

THE MAGICIAN'S SON

THE STORY OF THROCKTON

CHAPTER 8

“Lundra!” Throckton said astonished. “Is that you?”

The nurse did not respond, but when she looked up at Throckton, he saw her sparkling blue eyes, and he knew it was she.

“Lundra, what are you doing here?” Throckton asked.

The nurse took Throckton by the hand and led him out of the room. She took him to the waiting room.

There were many sofas and comfortable chairs there, and on the walls were a few TV’s. This was where people go to relax or to talk when they visit the hospital so they do not bother the patients, or where they sit during surgery.

Lundra sat down followed by Throckton.

Throckton spoke first, “I was told you were not real. Malinda said she had created you so that I would believe that I was in a real place.”

Lundra explained, “We were all told that when we returned to the academy. After graduation, Malinda told me the truth. She didn’t want any of us to look for the others and distract us from our studies. She wanted us to finish our classes and graduate without a distraction.

“You know, if it wasn’t for you, we would all still be there digging.”

Looking around the room to see if anyone was listening, she continued, “I went back to the academy ten years before you first arrived at the school. In fact, all of us returned to the school at the same time we were originally sent there. I’m sure you experienced the same thing when you went back.”

“So, what are you doing here?” asked Throckton.

Lundra answered, “Malinda told me about your sister so I asked if I could help.

“You see, after I graduated from the Magician’s Academy I decided that I didn’t want to be a magician. Making spells and tricks is fun, but I wanted to help people so I went to nursing school.

“Now I work here. Even though magic can’t help your sister, I can find the best doctors for her so she gets the best care.”

Throckton was surprised.

“What about the others from the mines, where are they?” he asked.

“They all graduated from the Magician’s Academy after they returned. Your wish came true. We all went back and finished our classes. Most of us became magicians, I just chose to become a nurse instead,” she answered.

“Have you seen any of them?” he asked.

“Do you remember Bront? He wrote a book about our experiences in the mines and he told all of our stories. It’s quite good. He changed our names in the book so you don’t have to worry,” Lundra laughed. “But no, I have not talked to anyone else since we left the mines, for me that was almost ten years ago.”

“What about my sister? What’s going to happen to her?” Throckton asked.

“We need to find an organ donor. So far, we haven’t been able to locate one. Your sister is very sick. If we don’t find a donor in the next couple of months, she may not make it,” Lundra informed him of Abilossa’s condition.

Throckton began to think.

“I have a thought,” Throckton said, and then he ran out of the room looking for the doctor. He was gone for quite a while.

When Throckton returned to Abilossa’s room, he brought the doctor with him.

His parents were waiting for him.

“I’ve volunteered to be a donor for Abilossa. They’ll be ready to do the procedure tomorrow,” Throckton informed his parents and sister.

“You’re going to be the donor? I thought you had to be dead to be a donor for a liver transplant,” Throckton’s mother said, very surprised at the news.

The doctor began to explain, “We have a new technique that allows us to harvest a portion of the liver from Throckton and transplant it to Abilossa. We did a skin test on Throckton and we found him to be a perfect match.

“The initial recovery should take about a week after the surgery for Throckton. It will take a little bit longer for Abilossa since the new liver section will need time to assimilate with her body. We expect a perfect outcome.”

The next day Throckton and Abilossa went in for the surgery.

While Throckton and Abilossa were in surgery, Lundra went to talk to their parents.

They were sitting in the waiting room.

When Lundra walked up, they were holding each other.

She sat down on a couch across from them and started a conversation.

“My name is Lundra,” she introduced herself.

“It’s nice to meet you Lundra,” Throckton’s mother said.

“Your son and I know each other from the Magician’s Academy. It’s a very long story on how we met and I think Throckton should tell you about that when all of this is over. What I can tell you is that Throckton saved several of us from a lifetime of punishment. We all owe him a lot. More than he or anyone else can ever know.”

His parents looked at each other in surprise.

“When I graduated from the Magician’s Academy I wanted to help people. Magic is fun and can help a little, but for me medicine is by far more important,” Lundra explained.

“When Malinda, the headmaster at the Magician’s Academy, told me about Throckton’s sister, I had to do something.

“I was able to convince the best doctors who specialize in this type of surgery to come and help. The fact that Throckton was a perfect match has made it a lot easier,”

Lundra explained why she was involved in the case.

They sat and talked. It helped to pass the time.

It took several hours, but in the end, the doctors were happy with the result.

The doctor met the parents in the waiting room.

“The surgery went as we planned and everything looks very good. We expect that Abilossa will be just fine.

