

# Bratsy's My Name

Thosl spotted a blue coloured bird in a tree. She turned her crimson gaze on it and turned it to stone. It fell out of the tree. She retrieved it. The circle was all set up where she had cleared away the snow and dead plant growth. A short distance away was the goat that she had procured in the Tolkeen market. It was waiting for the other circle, which she had yet make. Thosl held the stone bird in her claws and began to cast the spell to return it to its fleshy natural form. As soon as she had unstoned it it began to squawk incessantly. She gave it a gentle squeeze until it fell silent. She began the incantation for the summoning circle. Reaching the end of the chant she ripped off the bird's head and shouted, "Acba yin acba yin Agu."

The circle blazed to life with scarlet light. In the centre appeared five big grey canines, wolves. She bade them to come out of the circle. They padded off of it careful not to smudge the circle. Since it was drawn in blood it would not blow away even if the day turned windy. She grabbed the first of the wolves and tore its head off like she had the bird. She grabbed the escaping mystical essence. She slaughtered the next three and similarly ensnared their power. The last she used as the sacrifice to summon another batch of the animals.

After she had slaughtered the last of the third batch,

sixteen of the animals in all, she set about creating the next circle. She used the outer rim of the blood circle as the base. A thought occurred to her. Three of them still had their heads mostly attached. She pushed the dangling heads up to the bodies and turned the carcasses to stone for Kleese. She thought he might eat one of the fresh ones too and she might have one herself later. She returned to her circle making. She brought the goat over to the circle and tied it to two stakes she had driven in the middle. She then stepped back into the summoner's portion of the circle and began the incantation.

Reaching the end of the chant she crushed the goat's skull and shouted, "Pein yin keron."

The circle did not glow, or if it did it was the same colour as the ley line energy all about her. Kneeling in the centre of the circle where the goat had been was the being that she had summoned. It stood up slowly on its two goat-like legs and stared at her with its beady green eyes. It was not much different below the waist than the Staff Sergeant in Max's recon group. There the similarities ended. It was rather homely looking. Its skin was a dark grey and it had big droopy furless goat-ears on either side of its somewhat animal face. It had two slightly curved tightly spiralled horns on the top of its head sticking out of its greasy black hair. Thosl whispered the demon's species name, "Nechistai sila, the Unclean Force."

He spoke in a mid-pitched nasal child's voice, "The

name is Bratsy, what's it to ya?"

She caught its attentions with her claws right in front of its face. "You are going to be my minion. You'd like that wouldn't you?"

At first he shook his head but then she brought one razor sharp talon to his eye. Then he nodded slowly. She grabbed him by the shoulder and he made a bleating sound like a child imitating a goat. She began to cast her first spell to hold the Unclean Demon still. He was under her control right now for the most part. For the next three days if she commanded it he would do it, but it would slack off if allowed and she wanted it for more than three days. She constrained it with her spell. She began chanting a new spell to put it in a trance. She finished that spell and then cast it a second time. She would take the time it was held in the trance within a trance to bend the creature to her will.

When it was done Bratsy would be her willing slave. She wouldn't control him directly but he would be more than willing to do as she pleased. He wouldn't even know it was anything but normal to do as she said. Soon enough it would be normal and he would gratefully serve her. Her little retinue of helpers was growing: two poltergeists, one haunting entity, and now Bratsy.

She finished whispering things to the entranced demon and it slowly came back to its senses. She asked him, "Would you like to eat, little one? There is fresh wolf meat."

"Can we cook it?"

"We can cook it back at the camp."

"Okay. I'm not big on rare meat."

"Drag a couple into this sack and I'll call the camp."

He nodded and took the sack from her. She turned the radio on and called the camp. "This is Thosl ready for pick up. Over."

"Thosl, this is Rad at base camp. What's your location? Over."

"I am at the nexus where Shisen left me. I have some cargo, and a passenger. Over."

"A passenger? Nevermind. I will be there A.S.A.P. Over."

"Over and out Captain."

"Over and out from base camp."

Bratsy came over with the sack full of wolf. She patted him on the head. Thosl took one of the stoned wolves and set it up right. With a little driving into the hard frozen ground it sat steady. Bratsy climbed onto it. Thosl settled herself to the ground with her legs crossed. Bratsy said, "It's gonna be dark soon."

