

# ALTERNATIVE SEX

*By Jennifer Sue*



*ILLUSTRATED BY BRIAN DUKEHART*

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A 'NEW WOMAN' NOVEL

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## *Reluctant Press TG Publishers*

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## THE RETURN OF CHIVALRY

By *JENNIFER SUE*

*Some people believe in alternative parallel universes. They believe that when a significant event occurs, such as a presidential election, our plane of existence splits into the universe we know, and another where the election had gone the other way. I don't know if this is possible, but it's fun to imagine. This concept sparked my story.*

*Thank you;*

*Jennifer Sue*

After the riots during the Chicago Democratic convention of the 1968 presidential elections, an ultra conservative backlash occurred. Fundamentalists, hawks, and traditionalists rejected both major political parties. The result was that George Wallace won the election. The world was stunned and frightened.

Feeling all powerful, President Wallace took the advice of his vice-president General Curtis LeMay about how to end the war in Vietnam. One week after taking office, B-52 bombers nuked the DMZ every ten miles.

The world erupted in fear and outrage as Armageddon seemed to loom. Fortunately, the Soviet Union and China didn't immediately reply in kind. The hot lines sizzled as Congress rushed into emergency sessions. Before the week was out, both the president and vice president were not only charged but had been impeached!

The rapid action, unprecedented in the annals of our government, impressed everyone and defused the crisis. Apologies and aid were rendered. Everyone was stunned and sobered by the wild week. All understood that something had to be done to prevent anything like this from ever reoccurring. In the resultant backlash, everyone pulled together. A national Constitutional Convention was convened.

The conventions' proceedings were televised, and public comments and suggestions were accepted. Compromises were hammered out that attempted to meet everyone's needs. The final result was a broad revision of the Bill of Rights that was accepted by a 90% vote in a special referendum.

Individual rights were guaranteed as long as they didn't interfere with another person's rights. All races; Blacks, Hispanics, Orientals, and Caucasians were equal. All religions and beliefs; or the right not to have a faith, were accepted. Discrimination of any type (gender, age, race, faith, handicaps, sexual preference, whatever) was outlawed. All ideas were allowed as long as they didn't violate another persons rights.

Thus, the KKK was allowed to exist as long as they didn't harass Blacks. Punishment for such harassment was swift and harsh. Free speech was paramount, but anti-

social actions were ruthlessly crushed. All sexual preferences were tolerated as long as it was done in private and between consenting adults. Welfare was replaced by workfare. Corruption and graft in government became treason and those convicted sentenced to life in prison with no parole and forfeiture of all assets.

Along with all these rights came responsibilities. The problem with the original Constitution was that although it gave us rights, it required we do nothing to keep them! Now people had to be responsible. On a national basis, once a child was born, both parents were responsible for the financial and moral support of raising the child. If not married or divorced, child support was collected or the parents jailed.

The economy boomed, inflation remained low. Science and medical advancements exploded. The country became stronger than it had ever been in the past.

This resulted in tolerance and eventually respect for all regardless of race, sex, faith, sexuality, handicaps, and ideologies. It also required a system to retain some traditional ideas. To this end, a mandatory system was devised and set in place across the nation. The CHIVALRY SOCIETY was born.

The CHIVALRY SOCIETY was to pick the cream of the population and train them to be conscientious leaders while instilling acceptance of those less intelligent and physically capable than themselves. Old fashioned sense of values and standards were mandatory for members so they could set examples for the rest of the nation. Deviation from expected conduct, integrity, and nobility was not tolerated. To become a member of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY was an honor both to the one selected, and the parents. Along with this high code and resultant responsibilities went many privileges which made membership desirable.

Just because parents were members of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY, however, did not mean their children would become members. Each year for four years, on a high school district by high school district basis, students were evaluated by a selection committee of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. All with physical or mental limitations were immediately excluded.

Of the remainder, the students and their parents had to sign consent forms to abide by any and all decisions of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY EVALUATION COMMITTEE. If the student or parents didn't sign, the child was dropped from consideration. For those still in contention, psychological evaluations were given every six months to weed out the unstable.

Tests and examinations for near perfect physical health were administered. School and public conduct, participation, and performance were rated. Every six months the selection committee ranked those still in contention, those with consistently low rankings were dropped from consideration.

Those dropped from contention were not notified to avoid complaints of those dropped, and to prevent those still in contention from becoming cocky and gloating. The eliminations continued until only two and one half percent of the boys and two and one half percent of the girls remained eligible. These were the ones selected to join the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. The selections were announced at the end of the senior school year.

This elite five percent was split equally between males and females. Upon acceptance into the CHIVALRY SOCIETY, each successful candidate was called a novice. Five male and five female novitiates were grouped for the rigorous college education needed to prepare them for full membership in the CHIVALRY SOCIETY.

Upon completion of the six week initial training, known affectionately as boot camp, they graduated to become SQUIRES or LADIES-IN-WAITING. Upon completion of college, they became KNIGHTS and DAMSELS.

The Knights would exhibit traditional manly attributes of strength, virility, fairness, nobility, integrity, honesty, and intellect. Virtually all of the emerging leaders in business and politics were Knights. Of those who entered the political ring, campaign promises were kept and bribery stopped.