“You have an amazing son there. He did a wonderful thing helping his sister. You have a remarkable family,” the doctor told the family just before he was going to leave the room.

“Thank you for everything,” their father said with tears in his eyes.

The parents cried as they held each other and then hugged Lundra.

The next day Throckton went to visit his sister. He came into the room in a wheelchair.

She looked much better. Her skin was pink and she had a big smile on her face when Throckton entered.

Abilossa asked, “You know what?”

“No, what?” Throckton responded.

“You’re my hero. All of our lives you’ve been there for me. I love you so much,” Abilossa said with tears in her eyes, as she reached up toward Throckton to give him a hug.

They hugged each other for a long time.

When their parents walked in, they saw their children, and began to cry. This is what they had wanted for their family from the very beginning.

When Throckton was strong enough to leave the hospital, and after the doctors told him that his sister was going to be OK, he returned to the Magician’s Academy.

When he arrived, there was a big sign outside of the school welcoming him home. It made him feel good that the school wanted him back.

It took a month for him to fully recover from the surgery. Since he was in such

good physical condition, from the work in the mines, the recovery took less time than if he had not been in such good health. He was thankful that he had been able to work in the mines only for that reason.

His Physical Education teacher, Ms. Dooligan, helped him with his physical therapy.

When Throckton returned to his classes, something was wrong. He was not motivated and he was getting lazy again.

He spent most of his time in his room waiting for his time at the school to end. The next three years were going to be miserable for him. Actually, he was becoming his old self.

He went to his classes, but most of the time he slept. He was not interested in what the teachers had to say.

One day Malinda requested Throckton to come to her office.

“Throckton, ever since you got back from your surgery you have been depressed. What’s the problem?” she asked.

“I’m not really sure. I’m just not enjoying school. I really just want to go home,” Throckton answered.

“You don’t want to finish your education here?” she asked very surprised.

“Not really. The only reason I studied so hard before was that I wanted to get out of here. Now it doesn’t matter. I know I’m here and there is no way to leave. I never wanted to study that hard to begin with,” Throckton responded.

“This is a problem young man. You signed your agreement and now you are saying you don’t want to honor it?” Malinda said, visibly upset with Throckton’s attitude.

“I just don’t feel like being here. I never have,” Throckton answered.

“Let me think about this. I’ll talk to you more about this later. You may go now Throckton,” Malinda motioned for him to leave her office.

After he left her office Throckton did not know what he was going to do so went to the student center to watch a movie, but there were too many other students in the room.

It was too noisy for him so he decided to go to the gymnasium and shoot some baskets.

He was alone and that was fine for him.

While he was playing basketball, he did not notice that someone had walked in. One of his shots went hard off the backboard and when he turned to get it, Varanda was there holding it.

“Wanna play a little one-on-one?” she asked.

“Not really,” Throckton responded.

“What? Are you chicken to play a girl? Do you think you will lose?” Varanda commented.

“No, I just don’t feel like playing right now,” Throckton answered while reaching out for her to return the ball to him.

Instead, Varanda ran to the basket and shot the ball into the net.

“That’s one!” she said as she tossed the ball back to Throckton. “OK, now it’s your turn.”

Throckton just threw the ball at the basket and the ball went in.

“Now it’s one to one,” he said with a smile.

Varanda dribbled the ball back and forth. Throckton started to chase her. They began to laugh.

After playing for a while, they sat down and talked.

“Throckton, why are you so alone all of the time? You can be a lot of fun when you want to be,” Varanda said.

“I don’t know. I just don’t like it here. I never have,” Throckton responded. “I’ve never liked school very much.”

“But you passed three years of classes in just seven weeks. You have an amazing memory. Why don’t you use that?” she asked very curious at his lack of ambition.

“I did that so I could escape. I was motivated to study hard, to learn as many spells as I could, and then use them to escape. Now I know that won’t work,” Throckton responded. “I don’t really want to talk about this. I’ll see you later.”

Trockton got up and started to leave.

“Hey, where are you going? Aren’t you going to help a lady up off of the floor?”

Varanda smiled up at Throckton.

“Lady?” Throckton questioned.

He reached down and pulled her up to her feet.

“Is that better?” he asked.

“Of course,” she said. “I can beat you to the dining hall!”

Varanda ran past Throckton toward the door.

When Varanda arrived at the dining hall, she was out of breath. Standing in front of her was Throckton.

“You should know better than to mess with a magician,” Throckton answered.

“That’s not fair!” Varanda yelled.

