

Magenta Zephyr & The Universe Bender

*EXCERPT #8
From the Novel by Tim Storm*

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“The universe is a benevolent place. The forces of nature have no conscious intent and lesser creatures have no knowledge of the concepts concerning good and evil. One could say that the only evil which exists is either created or perceived by sentient beings”

- Daniel Ling Chen, Yen Sanir Philosopher -

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Troggs are vile parasites. They are repulsive in appearance and their attributes are nefarious. They are of negligible size, weighing only an average of twelve to fifteen pounds at maturity, but their diminutive size makes them no less of a threat. Irregular thorny ridges and spikes cover an outer carapace, and large, bulging eyes resembling plump grapes protrude from the front of this outer shell. The creatures feed upon the flesh and blood of mammals, masticated by powerful mandibles; the vicious pincers that surround their soft, fleshy mouth. A tangled mane consisting of hair-like tentacles, muscular hydrostats, and powerful claws hangs below. The creatures are able to draw essential nutrients directly from their hosts through some of these tentacles, while the others secrete a mixture of neurotoxins and biological fluids that allow them to subdue and control their victims. As soon as a Trogg attaches itself to a victim—virtually any species of mammal—it quickly burrows these versatile appendages into the subject’s nervous system, injects the toxic mix of venom, and takes command of the body.

They subjugate sentient beings and lesser creatures alike, utilizing them as hosts for sensory enhancement, as vessels for transport, and as a source of nourishment. They are arachnid in origin, however, they are more highly evolved than their earthly counterparts. Their intelligence is not as advanced as humans or most of the sentient races that populate the known universe, yet they are able to integrate the minds of their hosts into their primitive psyches, which allows them to rise above their inferior intellectual stature.

The Trogg queen was a superb creature by purely scientific standards. She was the perfect culmination of millions of years of evolution involving two different species, a melding of Trogg and Human biology. *Coalescence* is the most suitable human term to describe the relationship of the Trogg with their hosts. For the Trogg, who are naturally fatuous creatures, this unique blending of alien personae allows them to experience thoughts, emotions, and sensations

that extend far beyond their natural perceptions. It is a divine connection; a communion of biology and personality that elevates them to a higher consciousness and also gives them a superior means of transporting their ungainly bodies.

For Coalescence, many years ago, the queen had chosen to assimilate a large and physically powerful host. Her symbiotic partner was a human female who had been captured in a raid on a remote colony. She possessed great physical strength and superior intelligence, and the Troggs believed her to be one of the finest human specimens ever captured.

Her name was Theresa Cutler, and during her time at the colony she had proven herself to be a pioneer of the hardest caste. Through her inherent courage, strength, and wisdom, she had quite naturally become the maternal leader of the group. She was affectionately called “Mother” Theresa by the band of adventurers who made the journey with her to the harsh wilderness of the isolated colony. Her stout spirit had made it difficult for the Trogg queen to force her into submission, yet it made the eventual union a truly rich interrelationship. The queen benefited greatly from the woman’s wisdom and her indomitable spirit. It would not have mattered whether or not the host had been female, but because she had bonded with this human woman, the Trogg matriarch gained an abundance of feminine insight.

The queen and her generals had been planning a full-scale incursion into the human territories for many years. Hundreds of thousands of her eggs had been fertilized in preparation for the bounty of hosts that would be taken in the raid, but the original battle plan had been revised on account of the information they had recently received. Through their monitoring of the human Net, the Trogg had learned that a weapon of immense power was rumored to be aboard a ship that was nearing the Outer Regions. The information was vague, and they were still garnering details from other intelligence sources, but based upon what they had learned so far, the first phase of the offensive operation would now be to locate and capture the weapon. If it was as powerful as it was considered to be, it could be the key to their complete conquest of the universe.

The queen was resting and feeding in her nest after copulating with seventeen chosen mates. She could feel the eggs moving within her as she fed on human blood flowing from a tube above her resting place. This would be the last crop of eggs produced by her until the assault was completed. It was for her a period of supreme contentment, yet even after having devoured all of her consorts, her hunger was insatiable. She would rest well during the next few days, for she would be fully focused on directing her troops during the coming invasion, and she would need all of her strength.

Beneath the queen, her host sat unmoving, yet within the body something ethereal stirred. In a deep recess of the mind, the human essence of Theresa Cutler allowed itself an instant of consciousness. She could sense that, in an instance such as this, it might be possible to rise up and seize control of the body from this hideous monster. However, this was not the time. The human spirit would wait patiently and would know when that perfect moment had arrived. She would rest until then, because if she were going to take her soul back, Theresa Cutler would need all of her strength.

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“Something unknown is doing we don’t know what.”

- *Sir Arthur Eddington,*

Comment on the Uncertainty Principle in Quantum Physics -

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www.magentazephyr.com
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