

Curled Geese
by Claudia I. Haas

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CAST: 2 (1m, 1f)

Eliza: f, 20's, no-nonsense young professional

*Zalzabar: m, ageless, genie who is hard of hearing

PLACE:

Eliza's small living room

TIME: Today

PROP: an antique glass bottle as one might find in a flea market, a large knife, laundry basket with laundry

SOUND EFFECTS: sounds of bird wings (optional) and geese honking

*Zalzabar should be dressed rather outlandishly. You can go with a traditional "genie" look or let your imagination take you away!

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AT RISE we are in Eliza's sparsely furnished living room. A laundry basket containing clothes is on the floor. We hear a blood-curdling scream coming from the kitchen area and ELIZA runs in holding a newly washed bottle and brandishing a chef's knife followed by ZALZABAR.

ELIZA

Get out of here before I - break this bottle and -

ZALZABAR

Nooo! My home! Don't hurt my home!

ELIZA

Just - leave!

(ZALZABAR sobs.)

ELIZA

Don't do that -

ZALZABAR

You wanted me to grieve. I am grieving - for you. And my bottle. I will do anything for you - three times. I fulfilled your first wish and grieved. You have two more wishes.

ELIZA

What the -

ZALZABAR

Three wishes. You let me out of the bottle - so you get three wishes! One down, two to go.

ELIZA

My boyfriend sent you, didn't he? He's always doing goofy stuff like that.

ZALZABAR

Joy-bend? What's a Joy-bend?

ELIZA

BOY-FRIEND! You don't hear too well.

ZALZABAR

Ears? Yes, my ears are a thousand years old. What do you wish?

ELIZA

I don't wish! Game's over! Go back to wherever you came from!

ZALZABAR

Then give me the bottle.

ELIZA

That's mine! Bought and paid for!

ZALZABAR

But – that's my home!

ELIZA

Go! And tell Sam this wasn't funny!

ZALZABAR

I do not know this Sam, dear Ma'am.

ELIZA

I'm not a "ma'am? You don't know Sam?

ZALZABAR

Nope.

ELIZA

Then you are a PERVERT! *I could kill you and be acquitted by the weekend!*

ZALZABAR

Oh good. Now I can hear you! I am indeed your servant. In fact, I am your slave. But if you wish three wishes, I will be released.

ELIZA

I DON'T WISH! Just go!

ZALZABAR

Is that your wish?

ELIZA

Yes! No! Don't believe in wishes. They come to no good.

ZALZABAR

Wish for a million dollars! I'm told that's what most people wish for!

ELIZA

That's ill-gotten gains! If I wish for a million dollars, I'd probably be hit by a bus tomorrow and never be able to spend it! I know how wishes work! I've read the fairy tales! I know!

ZALZABAR

Then - wish that there would never be war ever again!

ELIZA

Then, the population would spiral out of control and everyone would die a slow, horrible death from starvation because there wouldn't be enough food to feed everyone! I'm telling you, "Never trust a wish!"

ZALZABAR

What did you say?

ELIZA

It doesn't matter! I'm not wishing!

ZALZABAR

Then I'm not going. What can I do for you? Tidy up? Iron? Bathe you?

ELIZA

NO! Crap – you are a pervert, aren't you? I'm going to have to kill you after all!

ZALZABAR

Why would you hurt your faithful slave?

ELIZA

Slavery is illegal!

ZALZABAR

Tell that to Bethaboo-shu-boo.

ELIZA

Who?

ZALZABAR

Bethaboo-shu-boo. He enslaved me.

ELIZA

Bibbity-boo-shu-boo should be brought up on charges. I am unslaving you. So – go! Scat! Scram!

ZALZABAR

No.

ELIZA

All right. Come here. I'm going to have to kill you.

ZALZABAR

Is that your wish?

ELIZA

No. I really don't fancy murdering you. But – you can't stay here.

ZALZABAR

I don't want to stay here! Make three wishes and then I'm free to go.

ELIZA

And you'll really, really go? Never to return?

ZALZABAR

That's the plan.

ELIZA

Let's do that "World Peace" thing, okay?

ZALZABAR

Is that *really* what you want?

ELIZA

Yes.

(Just then there is the sound of flapping wings and deafening honks which fade.)

ELIZA (cont'd)

What's that noise? What's happening? I knew this would happen. I knew you can't trust a wish! The world is coming to an end, isn't it? I made a wish and ended the world!

ZALZABAR

Look out your window. I think you'll be pleased.

(A few random "honks" are heard. You can punctuate the honks through the next few lines if you wish.)

ELIZA

What did you do? It's wall-to-wall geese out there!

ZALZABAR

I tried to be conservative. There are only ten thousand of them. I thought one million would be excessive.

ELIZA

Why do they look like that?

ZALZABAR

Like what?

ELIZA

Their necks – they're all spiraled. They're deformed!

ZALZABAR

They are not deformed! They are exactly what you wished for! Curled Geese!

ELIZA

WORLD PEACE! I wished for WORLD PEACE!