

Lyda Morehouse

Detailed Proposal Synopsis

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MESSIAH NODE (formerly REVELATION EMULATION)  
Science Fiction  
100,000+ words

In 2083, a meteorite falls out of the sky and destroys the Dome of the Rock and the El-Aktza Mosque. When the wreckage is removed, buried ruins of what appears to be the Temple of Israel are revealed. Some Zionists believe this fulfills their prophecy that the Temple would be rebuilt peaceably. Muslim extremists believe the meteorite was actually a nuclear weapon fired by the Israelis. The always-tenuous peace in the Middle East is shattered. World governments begin to divide along religious lines, as a full-scale war erupts.

As the world is thrown into chaos, messiahs begin popping up everywhere. Besides the usual rabbis, imams, priests, bodhisattvas, messiahs contenders include:

- Page. A group of young wire-wizards calling themselves the Cult of Page have begun a Denial of Service attack on the UN/US Commission on Religious

Status until their religion is recognized as legitimate.

- A Gorgon named Perseus. A charismatic, radical voice for Gorgon liberation, who also seems to be able to perform the miracle of halting the advance of the Medusa glass.
- A dead Japanese pop star named Mai Kito. Her fans, by the hundreds of thousands, are dropping out of the LINK to tune in to the mystical reincarnation of their goddess through communal music.

What the world needs is a true savior, but the people who could make a real difference aren't interested.

The archangel Michael, the right hand of God, is insane. Michael gave up the glory of Heaven (and his sanity), to stay close to Deidre and their two-year old daughter, Amariah. When Elijah shows up at Rebeckah's Passover Seder and claims that Amariah is the true messiah, Michael feels further betrayed by God.

Rebeckah thought she'd pounded her sword into a plowshare years ago, but her past continues to haunt her. Inquisition agents arrive at the kibbutz asking questions about Rebeckah.

It seems someone has been cybersquatting on LINK property that corresponds with the virtual location of Temple Mount. Because of her association with Conservative Jewish LINK-terrorists, the Malachim, Rebeckah is the Inquisition's primary target.

Page just wants to be left alone to sulk over his guilt in the death of Mai Kito. Even his companion the Dragon can't make him happy. To make matters worse, someone (or something) is impersonating him on the LINK, committing crimes in his name and fanning the flames of the fanatics who worship him as a messiah.

When Elijah pronounces Amariah the messiah, Michael is horrified. His whole life has been in service to God. A service, he has come to view as sterile--devoid of the joys of a simple life on earth, surrounded by family. Michael can not stand the idea of his daughter's normal life being forfeit to the needs of duty and devotion to God. In order to keep her from that fate, Michael kidnaps Amariah and hides her inside the Glass City.

Inquisitors accuse Rebeckah of inciting an international incident. The cyber-real estate threatens the peace because there are rumors of a LINK-Temple being constructed there. Right now, no flag flies over the real-time Temple Mount. More importantly, no one (Jew, Muslim, or Christian) is praying there. This virtual temple would represent the ability for one religion to pray exclusively at the Temple. The Inquisitors

refuse to see past Rebeckah's history as a terrorist supported by Orthodox Jews. Moreover, it's a difficult accusation to counter, so Rebeckah resists arrest and goes on the run, determined to discover the true culprit.

A Maizombie, who accuses Page of defacing a cyber-shrine with the words "I'd kill her again," attacks Page. When Page investigates the crime scene, he discovers that his personal codes, like DNA, were left behind. Though he came to prove his innocence, Page now has to fight off angry Maizombies convinced more than ever that he is evil. This fuels Page's deep guilt over his part in Mai's death.

Because Michael is incapable of caring for his daughter properly, Amariah becomes infected with the Medusa. Michael is tormented by the idea that he, who used to be so pure, can make such human mistakes. To cure her, Michael seeks out the Gorgon Perseus. Michael arrives at the Gorgon enclave, only to discover they have no love for humans, which he appears to be. He and the child are taken captive--another terrible mistake on his part.

