

Jana the Jaguar



the birth of the Jaguar Spirit

S. Gail Motley

Chapter



C-come here", Jana whispers as she strains, reaching out to grab the beautiful little bird as it sat perched on a branch just above her. "I am going to catch you and show you to mommie and nana! Then, they will believe that you are real and not just one of those stupid stone animals from Nana's garden that I created in my mind!" she declares.

Instead of catching the bird, it suddenly flies just out of her reach, again. The bird's beautiful long green and white feathers slip through her fingers like silk.

Teasingly, the bird stops and hovers above her for a few minutes as if to wait for her to regain her balance. Once she settles on the branch, the bird flies safely away as it has done on so many occasions before.

“Ahhh, dang-it!” Jana yells as she watches it fly away. Jana didn't realize just how far she had climbed this time to reach the bird as she made her decent from the tree. As she stopped to look around, the height in the tree gave her a beautiful panoramic view of her Nana's huge garden and surrounding meadows.

The Garden

Nana's garden is lush green with rare herbs, plants, and flowers. But what makes the garden uniquely special are the beautiful stone animals adorned with crystals and gems that are placed throughout it. They are replicas of

ancient animals that her tribe believe existed many, many centuries ago. Some of the stones are perfectly seated on mini chinampas or floating gardens while others are intertwined with statutes or plants. Nana began developing the garden when she and Papi first purchased the land and built their home, long before mommie was born. And from what she says, it took her several years to finish it,

Nana said that it was designed from a mythical garden concept that had been passed down by her ancestors from generation to generation. Her people were designated the original caretakers of the garden before the gods departed. The garden lands were considered a sacred place that the gods used to pray and train their beloved pets to use their

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Jana reaches out again for the bird's beautiful long tail feathers. "Come, here!" she yells, as she tries to snatch the bird's silky feathers, but they slip through her fingers again. She screams as she begins to fall from the tree and "Boom!," she hits the carpeted floor. The bird that Jana is trying to capture is an ancient bird named Quetzali. The Quetzal species of birds derive from it. The birds are renown for their small frame and silky long tail feathers that are approximately 15 inches long. The feathers appear to have gold strands intertwined with them because when it flies, the tail reflects a bright golden light. The bird has a red breast with a white neck that gives the

appearance of a vest and collar. The head has yellow feathers on top that resembles an angelic crown when it sits perched on a branch.

The tail feathers are very silky and slippery, a built in defense mechanism to prevent predators from capturing the beautiful tiny bird. The bird stone is located in nana's garden with its feathers wrapped around its feet. Jana believes that the bird is from the garden and it comes alive in her dreams.

Once, she woke up from her dream because she felt feathers in her hands and on her fingertips. In her dream, she was struggling with something and grabbed it. She could feel the scales of other feathers it was attached to. The experience was so real that it frightened her and she woke up immediately to look for whatever it was she was

struggling with. She then realized that she was only dreaming and was in her bed. She sat up and stared at her hands and fingertips, rubbing her fingertips together as if to savor the reality of the experience. She could still feel the feathers and scales as if the event was real. She sat there staring in awe. "Oh, my God!" she said out loud. This is driving me crazy, I need to know why I have these dreams!

On another occasion, after seeing the bird in her dream, she got up quickly and ran to the garden to confirm if the stone bird was there, but the bird was still sitting perched in the same position. She could not prove that it was the bird from the garden because whenever she thinks that she is awake, she discovers that she is asleep. She told the story about the bird appearing in her dreams

to her nana when she was little, but Nana only laughed and told Jana that the gods were watching her so, she had better be a good girl. Now that she is older and tell nana about her dreams, she told her that she was imagining things. She said that she would stop telling her ancient stories because she believed that they contributed to her dreams. That blasted bird is real, Jana thinks silently, and it is that stupid bird from the garden. I am going to prove it one day she thinks as she looks out of her window at the garden.

Since then, she vowed to capture the bird to prove that it is the bird from the garden. "Blasted," she yells again as she gets up off the floor. "Maybe I should sleep on the floor instead of the bed," she smirks. As she glances around the room, still a little startled from falling off the

bed, she realizes that this dream and the past few dreams were different.

Jana glances at her IPAD to see the time. It was 3:16 am, the exact time that she normally wakes up from her other dreams. I wish that I could understand why I keep having those dreams, she thought. They always seem so real as she looks around her room for any new clues. She climbed back into her bed and pulled the covers up over her head. She began to reminisce about these new dreams. What did the giant stone, with the symbols on the wheel, really mean? And, why are my eyes are still burning from the white light. What did it all mean and how are they all related, she wondered. They were like pieces to a puzzle she thought as she drifted back to sleep. The gods had been with her since conception.

The Birth of the Jaguar Spirit!



That night, the zodiac signs swirled and danced in the celestial sky for hours in anticipation of the announcement. Suddenly, the sky turned pitch black. In the horizon, the starlight from the royal procession of the Leo Queens began to slowly appear, each taking its place to formulate the rare constellation of the Jaguar spirit.

Seconds later the biggest and brightest star of them all appear, the ancient Leo King appear and slowly takes his place at the end of the symbol to complete the formation.

Once the king took his royal throne at the head of the formation, a star exploded in the sky, confirming the coming of the Jaguar spirit! The Jaguar constellation lingered in the sky for a few minutes and disappeared, returning the sky to a normal starlit night.

The celestial event was not without a captive audience. The unusual event was reported on several international news outlets. The BBC, CNN, and Bloomberg interrupted programming with a “Special Report” announcing the retirement of a star with its resulting natural fireworks, explaining the celestial sky burst. NASA representatives were interviewed “live” to confirm the retirement of a star and subsequent events. A few astronomers reported a temporary realignment of the stars but the reason was also attributed to the star burst.

Although the deep space telescopes and scientific data appeared to be both inconsistent with the event and their years of research, all agreed to reset their instrumentation for verification and validation. Once back online, the data had returned to normal and the anomaly was discounted as technical or computer errors.

Saturday Night Live used the event to poke fun at the new Weight Watchers rebranding campaign with the new WW! They stated that the exploding star was a metaphor for celebrities that had starved themselves in the past to loose weight are now experiencing exploding buttons from the weight gain, since WW! Had transformed from its focus from weight lost to a healthier lifestyle.