"Do you like that?"

He nodded emphatically, "Oh yes. The light is bad. Very bad."

"Hurts does it?"

"No, saps my strength and makes me weak. Can't change shape either."

"What can you metamorphose into?"

"I can turn into a cat or a rat or a pig or a wolf. Can you turn into anything?"

"Those things and more with a spell."

"Where'd you find the stone wolves? Did you carve them?"

"I turned them to stone."

"Oh can I see that?"

Thosl snaked her neck around and fired her crimson beams at one of the remaining wolves. It turned to stone instantly. Bratsy was bouncing up and down and clapping when she twisted back. He told her, "We're going to get along well mister."

"You've used your once to call me that. It will be Lady or my name, Thosl."

He stuck his hand into his armpit and looked at the ground. She asked him, "Can you show me a spell?"

He got off of the stone wolf and began to chant. He gestured with his free hand. When he was done there was three more of him. All four of him began to run in circles. It would be a handy spell. He stopped running and went back to sitting on the wolf. The other illusory duplicates sat in mid air. He dispelled them.

A short time later Rad arrived with Max's Big Boss ATV. Bratsy looked up at it in awe, "It's huge."

Rad opened the door and jumped straight down to the ground. "You picked up an orphan?"

"I assure you that he is no child. This is Bratsy, one of my new agents."

Rad looked like he was about to laugh but he looked at Thosl and stopped. "Sergeant Thosl, may I have a word with you in private?"

Thosl said, "Certainly Captain Rad." To Bratsy she said, "Please climb up into the vehicle and do not touch anything."

He nodded and hopped up right straight into the ATV. Rad stepped a short distance away. Thosl stood where she was a moment and then followed him. He asked her, "Did the General okay letting you bring along your own agents? Where did you even get agents?"

"Max was quite clear in his orders that I do what I must to best meet the requirements of my position." she half-lied.

"So where you'd get him. He looks like somebody's child."

"Are you perhaps referring to the female from the recon group?"

Rad gave her a look that was worthy of coming from a basilisk. She told him, "I have just summoned Bratsy to my side this very day."

"Summoned? He's been sitting in some town somewhere and you just picked him up, or called him on the radio?"

"Yes." she lied. "Is there a reason for all of these questions Captain?"

"I just find it odd that you're out here bolstering our ranks. We're on a relatively tight budget as it is. Just

how much do you intend to pay your agents? Who are these other agents?"

"They are about you right now. Three entities, spirits if you will."

Rad looked about nervously. He shouted suddenly and began to cower. Thosl said, "Alright now, leave the Captain alone."

Rad straightened up and pulled at the top edge of his armour. "I wish things would stop manipulating my emotions. In addition I wish things would stop goosing me. Let's get back to camp, it's dark enough already."

Thosl nodded. Rad opened up the rear section of the vehicle and Thosl stored the sack of meat and the stoned wolves. She climbed up into the Big Boss making it rock from side to side. Inside, she slumped in the seat and tried to keep her head out of the Captain's way. Bratsy sat between them straddling a console. The trip was short, which Thosl was thankful for. She and Bratsy could have transformed themselves and run the distance really.

When they arrived Kleese was there waiting for them. He came up to them at a run. Bratsy stood behind Thosl's leg, one hand barely touching her. Thosl scratched under the massive bear's chin. She told Bratsy, "Fear not, this is my familiar Kleese. Kleese gave Bratsy a big deep sniffing and then sat down on his haunches. Bratsy slowly stepped out from behind Thosl. With a shaking hand he tentatively reached out toward the bear.

He obviously knew that it was no ordinary ursine, not even for a familiar.

Thosl retrieved her talisman from Chris and thanked him for watching Kleese. She fed Kleese some fresh wolf, not that he was much of a meat-eater. Then she skinned some and cooked it for Bratsy and herself. They sat by the fire that Max always seemed to insist on. Bratsy chewed away excitedly at his hunk of meat and stared about at everything. When Max came around Rad grabbed him by the arm and led him away. Thosl ignored them. The General seemed to her to be the type to let things like slide. He seemed pretty clear that what she did was her business if it didn't get in his way.