The answers to Rebeckah's problems lie on the LINK, and she must look up an old lover, a wire-wizard, who has become a member of the Cult of Page. Rebeckah and her ex crack into the Inquisition/Interpol's files. They find the trail of a previous hack that leads to a rogue Inquisitor named Emmaline McNaughten.

As they work together, the spark between them is rekindled, and Rebeckah feels all the old emotions at the edge of coming back. But before they can discover more about the hack, their intrusion is detected. Rebeckah's lover is caught in a "lock-down" that puts her in a coma.

Page has been haunted by a strange echo on the LINK--a sense that there is a part of himself calling out to him. Discovering his own code at the scene of the crime confirms Page's suspicions that Page2, a copy he created while trying to escape Mai's mind, lurks somewhere on the LINK.

Michael begs Perseus to cure Amariah, but Perseus won't admit that "Gorgonism" as a disease. Desperate, Michael explains he is an archangel and on a mission from God, but when asked to prove it Michael can't (because transforming into an angel would call on God, who he is, in essence, running from). This talk of God, however, makes Perseus afraid Amariah is a threat to his claim of being the savior, and spirits her away to hide her from the world.

Knowing that Interpol could be there any minute, Rebeckah faces the prospect of leaving her ex to flee. The practical thing to do would be to escape alone. Rebeckah considers it, but for the first time in Rebeckah's life, the prospect of love rekindled messes with her supreme pragmatism. Rebeckah surrenders and awaits arrest.

Moved by his guilt, Page confronts Page2. Though he tries at first to reason with Page2, it becomes obvious that Page2 is soulless. Page2 barely even functions as an A.I., but, instead, has a symbiotic relationship with Emmaline McNaughten. Horrified by what he created, Page flees.

Though Michael can't be certain if it isn't his usual voices, he overhears the Gorgons talking about how Perseus is not really one of them; they call him a changeling. An archangel appears to Michael in his captivity, saying, "Lo, I bring thee tidings of our Lord." The archangel is Morningstar. At first Michael assumes that Morningstar is doing God's work, but Morningstar assures him that he's there merely to torture Michael. They argue. Gorgons, hearing Michael and not seeing Morningstar, tie and gag Michael.

Inquisitors descend on Rebeckah. She is taken into custody. Now the Inquisitors believe their case against Rebeckah is stronger because she is found associating with a known member of the Cult of Page. They continue to pile evidence against her, including the recent break into classified Inquisition files. Once released from the "lock down," Rebeckah's ex tries to tell her that she should have run. Unwilling to admit her feelings, Rebeckah agrees.

Page tries to ignore the existence of Page2. But, at the prompting of Emmaline, who is trying to prop up the false

messiahs, Page2 contacts the Cult of Page and leads them in an attack that cripples several major LINK nodes... all in Page's name. This adds to the already unstable LINK environment: power goes out randomly in real-time and on the web. Page has to constantly watch his step or be fried.

Michael decides he can't fight God anymore. He transforms into his archangel persona, and breaks the bonds the Gorgons put on him. He ascends to Heaven, only to find himself in a strange empty landscape facing a trial--with Morningstar as his defender.

The Inquisition tells Rebeckah that she and her ex face the death penalty. Rebeckah tries to tell them her theory that a rogue Inquisitor framed her, but they don't listen. She's thrown into jail to wait for deportation to Jerusalem, the Jewish Inquisition's headquarters. In the holding cell are a number of Maizombies arrested for vagrancy. Rebeckah's ex and the zombies get in a fight about who the true messiah is: Page or Mai. When the guards get involved in the scuffle, Rebeckah is able to make a break. She does what is practical and abandons her ex.

Due to the LINK-attack lead by Page2, a warrant is issued for Page. A U.S. Cyber-Marshall tricks Page into going into a closed system using a "binding virus". In their anger at the LINK-shut down (and using provisions in the antiterrorist laws),

Page is given a quick, unfair trial and found guilty. His execution is scheduled.

Despite Morningstar's "help," Michael loses his case in front of God. Yet Michael is allowed to return to Earth to try to save his daughter. When he finds her, however, he must give her over to Ariel and return to Heaven to lead the host in the upcoming final battle. Michael has no other choice but to agree.