Damsels would become the epitome of manners, taste, caring, nobility, grace, and beauty. A Damsel had to be a lady. Soft, feminine, demure, and nearly always in a skirt, she would be a nurturer, mother, and gracious host.

While the resurgence of old fashioned values encouraged females to return to 1950's style subservient roles, the open tolerance of society allowed tomboys to flourish. These tomboys generally became the outspoken champions of women's rights. Most females, however, were content to emulate the ideals set for females by the dainty Damsels.

Concerns during the planning stages for the CHIVALRY SOCIETY that the society would grow into a rigid sexist, male dominated organization were rendered moot by a drastic decision. Eighty percent of the Knights and eighty percent of the Damsels were to be of the appropriate gender.

The other twenty percent were to be of the opposite gender! In this way, equality and respect between the Knights and Damsels, and society in general, would be maintained.

Marriage was mandatory for the Knights and Damsels. Upon completing boot camp, each Squire was paired, betrothed in reality, with a Lady-in-Waiting from their training group. Virginity upon marriage was mandatory for both husband and wife, however the CHIVALRY SOCIETY understood that the sexual needs of the Squires and Ladies-in-Waiting had to be satiated.

Masturbation, petting, oral, and even anal sex was allowed and even encouraged between members of each training group. Homosexuality and group sex was also tolerated. Only a few restrictions existed: absolutely no intercourse, no sexual contact outside their ten person group, and discretion in avoiding public exhibition of their acts. Holding hands, kissing, and walking or sitting arm in arm were the limits for public displays of affection. These constraints were rigidly enforced with no exception.

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1995 would be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chivalry Society, thus there more than normal coverage by the news media.

Of the two hundred students in the Truman High School District, one hundred twenty became contenders. Of these, five boys and five girls would be selected to become Squires and Ladies-in-Waiting. One of these boys and one of these girls would have to trade gender roles.

With typical male arrogance the boys wrote off any possibility that they might be that one. Amongst the girls, there were usually several tomboys who wanted to be the one to become the female Squire. If any of the selected contenders wanted to switch genders, their request was generally granted. If there were not enough volunteers, as was normally the case with the boys, a boy was selected for the dubious honor.

Steven and Gwen Cord were delighted when their son brought home the notice that they were to attend a meeting with the selection committee of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. It was an honor simply to be asked to attend the initial meeting since it meant their son was in contention for membership into the CHIVALRY SOCIETY.

Frank and Helen Row were a bit wary when their son brought home the notice. This hard working, honest, but not too bright couple were awed, perhaps even cowed, by members of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. They were pleased by the obvious intelligence of their son, but his abilities left them bewildered. The possibility that Robert might even be considered for membership had never entered their minds.

Sir Peter Freeman and Lady Jane Freeman had been in the initial group selected to be Squires and Ladies-in-Waiting in 1970. Sir Peter was now one of three county commissioners. No one questioned his honesty or integrity. His management and political skills were outstanding. The county prospered. Lady Jane was head of the Women's League helping victims of abuse and disasters. Both were highly prominent and popular.

David and June Cleaver were pleased when their daughter Joan brought home the notice. They had always wanted the best for their headstrong daughter, and membership was the best. One bonus for them would be that their tomboy daughter would now have to give up her boyish ways and finally dress and behave like a proper young lady.

Carl, James, Robert, and Joan were just about equal academically with straight A's. One of the things used as a gauge by the selection committee was sportsmanship. Childhood competition in sports established sportsmanship and honed skills. All four played organized sports. As was usual amongst the serious contenders, the four leaders of the class excelled in sports.

Up to this year, Carl was the primary quarterback and James was the backup quarterback with Robert the backup quarterback for another team in the league.

In high school baseball James was the captain and pitcher of his team while Robert was the co-captain and relief pitcher. Carl was pitcher and captain of his team. The four were active in scouting and attended church regularly since community involvement was an important consideration.

During the meeting, the parents and children listened to the explanations of the requirements for members, and the impressive benefits. Most parents were willing to take the one in five chance that their child could be assigned to the opposite gender

role because of the privileges and prestige of becoming a Knight or Damsel. To be the parent of a member of the Chivalry Society brought prestige and perks to them. Almost every parent and child signed the forms committing themselves to whatever decisions the selection committee made. The competition was on!

The next day, Carl, James, and even Joan swaggered into class along with most of the other proud contenders. Robert was the only one who had not let the honor go to his head since he felt the apprehensiveness of his parents. Those who had not met the initial standards were naturally jealous. A split thus occurred in the class. Fortunately, it had been made clear to those in contention that their behavior towards those who were not in consideration would be evaluated to weed out those who were bullies and teases. If a contender picked on a non-contender, their ranking would drop.

The noncontenders knew this and often set about to entrap the contenders in order to pull them down. While this may seem harsh and unfair, it weeded out those with short tempers and intolerant natures.

The pressure on the contenders mounted with each day as they sought to gain a high ranking. Not only did they have to exhibit outstanding scholarship, they had to be class leaders. Carl and James almost got into several fights as they jockeyed to become the head of the pecking order. Since Robert was accustomed to serving as second fiddle to James, he didn't even try to assume leadership, being content to be number three beneath Carl and James.

