lion territory, even the town of Familiar had undergone transformation. The locals had agreed to change the name to 'Unfamiliar'. His mum and dad had also resurrected their own long lost dreams and were working to achieving them in their senior years. The town was totally revitalised with many going off to follow their dreams. However his dad had a big secret to share with Ordinary.

#### ***The Guest List.***

This was a big task! There were so many. Thankfully Ordie only had to consider his side of the family. But... besides the immediate relatives there were a lot of his Dad's buddies whom Ordinary knew quite well and felt obliged to ask. 'Prairie Dog' from Tasmania would bring local Tassie salmon and lobster. Yum Yum! 'Ten Bears' would be good for some excellent vintage red wine and for giving a talk on 'Shrimp catching in the Arctic.' Then of course there was 'Rutting Elk'. He was a bit risky but if well primed would be good for sharpening all the guests salmon knives. And of course 'Silver Fox' could not be left out. His photography of the occasion would be excellent and ...free. What concerned Ordie was how to control some of the grandkids. 'Mermaid' would probably be ok, as long as she chosen as the main bridesmaid. 'Gids' and 'Gads' we're always known as loose cannons. There was a time when they were younger that they scythed off the heads of all 'Always in Garden's' pink seaweed crop with their swords. A in G went off her head. You should have heard her! However, she had offered to look after all the floral arrangements for the wedding. 'Hoodwink' was going to be responsible for the seaweed beer supplies. The 'Bear' was chosen for security measures. Any sea lions on 'the weed' would be under his supervision. If all went to plan it would be a 'cracker' of a wedding.

#### ***The Wedding.***

What a day it was! The weather was glorious and the sea was calm and a very beautiful deep blue. Guests had been arriving all week and a party atmosphere was in the sea air. The wedding cake was multi-teared and had alternating layers of Atlantic salmon and whiting. Each layer had imitation sea shells around the circumference made of pressed abalone. The pink-silver icing was made from puree-ing shrimps mixed with sugar. It looked very yummy. The ceremony itself was held in Sanctuary Cove. Esmeralda's parents looked regal in their attire. Esmeralda had been preparing herself with her bridesmaid's help immediately after the bridal breakfast for hours. Her fur was so smooth and was gleaming gold after two hours of brushing. Her flipper nails shone like the sun. When adorned with her tiara and pearl necklace Esmeralda looked a true princess. Ordinary could not believe his eyeballs...was this really Esmeralda? His mates had spruced him up as best they could after the night out on the 'rocks.' Being a warrior though, he still looked impressive in his white tuxedo and bow tie. His fur being a dark grey/brown contrasted well with white. Simplicity was a key to his presentation. He looked like a king in the making. The minister was an old sea lion. He told Ordinary 'not to worry' as he had conducted many wedding ceremonies. Ordinary noticed that his hands shook and he was a bit wobbly on his flippers. Esmeralda looked so, so beautiful coming down the aisle of the rock garden with her dad that Ordinary nearly passed out. They said the 'I do's' and then came the ring. The best man thought he had dropped them in the sand but looking carefully he found them in his flipper pocket. For sea lion weddings they do not place the rings on their flippers but on their left ears. This being done they were declared sea lion and sea lioness and allowed to kiss.

### ***The Wedding Feast.***

Guests were seated in tables of eight with name tags of course. The bridal table was at the front and decorated with clam shells on a table cloth of woven white salamander fabric.

The menu consisted of clam chowder with lightly toasted seaweed toast. A second choice of entree was sardines-du-bon-e, which were a little alcoholic (cough). The main courses offered were of course 'Salmon-au-natural' or 'Squid and octopus mixed, lightly battered. Both were served with a splendid Seaweed-salad. The choice of sweets were dipped frozen herring or Waldorf anchovies. Both were served with Artic Ice cream. The speeches went on for some time as expected. Tales were told of great sea lion deeds, often embellished due to too much seaweed wine being consumed. Great rejoicing followed and the festivities lasted long into the night. The 'Bear' had a bit of trouble containing the exuberance of the night because he himself wanted to 'cut loose' and get it the action.

Then it was time for the dancing! Esmeralda and her friends did an exhibition of 'tail dancing' for the guests which was very impressive. Then everyone joined in. 'Surfin' USA by the Beach Boys was favourite, followed by The Beatles 'Yellow Submarine.' Then the tempo stepped up with 'Good Golly Miss Molly' and 'Long Tall Sally' by Little Richard which was followed immediately with 'Chantilly Lace' (Ordie's favourite) by The Big Bopper. Ordinary was a bit puffed after those and needed a couple of seaweed beers to recover. Esmeralda, however, got right into the next bracket of 'Let's do the Twist' by Chubby Checker, and boy could she twist, even going right down on her tail! Ordinary joined in again for 'All Shook Up' and 'Jailhouse Rock' by King Elvis. Then it was at last time for the bridal waltz. It was so good to hold Essie in his flippers. They were in love! It was a grand wedding. The bride and groom were showered with sea shells as they set off for their honeymoon.

*Peter Dunnet*

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