

Sarah Elizabeth Briggs

The Captain's Wife

Heiress To The Title: High Priestess Of Atlantis



Life is amazingly simple for the High Priestess of Atlantis.

Well, perhaps there is nothing amazing about that. There is very little left of the White Priesthood. You have very few duties; you need only produce a female child and, when she is 13, you teach her what you know of your Atlantean heritage (which does not take long to teach). Of course, you also bear the Soulstone of Atlantis. Other than this, your life is indistinguishable from that of any other homemaker.

However, you are totally responsible for lost Atlantis. Some nights you think of this and cannot sleep. The Soulstone is a beautiful thing; a many faceted stone entirely gilded. You have come to hate the sight of it.

The sleepless nights ended when Benjamin Briggs courted and then married you. He is your perfect soul mate. Together you are both better than you ever believed you could be. Your love knows no bounds, and for a time thoughts of your husband drove away all your worries about your pointless yet unbearable responsibility.

The sleepless nights returned with the birth of little Lizzie. You had born a daughter, and some day you would share your secret with her just as your mother had with you

on your thirteenth birthday, and as had your grandmother and all your female ancestors for three thousand years.

It is not as if your daughter were not already the source of enough worries. She seems so unhappy. Lizzie has always been a quiet child but lately... well you have not heard her laugh during this voyage. Instead of playing Lizzie seems to study the world around her. At her age she should be curious about everything, but her behavior is so odd. She just stands staring at everything, never speaking, never showing emotion. And her eyes, Lizzie seems to gaze at the world through eyes a thousand years old. Of course that is a silly way to interpret Lizzie's

The Final Voyage of the Mary Celeste

behavior, but clearly Lizzie is very troubled. You wish you could discover what is wrong and comfort her.

At least she is healthy. When the Mary Celeste left New York Lizzie was not at all well. Twice daily doses of medicine and the good sea air have taken care of that. One less thing to worry about.

You wish everything were so easily cured. You have yet another problem you cannot seem to make go away. You were once unfaithful to Benjamin, and your former lover, Albert Richardson, will not admit that your affair is over.

It was a stupid, foolish thing, and to this day you cannot understand why you did it. It began five years ago when Albert served as Benjamin's First Mate on the Sea Foam. Albert claims it was love at first sight for both of you, and perhaps it was for him, for why else would he have betrayed his Captain and his friend? But you remember it somewhat differently. For the longest time you were only friends, though admittedly the best of friends. Then, almost a year ago, it became something else. It only lasted a month, but it was a wild, exciting month. Your Grandmama told you that the Atlanteans are a much more passionate people than most folk today, and perhaps some of their nature was awakened in you. It matters not why it happened, you came to your senses and ended the foolishness. It was wrong and you pray someday that you will be able to make Albert see this. For now he continues to make deluded plans for running away together. You love only one man and that is Benjamin, but Albert refuses to believe that. Albert even claims that Lizzie is his child. Outrageous! While it is possible you discount that possibility. Lizzie has Benjamin's chin.

It pains you to see your friend hurt himself so, but Albert refuses to listen to reason and you can no longer bear to listen to his ravings. It has all been too much, but that has not been all. The worst came with the dawn three days ago. You awoke with a great sense of dread; nameless, inexplicable dread. Benjamin assures you that it is nothing, but your fears continued to grow. You are sure it is to do with the Soulstone and its grim heritage.

You are convinced that the Mary Celeste has sailed into Atlantean waters. Far below you must lie Atlantis, as well as the Black Wizards. The Soulstone has come home.

It is all so utterly pointless. You know that there is no greater sin than the taking of life; that much of the White Priesthood's teaching remains, at least. But it is hypocritical to act as if someday the Black Wizards will be brought back to life. There is no one left researching the necessary magic; no one left who can. Atlantis and its foul population will remain forever at the bottom of the sea, is it better to admit that and be done with it.

So you cast your only spell on the Soulstone, ordering it to violently release its magic tonight. Then you threw the Soulstone into the sea.

You are not concerned that the ship lies becalmed, you have most of a days running since you cast away the Soulstone and the Mary Celeste is more than far enough away to escape the explosion. The Soulstone will destroy itself two hours after sunset, three hours from now. Perhaps you will be able to see the explosion.

There is still a lingering sense of dread, you suspect it will last until the Mary Celeste sails on, leaving these unpleasant waters behind.

What you feel most of all now is relief, relief lost Atlantis will remain lost and never trouble you again. You feel like a new woman. You know that Benjamin will probably need your assistance now that he has strange women aboard his ship. Also you must fetch Lizzie, as it is



The Final Voyage of the Mary Celeste

time for her medicine. At this moment these simple things are your most immediate concerns. That is truly a wonderful feeling.

Goals at a Glance

Tend to your daughter, discover what is troubling her. Aid and comfort your husband. Also aid the crew where necessary. Resolve your affair with First Mate Richardson; amicably if possible, but make it clear that it is over. Put all thoughts of Atlantis behind you, this is a grim burden you shall not have to pass to your daughter.

Roleplaying Hint

You are a demure but spirited New England housewife. Your Atlantean heritage is deeply hidden.

The Other Characters

Captain Briggs - Your husband. He fills your life and there could never be another man for you. Your brief, inexplicable infidelity has done nothing to change this.

First Mate Albert Richardson - He acts like a hurt puppy around you. He is too good a man to destroy himself like this, but you cannot help him if he will not help himself. He must understand that you do not love him.

Lizzie Briggs - Your daughter, age three. Whatever are you to do with this child? Benjamin fears that he may not be a fit parent. Nonsense. You know that it is not in your husband's nature to show love, but he tries ever so hard.

Second Mate Dane Gilling - You hardly know him, though he seems nice enough, and a good ship's mate as well.

Albert Head, The Cook - Never have you met a man so fond of seafood. An outstanding cook so long as the meal is fish. For any other meal you might be his better.

The Four Johanns - The Mary Celeste's German seamen, all named Johann. Lorenzen is a competent man but of such sour disposition you wonder if one of his parents might have been a crab. Volkert and Goodschad are inseparable friends, and your husband's most loyal men. Also, Mr. Goodschad is a bit of a child at heart and has befriended Lizzie. This can only do her good.

Martens is the cause of some trouble. He does his work well enough, but he is always seeing things (sea serpents and pirates and such) and the rest of the crew are quite tired of his alarming fantasies. Benjamin thinks he drinks, though Martens cannot have had any liquor aboard Benjamin's ship!

The Castaway and the Stowaway - You know nothing about these mysterious women, but for the seemingly impossible means they have used to come aboard. However, you know that Benjamin has never been comfortable dealing with women and you expect he will need your assistance.

The Cat - Lizzie seems to be fond of the cat (at least she often seems to be studying it). Otherwise you would have it put ashore in Genoa and left it behind. It is an irritating animal, always underfoot, and with an unnerving tendency to sit and stare.

Items

Patent Medicine – Elizabeth hates taking this, but it is good for her. She's due for a dose.