By the end of the September of his senior year, Carl felt confident that he was still in contention. Of the thirteen boys in his class, four had not made the initial cut. Of the remainder, two had been in several fights with their classmates while four were struggling academically. That left only Carl, Robert, and James with any real hope of success.

Joan Cleaver emerged as the only girl in the class with the academic scores needed to make the cut. Joan's major problem was that she had definitely been a tomboy. Thankfully there wasn't serious competition for leadership amongst the girls so Joan was able to slip into that position by default. However, she had to compromise and give up her tomboy ways. For the first time in years, she began wearing skirts and dresses. She knew that to keep her position and have the possibility of making it into the CHIVALRY SOCIETY, she'd have to show that she could become a Damsel.

How the competition in the other classes in the school district fared, they had no idea. But since each class averaged twenty five students, there were seven other classes. It was possible that all those selected could come from one class. This uncertainty sparked those in the lead to continue pursuing their goal.

From Carl's birth Steve and Gwen Cord pushed the boy hoping he'd become a novice. Both had been contenders back in 1970, the first year of the program. Both had missed the final cut. The loss had made them tough and judgmental of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY, yet the standards and conduct of those who were members left little opening for complaints. From the time of his birth they had coached and guided Carl in what was needed to make the cut. They were aware that Carl and James were competing to be the head of their class. The Cords feared that if the boys were equal, James would

make the cut before Carl since James' parents were members of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY.

The Cleavers were neighbors and best friends with the Cords. They were content with their lives and had no high ambitions for Joan. They were proud and delighted when she excelled, but it was not a priority. Since they were neighbors, Joan and Carl grew up together, playing together as infants and toddlers, then later as competing teammates on their football and baseball squads. The competition between the two was always heavy.

Carl unwittingly initiated the competition when they were in first grade.

"I'm trying out for the Baseball team tomorrow. I bet I'll become the pitcher since I've been practicing a lot," he boasted with typical boyish arrogance.

Since the two had always played together, Joan was quite upset.

"Well I'm going to try out for the pitcher position too," she stated indignantly. "After all, I'm just as good a pitcher as you!"

"You are not," Carl snapped back. "You're just a girl. Boys are always better pitchers than dumb girls!"

Joan saw red.

"Really," she questioned. "Do you remember who you've been tossing the ball to? ME! Just how did the balls get back to you, Mr. Smarty Pants? I tossed them right back! I'm just as good a pitcher as you are!"

Naturally, Carl now saw red. "It doesn't matter if you're as good as me, I'm a boy so I'll get to be pitcher!"

After that the argument deepened and ended in a brawl. Their mothers had to pull them apart. Both were lectured on showing respect to each other, and required to play nicely. But the animosity had begun.

Carl turned out to be right. Joan and he were virtually identical in their skills, but he became the starting pitcher. Joan became the relief pitcher. Carl used his position to taunt Joan. In return, when Joan had to step in as relief pitcher, she stuck her tongue out at Carl silently telling him that she had to bail him out.

The enmity grew. The competition between the two made both better players with the result that they were forced to practice with each other since no else came close to their abilities. That fall the same thing occurred with PeeWee Football and the quarterback position.

From that time on, the competition between the neighbors raged. Due to the closeness of their families, the competition, although fierce, for the most part stayed friendly. The pair always walked to and from school together. If one was ill, the other always made sure that their school assignments were available.

If the truth were admitted, they were best friends. Because of their intense competition, Joan became a tomboy, giving up dolls and tea parties for sports, skirts and dresses for jeans, and Mary Jane shoes for dirty sneakers. Carl developed a condescending attitude for girls since he always came out on top while Joan became an avid



feminist because the only reason Carl always came out on top was the fact he was a boy.

At the start of their freshman high school year, their relationship changed. The prospect of gaining membership in the CHIVALRY SOCIETY overshadowed the sports competition. The day after the initial meeting with the CHIVALRY SOCIETY Selection Committee, Carl was shocked when Joan exited her house to join him for the walk to school. Her hair was in a ponytail with a ribbon bow, and she was wearing a dress! No sign of the tomboy was evident.

This led to Carl instinctively assuming a position of authority and superiority over Joan. Joan likewise felt compelled to submit to Carl's arrogance. Both understood that Joan had to give up her tomboy ways in order to have a chance at becoming a Damsel. No longer was Joan the back-up quarterback, she became a cheerleader. Naturally Joan bristled under the required girlish conduct, especially since Carl simply accepted it as a long overdue correction. After all, he'd always thought that girls should be girls, not tomboys.

Joan wished she could get even with the swaggering boy. She wanted to give him a taste of what it felt like to be shunted into a role that wasn't to your liking.

However, Joan persevered with the humiliating circumstances in order to become a member of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. She knew that if she made the cut, she'd request to be the girl who became a Squire. Sometimes she hoped Carl would be the boy to become a Lady-in-Waiting. It would serve him right!

James and Robert had a unique relationship. Robert was stronger and perhaps even smarter than James. But James had the advantage of his parents being members in the CHIVALRY SOCIETY while Robert's parents looked to the nobility in reverence. Robert thus always yielded to James. This is not to say that Robert was not a leader. If the truth be admitted, James was the leader of the duo simply because Robert allowed him to do so. Of course, neither boy realized that fact.

