

# **Back Story**

## **The Visna**

Normally, visna are less intrusive. They exist in a symbiotic relationship with their host and can actually be beneficial, by lending support and confidence to keep their host happy and stress-free. In normal visna behaviour, the merging with a host is how they 'sleep': whereas humans live in the first reality and touches the second reality in sleep, visna live in the second reality and touch on the first reality in sleep. The main difference is that the visna are more generally aware of both realities. Once the host is asleep, the visna roam the Dream Time to feed.

Usually they feed in moderation – a sip here, a sip there – keeping their presence discrete. Some visna are more self-centred and feed with impunity, causing fear and stress in the sleeper, and becoming known as Night Mares within the collective unconscious.

Within the second reality, visna have their own culture and politics. They also have their own ambitions, desires and problems. They form themselves into small 'tribes,' each with their own place within it.

Malus was the elder of this particular tribe.

'Joe,' 'Sally' and 'QiWen' were seniors within it.

The rest of the visna were underlings and so relegated to child hosts with no authority.

## **Leading up to 'Standing Like a Man'**

Malus found the children's home and noticed the, with emotions running high in the children – many of whom were traumatized from their experiences – it was a good feeding spot. She introduced other visna to it and formed a new tribe.

At first, they followed normal visna behaviour and fed with discretion, but the heady sensations of so many tasty young morsels pushed them into a feeding frenzy. They then hit on the idea of taking control of the home in the first reality. Malus took over Ada, who was already care-worn and ill and so no problem to possess. Sally lacked self-confidence and proved easy to possess. QiWen had a personal and cultural tendency to bend to authority and so proved easy to possess. Joe was harder, but was a bit of a bully himself and so came around to the idea, not realising he would become the victim.

As the attacks became more blatant, so word began to spread. Molly, as counsellor, grew concerned over so many children having the same nightmares. She took it on herself to investigate at night and regularly came across children crying out in fear, claiming to have been attacked and unable to move, yet Molly had seen no attack take place. Fearing it may be trauma from previous assaults. Molly raised it with Ada who refuted the allegation. That night, Malus fed off Molly and threatened her. Molly then contacted Pat Miller as the most senior trustee, and also confided her fears to Father Jenkins.

## **Father Jenkin's Response**

Father Jenkins had created links with the children's home as part of his role of parish priest, despite the home being non-religious, and housing children from different faiths. On hearing Molly's concerns, he spoke to various children and staff members and pieced enough together to confirm there was indeed a breach between realities taking place. He informed

AMOK and passed a message on to the Experts. AMOK were powerless to help and the Experts maintained a stony silence. He continued to monitor the situation, leaving himself open to attack by refusing to back off.

### **Pat Miller's Response**

Ada's niece, Pat was the closest to Ada of all the relatives. Ada had been the inspiration for Pat to get into child care herself. She supported Ada's work in both hands-on and administrative capacities.

Pat became concerned after hearing Molly's report and confronted Ada. Malus fed off her and threatened her with worse if she didn't back off. Pat contacted Welfare who investigated but couldn't find any evidence of abuse and put it down to nightmares due to personal trauma.

### **The Visna Response**

As more humans began to become aware of their presence, Malus attempted to get the others to back off and resume normal behaviour. They began to break away from Malus, declaring she had created the problem and must solve it or forfeit her place as tribal elder.

Malus struggled alone, attempting to get Pat and Molly to back off. Even Ada began resisting, once the attacks had become worse. Finally, Malus concluded she must kill the elder women and possess the younger one. She killed Pat in the hopes it would intimidate the others, but it just caused them to fight harder. Therefore, she killed Ada and took possession of Molly.

However, she didn't allow for Molly's strength and determination and so was unable to fully control her. This weakened Malus, as Molly continued to exert resistance even in the second reality, prevented Malus from feeding on children.

The other visna, seeing Pat's status as trustee was vacant, hit on the idea of gaining a majority to take control of the board, and thus have political control of the children's home within the first reality.

## **In the Children's Home**

### **There are sixty children:**

Eight under five years old

Forty are six to twelve years old

Twelve are thirteen to eighteen years old

### **There were seven full time, live-in child carers:**

Ada Collins (in over-all charge, now deceased)

Hazel Trent (caring principally for the under 5 age range)

Catherine Samson (caring principally for the 6-12 age range)

Matthew Unwin (caring principally for the 6-12 age range)

Veronica Pondopela (caring principally for the 6-12 age range)

Andy Weller (caring principally for the 6-12 age range)

QiWen Cheong (caring principally for the 13-18 age range)

Although all of them help out in all areas, as required.

**In addition, there were four paid members of support staff:**

Molly Plummer (counsellor and assistant child care) (Live-In)

Sally Hinsley (administration support) (lives locally)

John Wickens (administration support) (lives locally)

Joe Ansle (general maintenance, groundskeeper, driver) (lives locally)

And various volunteers, some unpaid, some supported through other bodies.

(as an aside: I always imagined there was something between Joe and Sally)

**The Visna Children**

Peter, 16 Caucasian

Michael, 13 Black

Jennifer, 12 Caucasian

Maria, 10 Indian

Alan, 10 Caucasian

ChaoLin (11) Chinese

**The Board of Trustees**

**Original Board**

Pat Miller

Dennis Collins (Pat's brother)

Martha Moss (Pat's Cousin)

Pamela Lewis (Pat's Cousin)

Gerald Trainor (Chairman)

**Revised Board**

Stephen Miller

Joe Ansle

QiWen Cheong

Pamela Lewis

Gerald Trainor