

## **No Longer A Maiden**

**By Tami Canaday**

**At rise** : MADAM SABOON is sitting in her large chair facing the audience. Chin lifted, she is staring into space. DARLA enters and immediately stops in her tracks. DARLA waits, while Madam continues to stare straight ahead. Slowly Madam turns her head, with her chin still lifted, to DARLA. They stare at each other for a long time. Madam finally points to chair. DARLA shakes her head, “no.” Madam firmly points to the chair again. With great dignity, DARLA sits in the chair, but pops back up.

DARLA

I guess, I’m really nervous. Maybe, I shouldn’t have come. Or called for this emergency session. I know you’re really busy.

MADAM SABOON

You are ill at ease with your question. There is a strain in the asking. But first you must sit, Darla.

DARLA

You always know what’s on my mind, don’t you? It’s your gift. Yes, I do feel a great foreboding. But I must ask! And I rather stand for the moment.

MADAM SABOON

For the moment.

DARLA

What if the spiritual world fails to answer my question? What will I do? Where will I would go? Who will have me?

MADAM SABOON

The question . . .the question will answer you.

DARLA

I sense a danger.

MADAM SABOON

You must ask despite the danger.

DARLA

*(takes a deep breath)*

All right, all right. *(paces)* Talk it through. Talk it through. All right here it goes. They say Wok cooking is easy, but I find it takes great skill to prepare dishes using a wok. So, as you're aware, I use two woks now. One wok for oil cooking and the other for water-steaming. This gives me a choice. But I've moved beyond all this. *(sits)* My question for you today, Madam . . . *(a beat)* What kind of bowl should I serve my spicy ground beef in? After I've cooked it in the wok?

MADAM SABOON

What will the beef be nestled in?

DARLA

A boat of lettuce leaves.

*MADAM SABOON nods. She touches each of her psychic implements with great care, as if to decide which one will best answer DARLA's question. She settles on the tarot cards and starts shuffling them.*

MADAM SABOON

The size of your woks? Wait. I'll need more information. *(thinks deeply)* And the texture?

DARLA

Approximately fourteen inches in diameter and made of rolled carbon steel. But what does this have to do with anything?

*MADAM SABOON stops shuffling the cards and stares at DARLA.*

MADAM SABOON

Your Taurus is showing. Remember my questions intuit complete worlds. Worlds you cannot see.

DARLA

You're right. I'm sorry.

(con