As October progressed, the guys in the class knew that Carl and James were the top two of the class and Robert a firm number three. The remaining boys in the class continued to jockey for position in the pecking order. Everyone knew that a Squire was the class leader. As such, he was always captain of teams and usually pitcher and quarterback. Thus it behooved the boys to support their Squire and become a loyal follower in order to receive favors and aid to climb the pecking order. Since these loyalties were established during the selection year, it was important that they back the winning contender.

The number of followers would be a gauge in the selection. James, the son of members of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY, had always been a bit cocky due to the prestige of his parents. This set him apart from the rest of the boys. Carl, however, was one of them. If they couldn't make the cut, they'd support one of their own. Thus by the beginning of November, Carl had eight of the guys as loyal henchmen while James had only three, Robert was one of them.

By December, Joan had consolidated her position as undisputed leader of the girls. She still bristled at the need to maintain the dress and values of a Lady-in-Waiting, but persevered. The boys were still evenly matched in most areas, but James had lost

all his followers except Robert to Carl. James faced this dilemma in the only way he could. He acknowledged Carl's leadership and assumed the number two position in the class pecking order. He knew that such a choice would cut his losses since it showed that he was willing to gallantly accept the situation.

Carl felt himself to be at the top of a precarious heap. Since James had been his main competition, he had to accept him as number two. To attempt to push him down the line could easily backfire. How he dealt with his vanquished foe would be a determining factor in his ranking. Robert stayed firmly in the number three slot.

During this time, Carl had to be diplomatic. When one of the guys screwed up, he had to correct the boy without condemning him, since James was always there to take advantage of a potential slip-up.

As potential Squires, Robert, James, and Carl insured that the boys treated the girls politely and with kindness and gentlemanly consideration. Girls were helped with chairs and doors were held open.

Joan bristled whenever Carl would rush ahead of her to open a door, bowing gallantly as she passed through. Carl went out of his way to make sure that he was the one who held her chair for her when such an occasion arose.

At every turn, he used his position of masculine superiority to drive home the point he'd always made that she was a mere girl and thus should be dainty. The years of tomboy competition were literally being rubbed in her face, although in a most gentlemanly manner. To add to Joan's disgust was the fact that she always detected a smirk upon his face as he chivalrously catered to her inherent femininity.

It was during her January evaluation that Joan allowed her bitterness to bubble to the surface. During the interview with the selection committee, she was asked why she was distressed. Knowing that she had to reply honestly or lose her ranking, she confessed her personal dislike of the expected deportment of a Damsel. When pressed further, she admitted that if she made the cut, she intended to volunteer to become the female Knight.

Further questioning revealed her feelings of disquiet with Carl's condescending treatment since the start of the school year. Immediately she grew alarmed since she was afraid she'd jeopardized his position, but they assured her that they would not make judgments of another candidate based upon the comments of a classmate. In fact, her concern and honesty boosted her status.

During his interview, the examiners were able to confirm Joan's opinions of Carl's condescending attitude towards women. Later investigation revealed that Carl's treatment of the girls was not cruel or demeaning, which saved his status, but was definitely condescending. His actions in that regard would be monitored. Thus Carl's position as top dog became a bit precarious.

By May, it was clear who the top contenders were in the class. The selection committee met to select the top five boys and the top five girls. The announcement of those selected was made during the high school sponsored, community Memorial Day picnic. Nearly everyone attended this event, which was the highlight of the year. The morning was spent playing games.

A buffet style picnic lunch followed. The seniors were brought forward to receive their diplomas.

As the anxious parents watched their equally anxious children, the announcement was made of those selected to enter the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. James, Robert, Joan, and Carl stood side by side, holding hands as they nervously waited, hoping to hear their names.

As was usual, loud cheers and hurrahs followed the announcement of each new member. James, Robert, Joan, and Carl all made the cut. They were new members of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. The four friends hugged and shouted out their delight. Their eager classmates congratulated them, their parents fought their way through the crowd of well wishers to hug their children. For several minutes, pandemonium ruled.

Once order was established

Of the ten novitiates, James Freeman, Harold Moyer, and Kevin Holt were the sons of Knights and Damsels. Carl Cord and Robert Row were the sons of commoners. Susan Green, Marsha Brady, and Debra Scott were the daughters of Knights and Damsels. Joan Cleaver and Carol Derr were the daughters of commoners.

This was not unusual since growing up in such a household gave a child a head start on what was needed to make the grade. Children from a commoner background were generally much tougher and coarse because they had to struggle against their backgrounds to succeed.

During the next few days, things never calmed. The newest members of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY, the novitiates, helped their families pack. One of the benefits of being the parent of a member of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY was the requirement that all Squires and Ladies-in-Waiting live in an exclusive college enclave. Here they could receive the unique training and discipline that prepared them to become a Knight or Damsel, while at the same time monitoring their comportment. The graduated Squires and Ladies-in-Waiting and their families had one week to move out, then the novitiates moved in. The housing and all utilities were free. Each novice received a monthly allowance to use as they deemed fit. The way the money was spent was used as a guide for training. The homes vacated by the new novitiates could be sold or rented out at the family's discretion.

