

## Chapter Four: Baby Samantha

It has been almost a year since Laevius met baby Samantha in her hospital incubator and through out the year he had stopped to watch this little child grow. He has found himself thinking about her a lot as he carries out his duties as a spirit of death, but finished his work before detouring to get a glimpse of Samantha being fed by her parents. He found it very amusing when she would spit up on her mother who seemed to always be wearing a new blouse, almost as if she knew exactly what she was doing. He watched as Samantha spoke her first word to her father, to him it sounded like gas but to her parents the fuss they made caused Laevius to laugh to tears when they started calling grandparents and taking out the camcorder, Laevius had never laughed so hard in his entire existence and wanted so much to laugh that way again. As he finished his last task of the day Laevius decides to go and sneak a peek at Samantha who by now should be sound asleep in her crib.

“Do you know how many people will be actually coming to the party?” says Doug, Samantha’s father to Amber, Samantha’s mother. “Well, at last count there was going to be fourteen children and ten adults, but not everyone has returned their RSVP yet. I think people will just show up just like we did at your sisters baby party; remember? That’s how we met!” Amber gives a smile as Doug replies, “yeah I remember” he says with a chuckle and a smile. “Anyway I am more concerned with the facilities, is there enough room for everyone and the extra’s that may show up?” “Don’t worry there is more than enough room for everyone and then some! It is going to be a fabulous party for Samantha, becoming one is a very special occasion for her and for us.” Laevius listens at the doorway on his way up to Samantha’s room, “she is going to be one!” he says to himself as he continues upstairs. As Laevius enters her room, by walking through the wall, he sees the child sound asleep and a warm feeling enters his heart. Standing over her he remembers that first faithful day when they first met and looking at her now you would never believe that she was born premature, “she has grown so much” Laevius thinks as a smile crosses over his face. “Baby Samantha, can you hear me?” Laevius speaks softly to her, “Samantha, can you feel me?” Laevius watches in anticipation hoping that she will coo like the first day they met, but nothing happens. He starts to think about all that he heard from her parents about all the plans for her big day, “Your big day is coming soon and it will be a whole year that I have known you. I wish that I was able to give you a gift that you may know me.” He stops to think about how unfair it feels to not be able to partake in her joyous day, but yet he knows it is for the better. Laevius starts to wonder within, “If I could give you a gift what would it be?” he starts to think; “I do not have anything of this world, yet I have nothing in my world also, I seem to have nothing to give you. But if I could give you anything what would it be?” He starts to look around her room and looks upon all the toys that bring her joy, he sees a pile of freshly washed clothes, nicely folded and sitting on her dresser, “they are what makes her look prettier than she is now.” He thinks to himself. He continues to search and sees something hanging on her wall;

a small cross for her protection and comfort. “That is it! If I could give you anything I would like to protect you and keep you safe so that I may see you in His kingdom!” Laevieus smiles as he looks upon her, “So here is my gift to you, I will watch over you and protect you till the day you come home and I will always be around you to hear when you feel alone, I will laugh with, cry with you, I will always take your side, I will be with you always!” And as if Samantha was listening a soft voice speaks, “Love you.” Laevieus could not help himself as a tear starts to roll down his cheek. He had never felt such warmth of love for someone before; he knew this child was giving him something that he never had and could not understand, but it felt so good within that it must be right. Laevieus takes one more look as he starts to fade away being called to his next given task.

Laevieus emerges to find himself on the dock of a pier. The scene is not a pleasant one for it looks like there had been a shoot out between two gangs and there laying face down in his own blood is a ten year old boy. “What a sad fate” Laevieus thought as he approaches the boy, “how did someone so young get caught up in something so heinous?” Laevieus walks up to the boy, bends down and touches his back and as if getting up from a sleep the spirit of Matthew Jordan rises. Laevieus looks upon the boy as he starts to speak. “Am I dead? Did I get that bastard?” Matthew looks around to see himself and a couple of others lying on the ground lifeless. “I don’t see him!” he shouts, “I don’t believe it, he got away!” Laevieus starts to think to himself as he watches Matthew, knowing where this is leading him. “Are you the one that will take me to God?” Laevieus doesn’t make a sound. “Okay lets get a move on, I’ve been dying to see my brother” says Matthew as he starts to walk away from this scene and enter the eternal path of destiny. Everything starts to change as Matthew and Laevieus walks, the clouds appear and that familiar light in the distance starts to shine. Matthew can’t seem to help himself; he starts to tell Laevieus what happened. “I can’t believe I missed him! Do you know that the guy I was trying to kill had killed my brother? Yeah, he just walked right up to him and shot him in the face! The guy was trippin! I had to take revenge for my brothers’ death; I had to get him back for hurting our family!” Laevieus continues to walk without saying a word. “I hated that guy so much! He stole from me! He took my only brother from me! I had to do it!” As they continue to walk they get closer to the door that opens to ones eternal fate. “Well, I guess it’s done, at least I will see my brother again and we can continue where we left off.” As they approach the door Matthew suddenly feels afraid, “Where is this door leading to? Is my brother on the other side? I don’t think I want to do this!” Laevieus looks at the boy and speaks, “As you have lived your life so is your fate.” “What the hell does that mean?” says Matthew, “You talking in riddles I don’t understand!” They are now in front of the door, “Isn’t it going to open for me? I have to do this myself?” Matthew stops for a moment and takes a deep breath; “Okay, here goes nothing” as he grabs a hold of the knob and starts to turns it only to find that it is locked! “What the hell is this? Am I dreaming or something? Why is the door locked?” A sudden revelation hits Matthew and everything starts to change; the clouds, the door, the light, all starts to dissolve before his eyes and now he finds himself falling into a hole under his feet! He gives out a great scream as he falls into the pit of hell! Laevieus, who usually is walking

away by now has stayed to watch, it is almost as if he never saw this before. He is moved by what just happened and finds himself feeling sorry for this little one who has been lost to his own angers. Laevieus turns and walks away from this scene that is making him feel this way and enters the realm of the living.

Laevieus stops to think about what just happened to Matthew. “His anger drove him to get revenge, yet the anger is justified and revenge was the outcome. Why did he loose his life for taking revenge for his brother? Was it not warranted?” “Laevieus, it was not warranted!” speaks another voice, “a heart distressed by anger cannot enter the kingdom no matter how it is justified in their hearts.” “I understand that, but is there no mercy for being driven to such madness by another?” Questions Laevieus; “No, there is no mercy.” replies the voice. “You should know this Laevieus; you should already understand that his end is just.” Laevieus ponders what he just heard, but his heart has changed somehow. He knows that what the other speaks is true, but yet he is feeling for the lost and there plight. In someway he is starting to think like a human without understanding. “Laevieus, what has changed within? Have you not done this for Him many times and have you not judged it to be just? What is it that causes you to think as a man and feel as they do?” Laevieus does not answer but thinks within himself that maybe what he once thought was just is not so just anymore. “How does He judge one so young who carries so much burden as unworthy of His kingdom?” Laevieus starts to realize that age has nothing to do with judgment. That as a man lives so a man will die and the age has no bearing if they know what they are doing” This is something that Laevieus had never pondered before, he was taught that acceptance was a requirement, questioning was discouraged, and trust was the real issue. How interesting to have learned something about Him and the way He thinks. How wonderful to be enlightened as if refreshed by a drink of water. Laevieus looks around and sees that the sun is rising for mankind and that the promise of hope is once again in the hearts of those who believe. It is also the day of baby Samantha’s birthday party and Laevieus will not miss it for the world!