“It’s the privilege of a fourth year student. I can wish myself anywhere I need to go,” Throckton laughed at Varanda who was still breathing hard from running from the gymnasium.

She hit him in the chest and then went to get her food.

“What did you do that for?” Throckton asked as he followed her to the food line.

After dinner and before Throckton could get up from the table, Varanda went over to sit with him.

“I don’t think you’re supposed to sit with a fourth year student,” Throckton stated.

“Well, it’s like this. Malinda has given me permission to talk to you. If you don’t like that, then you have to talk to her about it.”

She continued, “Here’s the deal. I need help in my classes. I was wondering if you could help me. I don’t know how to study very well. What do you think?” Varanda asked.

“You want me to help you study? Where did you come up with that idea?” he asked.

“Actually it was Malinda’s idea. She thinks you can help me pass my first year

exams so I don't have to take them again next year. I really need the help. Please?"
Varanda begged Throckton.

"I don't know. Let me think about, OK?" Throckton said less than enthusiastically.

"I'll give you two minutes," Varanda said laughing.

"Two minutes? That's it?" Throckton shot back.

"Yep, and the clock is running," Varanda joked.

"OK, I'll do it. I can't promise you anything though. When do we start?"
Throckton asked.

"Tonight, in the library," Varanda said as she got up from the table. "See you then!"

Later that night they met in the library. Varanda brought all of her books and study materials.

"Show me how you passed the first year exams. I want to finish them early. I want to get started as soon as possible," Varanda said, excited to get started.

"Why do you want to finish early? We only have a few weeks before we reach the end of the term?" Throckton asked.

"If I pass them early, I can go home for the summer earlier," Varanda answered.

"You're going home for the summer?" Throckton asked surprised.

"Of course, everyone goes home for the summer. Didn't you know that?" Varanda asked him.

"Actually no. I thought we were stuck here until graduation. I thought I was going to be here for four years," Throckton responded, surprised at what she had just told him.

He continued, "So if I pass my fourth year tests I am finished and I can leave for good?"

"Yeah, I thought everyone knew that. It's written in the contract. After you graduate you can go on to the Magician's University or any other school you want next year. You'll be finished here," Varanda explained.

"Are you serious? My father told me I was going to have to be here for four years.

I never saw that in the contract. Maybe I should have read it when I had the chance.” Throckton asked. “I feel pretty foolish now.”

After hearing that he would be leaving the school after his fourth year exams, Throckton began to study as hard as before. He attended all of his classes and he studied in the library.

Because Throckton had missed so many classes, he had to study extra hard to complete his work, but he was used to it.

It was different now because he was studying with Varanda, which made the time more fun.

He and Varanda spent their evenings studying together. She passed her first year exams early, just as Throckton had.

Instead of leaving the school for her summer vacation, Varanda continued to help Throckton with his time in the library. With Varanda’s help, he studied harder and when it came time for his final exams, he passed all of them with a perfect score, including Physical Education.

On the day of his graduation, his family came to the school. His sister joined them as well. She was feeling well enough. Her recovery was going very well, and she would be completely well very soon.

Throckton gave them a tour of the school and told them about his life there. He introduced his teachers to them as well as Gossling.

Gossling only had good things to say about Throckton, although he did say the beginning of their relationship was a bit difficult.

Throckton found Varanda, and she met his parents. They liked her right away.

Throckton met Varanda’s parents and they all had dinner together in the dining hall. The food was much better now that the parents were there.

During the graduation ceremony, Malinda called Throckton to the stage.

“This is Throckton. When he came here, we were sure that he was going to fail everything. His attitude was terrible and he did not want any friends.

“However he has proved us wrong. He’s the only student in the history of The Magician’s Academy to pass all of his exams in just one year.

“He has shown compassion to his friends and his family. I have never met a person who has changed as much as he has. We are proud to name you the ‘Honor Student’ of this class.”

The audience stood up and clapped their hands in approval.

“In addition, your family has created a scholarship program in your name to help other young magicians who are in need of help to attend our school.

“I’m pleased to announce the creation of the ‘Throckton Scholarship’,” Malinda completed her speech on behalf of Throckton.

Throckton had tears in his eyes as he accepted the document from Malinda.

He stepped up to the microphone, and at first, he could not speak. He just looked out across the room at his new friends and his family.

When he could speak he said, “I’m so thankful for the patience and understanding of the teachers and administration of this school. I don’t know where I would be today if I had not been sent here. What was the worst day of my life became the defining moment of my future. Thank you for your faith in me. I hope I’ll never let anyone of you down again.”

Throckton finished his speech and then hugged Malinda.

After his graduation, he went home his family.