Thus, James, Robert, Joan, and Carl were settled into the training enclave by mid June. The first week was spent simply familiarizing the novitiates with the layout of the enclave. At the dance studio where they'd learn ballroom, tap, ballet, jazz, and modern dancing they met their instructors. At the fitness center where they would learn proper exercise and physical fitness techniques they met their trainers. At the school where they'd take classes to learn how to behave like Knights and Damsels, they met the Knights and Damsels who would be their teachers and counselors.

The regimen would be tough, and psychological conditioning mandatory. Novitiates who were unfit for the CHIVALRY SOCIETY would be weeded out during the first six weeks. Any who decided against the initial taste of their new lives, could drop out voluntarily. They and their families would leave the enclave with no stigma. Any who stayed and failed would be ostracized by society.

The first six weeks, Boot Camp, were tough. The novitiates trained together in general expectations and goals. Physically they were pushed to the limits of endurance. As they worked, they learned more about the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. One aspect that surprised them was the liberal sexuality, since sexual release and experimentation were openly encouraged within the CHIVALRY SOCIETY.

James, Robert, Joan, Carl, and the rest of their novice group successfully made it through the ordeal. Steve and Gwen Cord, David and June Cleaver, Frank and Helen Row, and Sir Peter and Lady Jane Freeman were proud of their children.

The ordeal of Boot Camp also served to establish a pecking order within the group as the novitiates arrayed themselves in relation to their peers. The four same sex Squires would retain the position they established in Boot Camp. The female Squire would normally fall to the bottom of the pecking order in their respective group.

A two day holiday was granted after the completion of Boot Camp in order for the selection committee to make it's choices. It was during this time that any who wanted to bail out could do so. For the boys, it was the first time they had to reflect on the possibility that they might be the one to become a Lady-in-Waiting.

This was a horrendous possibility to a boy who exhibited outstanding male characteristics. The few novitiates that elected to withdraw did so because they assumed they would be the one chosen and were afraid to face such a possibility.

Once the hectic pace of boot camp was over, Carl and his father laughed at the idea that he might be selected to become the male Lady-in-Waiting. They knew that Carl was at the top of the pecking order and thus assumed that he'd never be selected for such a dubious distinction. Everyone knew that Robert Row was at the bottom of the pecking order and thus assumed he would be the victim.

The first day of the holiday, Carl, James, Kevin, Harold, and Robert met each other and headed for the fitness center to work off some of their nervous energy. As they approached the door, Carl chuckled and ran ahead. With a sweeping bow and an impish grin, he opened the door.

"After you, Robert...," he stated with grandiose manners.

Robert was momentarily puzzled by his leader's grand gesture. Smiling, he nodded his thanks, and stepped into the building since instantaneous response to commands from a better was already deeply ingrained.

"...a," Robert added derisively as the dumfounded lad crossed the threshold of the door.

Robert turned beet red at the implied insult as the rest of the guys joined Carl in loud guffaws. Realizing that if he gave vent to his anger, the guys would harass him more, Robert joined in the laughter, although it was clear that he was not amused.

As the guys trooped past him, the first, James, waved a limp wrist at the chagrined youth. The rest naturally followed suit.

Robert clenched his fists in rage as he tried to control his fury. It was bad enough that he feared being the one selected to become the male Lady-in-Waiting, now the guys were teasing him about it!

Bringing up the rear of the group, Carl reached out and patted Robert upon the cheek as one might a petulant girl. "Relax, doll," he sneered. "By the time they get done fixing you up you'll be a real doll. You'll love it when we make out with you!"

The rest of the guys broke out in loud peals of laughter. Robert was ready to pounce on Carl, but knew the other guys would simply pull him off. Then he'd be in trouble for starting a fight. Instead he turned and stormed out the door. Tears of rage and frustration trickled down his cheeks as he ran home. The guys stepped outside to point at his fleeing figure and laugh until he disappeared from sight.

"Boy, you really threw a scare into him," James stated as he patted Carl upon the back in congratulations for the super put-down. "I bet we won't see him until the meeting."

Cruelty was common even with your best buddy.

"Yeah", voiced the rest as they filed back inside. It was Kevin who put a damper on their amusement.

"What if he decides to drop out of the program rather than become a girl," he asked softly.

The chuckles faded quickly.

"I don't think we'll have to worry about that," replied Carl after a bit of thought. "I think his mother would like a daughter. She'll talk him into sticking it out."

Having met Robert's mother, the others had to agree. Soon they were lost in playing a rousing game of Ping-Pong.

Carl proved right in his assessment. Robert and his father, both distraught about the possibilities, seriously considered dropping out of the program because they too assumed he'd be the unfortunate boy chosen for the dubious honor. It was his mother, hoping he would be chosen, that insisted he stay the course. Wisely, she convinced Robert to stay home and avoid the guys for the duration of the holiday.

The holiday was also the time that the soon to be Squires and Ladies-in-Waiting began to pair off, although such pairings were not official until after completion of their novitiate. It was only those chosen to switch roles that had no choice in a life-mate since the female Squire had to become the betrothed for the male Lady-in-Waiting.

As defacto leader of the novitiates, Carl had first choice of the future Ladies-in-Waiting. As far as he was concerned, there was only one choice... a very satisfying choice... JOAN!

To this end Carl went out of his way to strut peacock-like before her. At every opportunity he'd walk up to her and casually place an arm about her waist. Pulling her close, he'd gallantly kiss her upon the cheek.

