

*Aphrodite's Twin*



*By  
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## Aphrodite's Twin - I

*(The Birth)*

*That is not my child*

*But Zeus, I have midwived the births of all the Gods and Goddesses here in Olympus. I stood by Hera's side, held her hand as the creation of the twins came to fruition. None other than your wife, Goddess Hera herself, birthed forth these two babes. I cleaned them, swaddled them, with my own two hands, I*

*Enough! I don't know by what magic Hera has used to cloud you so, but by all the power of the Gods I will strike you blind, deaf, and mute if you utter one more word as to authenticate that child as mine.*

*Yes sire.*

*Now, this one. She is of my fair skin, my chiseled good look and breeding. I will name her Aphrodite and because I love her so, she will be blessed to be the Goddess of Love and all the beauty that befits a child of breeding. Mortals will sing her praises, write her poetry, and offer up their very existence to feel her radiance in their hearts. This other, humph. While I cannot siphon the Goddesses' blood from her veins, I can strip her of its knowledge leaving her to spend her eternities unaware of her true nature. I will not name her and she is to be banished from Olympus.*

*Sire, you can't...*

*Do you dare tell the ruler of all Olympus, the most powerful of us all, what he can and cannot do?*

*No, no sire, I...*

*She is to be banished, exiled to the humans below where she belongs. I will have nothing to do with this mockery.*

*What will I tell Hera?*

*You will tell her nothing. I will deal with Hera's wrath as I always have. Now, be gone. Leave me to get acquainted with my child.*

*Yes sire.*

*Take that with you.*

*Yes. Zeus.*

*(at the far side of Olympus, Eastern Kingdom, Heaven; a small structure)*

*The Gods have no hearts. Immortal lives spent with nothing to regulate their actions, no consequences save what the Fates see fit to dole out. Makes them cruel. I've seen how He dotes on His many bastards, but the one time a twin is born of difference from His wife? Ugh! I throw up my hands to them all.*

*Be careful how you speak of my husband, Ophelia.*

*Goddess Hera! I, I didn't,*

*I know. That is the point of being stealthy. I'm here to see my baby.*

*I was just getting ready to*

*I know what you are going to do and far be it from me to defy my husband. Again. Or be so direct as to keep the child hidden here on Olympus. I cannot lift my husband's curse but I can ensure she is well taken care of. Deliver her to Nyame in the Western Kingdom. She is obviously one of the Orisha. They will care for her since I am forbidden. It is my hope that one day she'll remember and come back to us. Now, quickly, do as I command before I weaken.*

*(in the Hall of Nyame, Western Kingdom, Heaven)*

*Hmmm, I was wondering if the Goddess of Love would be duplicated. Welcome Ophelia. I see Zeus still has you doing his dirty work.*

*Good day your Highness. And yes, I am still in service to Great Zeus and his brood.*

*Well, as always, a pleasure to see you. Now, bring me our new Goddess. Humph! What is this blasphemy? She's been cursed!*

*Now, Sire, please. Do not take offense...*

*Do not take offense? Zeus has over stepped His right in this matter. He has never dared to raise His power to one of ours regardless of who produced them. We have certainly been more than gracious in the rearing of the fair gods and goddesses born to us!*

*Yes, indeed you have. But this was the first born of Zeus' wife. He took it personally.*

*If He weren't my image, I'd march into Olympus and rend His head from his prejudiced neck.*

*I completely understand. I wished momentarily that I had the power to do so myself. Imagine, denying your own child. It sickens me how arrogant and self-centered they've become.*

*I am afraid there is much of that spreading through all the Kingdoms. Odin is having his share of troubles with his adopted son. Here in my Kingdom, Wulbari and his minion Anansi are constantly testing my patience with their antics. But no matter. We have a new Goddess in our midst. I will find ways to keep her spirit safe. We'll do what we can to ensure her legend is spread. Now, if you'll excuse me, Ophelia, I beg your leave as I tend to the babe.*

*Thank you Sire. Goddess Hera said you would know exactly what to do.*



### *CJ's Awakening*

I'd had this weird dream, hadn't slept well, so I'm sure that contributed to my mood that day. You know, "that" mood. The one where you're at work - just sitting there, looking around the cube thinking, "You have got to be kidding. This? This is what my life has come to?"

I was single, thirty-eight years old; childless, parent-less with no real close ties to the various cousins and such who were left on my family tree. I'd been a corporate drone since college. Got up to a decent mid-range five figure salary. Considering all I did was shuffle papers from one side of my desk to the other with the odd break to check the millions of mind-numbing emails or to attend the equally mind-numbing staff, slash, project, slash, bullshit meetings upper management was so fond of, my salary was over rated.

I hadn't gone the family route. Not for lack of trying. There'd been boy friends here and there but none seemed to stick. Either I grew bored or they grew restless. However it worked out, they went on to find the love of their lives, and I learned several kick-ass masturbation techniques that I could fool myself into thinking made me less desperate for companionship.

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