

Natural Talent

The Gifted and the Cursed

Dark Moon

Book 1

By: Phillipa Colman

Prologue

This is my story; well actually this is all our stories, all us mutants at least. It starts here with me, Jinx. That's my mutant name. All of us have special powers and none are exactly the same. The question is, are we gifted or are we just cursed? I think that depends on who you ask but it all begins here with me, when we seem to be cursed. Life might change but we are not liked and so we are in hiding. People are developing a "Cure" for us but what kind of cure can be found for a genetic defect? None really but they try, one thing is that we are good at hiding and they can't test their cure on any mutants. So here's the thing, my power is to curse people sort of. It's hard to explain but the truth is that my name kind of says it all. I have four sisters who also are mutants but that is not very important yet. Mutants are not very well

known yet but we are being found out more about in ways like security cameras and things like that. I think they don't really know what mutants are and so fear us, but they are the ones who started this whole thing. I'm not saying they made us mutants but it's a bit like in the Middle Ages when people would be hunted because they were "witches" or "werewolves" or something like that. The only difference is that I'm not sure if witches and werewolves existed back then but mutants do know. I can also shape shift into a Monticore (a red lion with a scorpion tail and bat wings). It is fun and I like flying. There are of course draw backs to being me the main one is weird because I'm not really alive. Well I am but I am a spirit. An undead if you want to put it that way. That is a drawback for some other mutants too. The second one is that I have red eyes. My hair is red too but that could be considered normal. Most mutants can't go to school due to their looks and so look at where I am a red eyed undead freak. Of course if

there are drawbacks there are bound to be pluses. The pluses are much fewer though there are some. OK enough of the background information let's get started with the actual story.

Chapter 1

I was just finishing the last of my supper when I heard a sound outside.

"I have to go see something be back soon," I told my mother.

"Sure honey," she replied. So I went outside to find out what it was and my four sisters looked up at me when I got outside.

"Hey what's up?" Nora asked me.

"What are you doing?" I asked.

"Nothing," Helen replied.

"Don't lie," I said.

"Were making something if you must know," Kristen said.

"Like what?" I asked.

"Curiosity killed the cat," Meredith said.

"The thing is I'm not a cat," I said.

"Maybe you are, maybe not," Meredith teased.

"What?" I asked. She was not normally the one to tease people.

"Um... Forget that," She said looking at Kristen for help.

"Why don't you just go to your room and let us older kids be in peace," Helen said.

"You're the same age as me," I reminded her. We were twins.

"I came out first," She said.

"No you didn't," I said.

"Yes I did," she replied.

"You want to prove that?" I asked.

"I came out first so both of you can lay off," Kristen said. Kristen was like a second mother to us sometimes which got a little annoying.

"Fine," I said annoyed at all of them.

"One day," I heard Kristen tell the others. 'One day what?' I thought, 'I'm the same age as Helen why can't I know too?' I put my stuff away from dinner and went up to my room. I sat on my bed and started meditating.

"Jessi," Helen called.

"I'm meditating," I called back but I got off my bed and opening the door, "What now?"

"We want to talk to you," she replied.

"About what?" I asked.

"Come and you'll find out," she answered not giving anything away.

"Do you even know how annoying you are sometimes?" I asked as I followed her towards Kristen's room.

"As annoying as you," she retorted.

"I'm not annoying," I protested.

"Then neither am I," she said pointedly.

"Can't you two ever get along?" Meredith asked as she came out of her room and joined us.

"Were twins," Helen replied.

"It's what we do," I put in. We went into Kristen's room and Nora was lying on Kristen's bed. She sat up as we came in. Kristen was sitting on her window seat.

"Hi you three," Kristen said as Meredith sat on her desk and Nora took the chair. I

took the large beanie cushion that was in a corner.

“What’s this about Kristen?” Nora asked.

“You three don’t know either?” I asked them.

“Would I have asked if we did?” she replied.

“There’s always a possibility,” I answered.

“You’re starting to sound like Meredith,” Nora told me.

“Hey,” Meredith said.

“I don’t know she reminds me more of you,” Helen joined in.

“Nah, she’s more like you,” Meredith answered.

“She’s my twin,” Helen and I said together.

“If you four want to know what’s going on,” Kristen said butting in, “be quite.”

“Ok,” we all said.

“I’m not sure if I’m right so don’t hold me to this,” she started, “but I have reason to

believe that our mother and father aren't are real parents.

"So you're saying that we've been adopted?" Helen confirmed.

"Yes," Kristen replied.

"But that means we might not be related," Nora said looking around. It would make sense since we all looked different.

"No, I believe we are related," Kristen assured us, "I just think we don't know who our real parents are."

"Who would have adopted five siblings who don't even look alike?" Meredith asked.

"Apparently, they did," Kristen replied.

"That's not the whole story is it?" I asked.

"No," she replied, "there's more to it than that. Have you ever noticed that there is something strange about us?"

"Well sort of," I said.

"I don't mean that we don't fit in I mean really strange.

"Yeah," I replied.

"Same," Helen put in.

"I've felt strange some times," Nora confirmed.

"It is strange," Meredith said thoughtfully, "So yeah."

"What does that have to do with anything?" I asked.

"Have you ever heard about mutants?" Kristen asked.

"Yes," we all replied.

"Can you just get to the point?" Nora asked impatiently.

"I think we're mutants," Kristen replied.

"What?" Meredith asked stunned.

"That's ridiculous," I put in.

"Not at all," Kristen said.

"Who would adopt a band of mutants?" I asked.

"They don't know," she replied.

"Why did we get abandoned then?" Helen asked.

"I don't think we did," Kristen replied.

"What were you four working on before?" I asked.

"Helen," Kristen said turning to her.

"But...", she replied.

"Helen," Kristen repeated.

"...Fine," she said and took something out of her pocket, "It's an early birthday present."

"Then give it to me on my birthday," I replied.

"See told you," She replied putting it back.

"Alright," Meredith said, "now that we have that sorted out let's get back to the matter at hand."

"I agree," Nora replied. I hadn't realized that she hadn't said much for a while.

"Why do you think we are mutants?" Helen asked.

"I'm not sure but I have this feeling," she replied.

"Does liking mythology have something to do with it?" Helen asked.

"You like mythology too?" I asked.

"So do I," Meredith said.

"And I," Nora put in.

“We all seem to,” Kristen said finally, “but I don’t think that has anything to do with it.”

“What strikes me as odd is that, if we are mutants then why did we not find our powers yet?” Meredith said. Right after she said it a cold wind blew through the room.

Chapter 2