"Just think, doll face," he'd whisper hotly into her ear as he nuzzled her soft hair. "In a few weeks we'll be able to light fires inside each other. I'll make you feel so good you'll beg for more! I want my girl to be dainty and cute. I know you'll look fantastic in pretty dresses with ribbons in your hair."

Joan judiciously kept her mouth shut, meekly accepting his demeaning sentiments while inwardly boiling. Her patience was sorely tested when he'd remind her of their former rivalry. Several times he made her blush as he went into great detail about what they would do. Fortunately she was sure she would become the female Squire and thus could avoid becoming Carl's mate. But the prospect of being at the bottom of the pecking order to a thusly spurned Carl seemed an equally arduous ordeal.

During Boot Camp, further evaluations of the novitiates had been made. It was this evaluation which would determine who became a Squire and who became a Lady-in-Waiting. The decision about who should become the female Squire was relatively easy for this group. Of the five girls, Joan Cleaver, Susan Green, Marsha Brady, Debra Scott, and Carol Derr, only Joan had requested consideration for the switch. Since she met the criteria, she most likely would be the one selected. If she had missed the criteria, another girl, possibly from another enclave, would have been selected.

The difficulty came in selecting the boy to become the Lady-in Waiting. None of the boys elected that option.

After the holiday, the anxious novitiates and their families met with the selection committee to receive their assignments. As the meeting began, commitment forms were distributed to all novitiates and each parent. A signature from each was required.

Once signed, there would be no escape from the ranks of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY without complete ostracism for the entire family. This meant loss of all rights and privileges, including the jobs of the parents. Once signed, there was little choice but to accept the assignment a novice received. Although reluctant, Frank and Robert Row signed their form. Everyone else did so with grand expectations.

Once the forms were collected, witnessed, and notarized, the novitiates and their families were congratulated. At this point, the novitiates ate a light lunch and bade farewell to their parents. The five boys and five girls boarded a minibus to be transported to the regional medical center where they would undergo an intensive two week therapy program. During the trip, their mentor briefly explained what treatments they would be receiving.

"These treatments are what make members of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY unique," he began. "Specialized enzymes are injected into your endocrine system which result in altered hormonal secretions to make the changes that will make you a Squire or Lady-in-Waiting. The cost of these treatments is quite astronomical and far beyond the reach of society in general. The treatments are also quite dangerous unless the recipient is in near perfect health.

"The physical enhancements the treatments engender are nothing short of miraculous," he continued. "Your body's natural immune system becomes so effective that you'll never become infected... no colds, no flu, no AIDS, nothing! In addition, any injuries you might suffer heal almost five times as fast as normal. Your strength and stamina will become almost superhuman."

A wicked smile came over his face as he moved into the next part. "One aspect of the treatments that I'm sure you'll be delighted with is a heightened sex drive. Squires became satyr-like while the Ladies-in-Waiting became virtual nymphs. This is why the CHIVALRY SOCIETY has such an extremely liberal sexuality policy."

Carl, James, Kevin, and Harold cheered enthusiastically while Joan, Susan, Marsha, Debra, Carol, and Robert blushed deeply.

Joan became a bit anxious at this revelation. Sexually, she was not yet attracted to boys or girls. The knowledge that once she became a Squire she'd become a Satyr both terrified her and made her wet her lips in anticipation. Cautiously she looked at Robert. If she became the Squire and he became the Lady-in-Waiting they'd be coupled. She wondered how Robert would handle being a cute little nymph to her satyr. With a barely controlled chuckle she tried to imagine him wearing a dress.

Robert sank into his seat. How had he ever allowed his mother to talk him into sticking it out? How could he allow himself to become a sexy nymph? Looking at Carl who was leering at the girls, he felt himself grow faint. He felt certain that Carl would not be satisfied until he'd made out with every Lady-in-Waiting. For most of the rest of the trip he was in a melancholy mood.

The mentor didn't miss the reactions of the novitiates. In fact, he quite expected it. Nevertheless, he continued his explanations.

“Fat will never accumulate despite lack of exercise and overeating. Heart disease and cancer will never develop. Once fully matured into an adult at the prime of physical abilities, which for most people is about the twenty to twenty five year old range, aging will seem to cease. How long this will last we do not yet know, but so far no one who has been treated has shown any signs of aging. All your senses will be heightened and more resilient to abuse while your mental abilities increase. Compared to the untreated masses, you will virtually become a super-being. Unfortunately, the changes were not genetic. Since your genes aren't altered, the enhancements cannot be passed onto your children.

“In addition,” he added. “Plastic surgery will be performed to correct any physical imperfections and to enhance your appearance. For the two selected to switch genders, included in the treatments you are about to receive will be unique enzymes that will cause the female Squire to develop as if she had been born masculine and the male Lady-in-Waiting to develop as if he had been born dainty and feminine. This aspect of therapy program will ensure that ALL the Squires and Ladies-in-Waiting conform to the physical ideals society expects of nobility.

“An Adam's apple will be created for the female Squire,” he stated calmly. “Injections will prevent breast development and create enhanced male musculature and skin tone while at the same time allowing the female reproductive organs to remain functional. Artificial but functional male sexual organs will be created by plastic surgery to cover the external female organs. Pregnancy will occur but only through artificial insemination. The result would be such that even in the nude, the female Squire will appear to be a prime example of well endowed manhood.

