

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 10. The Sea Lion meets Esmeralda's Parents.

Shiver me Flippers

Esmeralda's parents lived at Seal Bay on Kangaroo Island which is a short distance off the mainland of South Australia. It is truly an idillic place to live. Food is plentiful. However, it was a bit of a swim from Merry Weather Beach to Seal Bay but... swimming with Esmeralda was so, so good. They stopped here and there on the way to talk about Essie's family so that Ordie would not be overwhelmed by the occasion. When they arrived Esmeralda's parents were waiting for them.

The Moment of Truth

Esmeralda's father was a magnificent sea lion. His name was Max, short for 'Maximus' and he was well named. In battles it was well known for him to kill up to a hundred of the enemy in one day. His territory was extensive along the South Australian coast. He had completed many assignments for the Dream Giver over the years. His body bore many battle scars. He was well over mid age now and was looking for the correct suitor to marry his only daughter Princess 'Esmeralda'. It was Maximus's and The Dream Giver's plan for whoever became Esmeralda's husband...he would inherit Maximus's territory in the Kingdom.

Esmeralda's mother was unique. She was tall, slender and had a radiance about her. Her fur while still golden had flecks of silver-grey. This did not diminish her beauty, it enhanced it. She had an elegant neck for a sea lion, a beautiful face with the same eyes, lashes and whiskers as Esmeralda. It was hard to guess her age...she seemed ageless. All her movements were grace personified. She was enchanting and mesmerising. When she looked at Ordinary, she did not speak or at least he did not hear what she said, he just felt liked he was being immersed in a bath of affection. Her smile seemed to linger on him for quite some time, but it may have been for only a few seconds. He did not know. He shook his head. 'WOW' he thought, If the Dream Giver made Mrs. E... he did an Awesome job! Her name was Golden.

'My daughter has been telling me about you.' Esmeralda's father began. His voice was soft but had a note of authority. 'She says she loves you and wants to marry you, what do you have to say Ordinary?' Ordinary felt like he had been dropped into a pot of boiling oil. His skin-fur became burning hot and his eyes refused to focus. Esmeralda held his flipper and stroked him on the nose. He regained consciousness. 'Sir', Ordinary blurted out 'It's the Dream Giver's fault, he gave me the dream... and I've spent the last few months searching for Esmeralda.' 'Ah-ha', said Maximus, 'The Dream Giver has his hand in the pie I see. I had a similar experience with Esmeralda's mother many years ago and I have no regrets whatsoever. Mrs. E beamed with a special 'golden' delight and it seemed as though a rainbow surrounded her.

Ordinary was by now a fully grown sea lion. His physique was very impressive...and may have been a contributing factor for Esmeralda's initial affection for him, but as she got to know him, it was clear that his character and commitment to the Dream Giver was what

motivated him and she loved him for this. His reputation as a warrior preceded him and his victory over the Giant of Darkness was known throughout the sea lion colonies of South Australia. He was even sometimes referred to as 'Ordie the Great'. Most sea lions maximum swimming speed is about 20 kph, but Ordinary's was more like 30 kph over short bursts. He had over his growing years developed his bicept and tricept flipper muscles. This proved to be a great advantage to him in times of danger and of course catching those waves with his porpoise friends.

The Challenge

Maximus got straight to the nitty gritty. 'If you wish to marry my *only* daughter Princess Essie, (as she was fondly known), you have to win her by an act of bravery. For whoever marries her will become heir to my territory in The Dream Givers Kingdom. Essie was Maximus' and Golden's only child. This puts a bit of a dampener on things... Ordie thought, but his love for Essie was greater than any fear. After all he had many triumphs behind him. Maximus continued 'You will have to defeat and kill the evil stingray Black Jack, who holds the entire island to ransom. 'A dampener on things' was an understatement...Ordie thought. I will need to consult the Dream Giver on this one.

Ordinary discovered that 'Black Jack' was the monster black stingray. He was an evil creature. Black Jack's cave was in the Bay of Shoals which overlooks Backstairs Passage between Kangaroo Island and Cape Jervis. From here he could monitor and control all who wanted to cross from the island to the mainland. It was a strategic position. From here he collected taxes and wheilded great power over the island. He was feared by many who made the island their home. Even the sharks gave him a wide birth. They hated the way he would scare off their prey just for fun. Black Jack had a very twisted sense of humour. He was evil to the core and carried out the enemy's plans against the Dream Giver's people and kingdom.

In Black Jack's cave were many 'trophies', the skeletons of previous wishful warriors who thought he was an easy kill. He often displayed his victims at the mouth of the cave just to satisfy his demonic and depraved mind. Make no mistake, to kill Black Jack was going to require a mighty warrior who was a tactician, fearless and a mighty swordsman. The Dream Giver had been training such a warrior for many years now. It was time for Black Jack to be taken out.

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