“For the male Lady-in Waiting, the therapy is often emotionally crushing,” he added compassionately. “The Adam's apple will be removed and the larynx adjusted to a sweet soprano. Special injections will assure the development of firm, well-shaped 'B' sized breasts fully capable of nursing an infant. The nose will be reshaped into a cute little upturned button. His lips will be reshaped to be sensually kissable. Pink lips, rosy cheeks, pale blue eyelids, mascara, eye liner, and eyebrows will be permanently

applied in a manner similar to tattooing. All body hair, beard, and sideburns will be permanently eliminated with electrolysis. The eyebrows will also be reshaped into delicate arches. The ears will be reshaped to dainty girlishness and double pierced. But the worst blow for the boy will be the permanent tucking away of his male sexual organs and the creation of fully functional artificial femininity. The tucked male organs will atrophy but special injections will ensure that viable sperm is still produced. However it will only be retrievable by a doctor.

“The female Knight and the male Damsel will be betrothed and eventually marry,” he continued in a stern voice. “A doctor will extract the sperm from the male Damsel and use it to artificially impregnate the female Knight. The female Knight will carry the child to term, but the male Damsel will nurse and mother the child.”

Carl turned to leer at Joan. Joan simply returned his glare, which made him shift his gaze to Robert. Robert, already slumped in his seat, paled and looked nervously out the window. Carl chuckled at the discomfort of his companion.

Joan saw what Carl was doing to Robert, and thinking that the unhappy lad would be her spouse, felt protective. “Knock it off, Carl,” she hissed in a menacing tone that brought silence to the entire vehicle.

Carl was shocked at the vehemence, and looked at her askance. Before he could reply, the monitor spoke.

“It's quite obvious that some of you are feeling apprehensive about what will happen,” he stated calmly. “Such feelings are normal and accepted. At this point, I'm the only one who knows which of you will switch genders. When we arrive at our destination, I'll hand the information to the staff. They will take each of you to a private room where you will receive your treatment. All of you will be different. Some more than others. Be kind to each other. The ones who change gender will need your support and friendship. Don't alienate yourselves. The ten of you will be the leaders of your class at school. You must stay together and cooperate to set a proper example.”

“Which of us will make the gender change,” Joan asked boldly.

The mentor looked at the anxious group and smiled. “Joan will be the Squire since she requested the change and meets the requirements.”

“All right,” she exclaimed happily. Everyone turned to look at her happily smiling face to see that she was pleased.

Only Carl seemed upset since he thought it meant that he would not enjoy making out with her.

“As for which boy is to become the Lady-in-Waiting,” the mentor stated cryptically. “All I'll say is that it isn't Robert.”

Robert sat upright and whooped for joy. He smiled to see the worried expressions on the faces of the other guys. In addition, he realized that he'd be the number four man in the group.

Pandemonium reigned as the novitiates burst into stunned chatter. If Robert wasn't going to be the male Lady-in-Waiting, who would it be? The guys guiltily scanned each other, trying to figure out which of them would be the unlucky one. It was quite obvi-



ous from their wide, fear filled eyes and beads of perspiration that James, Kevin, and Harold were scared.

Carl was a bit shook-up, but still assumed that his position as leader of the novitiates he would not be the one chosen. With a look of longing he gazed at Joan. Five years of frustrations putting up with her tomboy competition had blessedly ended when Joan gave up her boyishness in favor of the ruffles and lace she needed to make the grade to become a novitiate. Making out with her would have been the icing on the cake. Now he would have to put up with her unfeminine ways for the rest of their lives. With a sigh he turned to arrogantly survey the other guys, trying to picture each dressed as a cute girl.

Joan looked at first James, then Kevin, Harold, and finally Carl. She too tried to picture what each guy would look like as a cute girl. Her gaze lingered upon Carl. In her heart she hoped Carl would be the one selected since his arrogance was so ungentlemanly. Such a development would be the icing on the cake. She was well aware that he had been delighted with her adoption of femininity and his intentions to be the one to take her virginity. If he were the one to become the male Lady-in-Waiting it would be she who eventually took his virginity! He'd have to be dainty and feminine to her masculinity! Revenge would be so sweet. Besides, it would throw the arrogant boy from the top of the Squires to the bottom of the Ladies-in-Waiting! With a sigh she looked away, it was best not to get her hopes too high.

The rest of the trip was made in silence as all were lost in their own thoughts and fears. When they arrived at the medical center, each was assigned to a nurse who escorted them to their room. All were expected to strip and bathe, using a special antibacterial soap to cleanse and disinfect their bodies. After bathing, they slipped on standard issue hospital gowns and disposable slippers.

Soon they joined the lines of other nervous novitiates from the various enclaves in the region. Each underwent a full body scan to map the physiology of their bodies. This would aid the plastic surgeons in determining how best to improve their appearance and to establish a base from which to compare the changes the treatments would engender.

Blood samples were drawn to enable the treatments to be tailored to the needs of the individual. Doctors checked noses, throats, eyes, rectums, and reproductive organs. Nurses measured their height and weight, took their blood pressure, EKGs, and EEGs. During this time, they ate a light supper laced with relaxants and sedatives.

By the time everything was completed, the youths were physically and mentally exhausted. Worries as to who might be the unfortunate boy to become the male Lady-in-Waiting were pushed from their thoughts as the need to sleep took precedence. All were in a deep, dreamless slumber by ten p.m.

About one A.M., the sedated youths who been selected to switch genders were transferred from their rooms to the surgery to begin their transformations. Once all the natural organs were tucked and the artificial organs created, reconstruction of the faces began. Once all these novitiates were treated, the rest of the novitiates were brought in for the minor reconstruction they needed to meet the image of a member of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY.

Because of this, it was not until they awoke that Carl, James, Kevin, and Harold would learn whether they had been the one selected to switch gender. The evaluation committee did not really have a difficult time deciding who was to make the switch. By invoking membership privilege, the choice was clear by considering two factors.

First, they did not like to select the son of one of their own. This narrowed the choice to Carl and Robert.

Secondly, they did not like to see the scion of a commoner emerge as the leader of the Squires. Thus the selection of which boy was to become the male Lady-in-Waiting fell upon Carl. The fact that Carl became quite arrogant about his emergent leadership sealed his fate by silencing any who might object.

Two days later, James awoke with a start. The sudden movement brought mild pain as the bandages upon his face pressed against the surgical wounds. Naturally he explored the bandages, wondering how they had changed his appearance. Then the worry that he might have been the “one” struck.

Quickly his hands flew to his groin where he was relieved to find everything in place. As he relaxed, he wondered if it had been Kevin or Harold. The thought that it might be Carl never occurred. Kevin and Harold both experienced remarkably identical awakenings.

That same morning Robert awoke refreshed and happy. Quickly he examined the bandages upon his face, then calmly checked to make sure that he was still all together. With a smile of relief upon his bandaged face, he relaxed and wondered which of the guys had been selected.

Doctors came in and removed the bandages. The worst of the swelling and bruising from the surgery had already faded due to the remarkable treatments that speeded up their healing. James, Kevin, Harold, and Robert went to their assigned seats in the classroom to begin their instructions on proper hygiene and safe sex.

As the guys greeted each other, they were confused to see that they were all present. It was only after a few moments of confused questioning that they realized that Carl was not with them. The joviality of their reunion was shattered by the knowledge that their leader had been selected to be the male Lady-in-Waiting! Naturally, the others looked to James for guidance.

“I guess none of us ever expected it to be Carl,” he spoke softly but with a hint of delight that Carl had been the one selected. From the reaction of the others it was clear that they sensed his true feelings. In an effort to appease them he hastily added with mock concern, “I wonder how he's handling it?”

Before the discussion went any further the instructor called the class to order.

“I assume you've all figured out just which of your group has become the male Lady-in-Waiting,” he growled in a stern voice that immediately grabbed the attention of everyone.

He then followed with, “That former boy is not going to have an easy time adapting. It will be up to you to make her feel welcome and comfortable. She and the female Squire are still sedated and will be for two weeks while they heal. They'll be awakened

after you go home, and the new couple will help each other adapt to their new roles. As you know they will be mates. For the first nine months, they are not to be included in partner swapping. They'll need that time to grow accustomed to their new bodies. After that, they will be free to join you in all your activities."

"Sex is beautiful and wonderful," he told them. "You are free to engage in sexual activities with anyone from your group, be it male or female, in couples or groups, as long as all participants willingly agree to take part. We expect you to explore your interests and likes. We encourage you to explore. ALL methods and styles of sex, including homosexuality. You may not want to continue practicing all aspects of your explorations, but you should at least try it so that you'll be tolerant of those who find the different variations enjoyable."

The teacher went on to instruct them in how to avoid getting so carried away that they might lose their virginity, stressing that the male was just as responsible as the female. It was further stressed that although partner swapping was allowed and encouraged, it was not required. No one had a right to force another person to engage in sexual activities.

Sexual activities outside their group were prohibited. Once they became a Knight or Damsel, relationships could be enjoyed with any member of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY. Under no circumstances were members allowed to engage in sexual activities with anyone not of the CHIVALRY SOCIETY.

The guys, and the girls who received similar instructions, were quite sobered by the revelations. The remainder of their stay was not filled with classroom sessions, although there were intensive daily seminars.

Plenty of free time was allowed for the boys and girls of each group to meet and begin to practice what they were learning. The powerful treatments had put their hormones into high gear. Thus all were eager to begin exploring their sexuality.

Every time the group gathered, the discussion invariably turned to Carl and Joan. All wondered how Carl would handle the unexpected transition. They were curious how both would appear. They were well aware that the surgeons were so skillful that it would be impossible for an untrained person to tell which CHIVALRY SOCIETY members had switched genders.

Naturally James and the rest assumed that James would ascend to the leadership of the group. James barely controlled his excitement as he looked forward to utilizing his position as leader of their group to have his way with all the girls. Seducing Carla would be most satisfying! James evidenced his feelings of superiority in all his interactions with the others.

This made the rest resentful since they felt offended by his smug and snotty attitude, after all, he hadn't earned the right to be their leader.

Unfortunately, they felt unable to advance anyone else since all had already submitted to his authority and position when he had been number two.

They realized their group would not function as smoothly and efficiently as would have been possible under Carl. Thus their future was not as bright as it had been. James was the only one unaware of their unspoken feelings.