Rebeckah finds her way to a safe haven. She tries to continue her investigation without her ex, but finds she can't forget about her. She devises a plan to spring her lover-- Rebeckah uses the constant LINK/power outages as cover to go and rescue her ex. Once reunited, they hot-wire a connection to the LINK and search for more information on Emmaline McNaughten. They uncover a tangled web of conspiracy that points to Emmaline trying to pit the messiah figures against one another, as well as much more evil things. Sudden realization about what exactly Emmaline is hits Rebeckah. In that moment, Rebeckah personifies the second of the two witnesses. Rebeckah feels a miracle descend on her. [Revelation 11:3 "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." Elijah is believed by many to be the first of the two witnesses first].

While awaiting death, Page begins to talk with the U.S. Marshal who arrested him. When Page tells the Marshall of Page2, the Marshall relates the story of the golem. Page convinces the Marshall to free him so that he can go and stop Page2. Together they set out to erase the words the brought Page2 into existence.

Michael wakes up in a sex shop with Ariel standing over him. Ariel tells Michael where and how to find Amariah. The scientist who genetically engineered Perseus is treating Amariah. Perseus' gift, Michael learns, is a DNA computer living in his system that reverses the Medusa nanobots. Just as Michael sets out to confront the scientist and expose Perseus as a false messiah, Deidre intercepts him and threatens to have him arrested for kidnapping their daughter.

The police and the Inquisitors pursue Rebeckah and her ex and are able to track them down a second time. When attacked, Rebeckah realizes she has a kind of cosmic gift of the gab which allows her to touch other's minds via the LINK. But when she does this, she also destroys their connection--burns it out, overloads the circuits. (Revelation 11:5 "If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies.") Using her new (and terrible) gift, Rebeckah and her ex evade the Inquisition.

Page and the Marshall hunt for Page2. Because of the appearance of the second witness, Emmaline and Page2 are wary of any attackers. When Page and Marshall arrive, they discover the Dragon with Page2. When Page asks her to step aside, the Dragon explains that she is in love with Page2 as well, because he is a part of Page. When Page and the Marshall come to try to destroy Page2, the Dragon defends him. The Marshall tells Page that if he doesn't destroy Page2, the Marshall will have to take Page back into custody.

Michael tells Deidre that he knows where Amariah is. Though Deidre is still bitter about the kidnapping, she agrees to help Michael get Amariah back to safety. They find Amariah in Perseus' arms at the front of a rally for Gorgon rights. Warring factions--the Wiccans for a Goddess Reborn, the Cult of Page, the Maizombies, Zionists, and radical Muslims, all of whom have laid a claim on messiahhood--show up to rumble with Perseus, who is showing off the cured Amariah as a proof of his miracle working. Michael and Deidre watch helplessly as their daughter is caught in the middle. Michael decides that the only way to save Amariah is to use his angelic powers. It will be the last thing he does on earth, so he kisses Deidre goodbye and saves his daughter.

Using her newfound powers, Rebeckah is able to exonerate herself and cast doubt on the rogue Inquisitor Emmaline

McNaughten. However, try as she might, Rebeckah cannot release the Temple property. It seems that everything is lost; the cyber war will continue. Despite this failure, Rebeckah senses that God has more plans for her. She fears this means an end to the relationship she is beginning with her ex. Her ex, however, convinces Rebeckah that there's no reason that they can't be together while she begins this new part of her spiritual life.

Page squares off against Page2. Through trickery Page gets around the Dragon, but when he tries to erase the words of code, he discovers that, despite the legends of the golem, he can't undo what he's done. So, instead, he sends out the binding virus, which fuses Page2 to Emmaline. Page2 is trapped inside Emmaline and can no longer escape to do harm on the LINK. The virtual Temple becomes public property again, and, unbeknownst to Page, a LINK-war is averted. The dragon is upset that Page tricked her, but forgives him.

Before Michael can expose the false messiahs, Emmaline McNaughten steps in to do it. When someone in the crowd points out that she appears to have been behind the cybersquatting, Emmaline tells them that she was merely holding the property for the citizens of the world, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and more. She goes on to denounce the idea of a theocratic state, citing that all the recent violence stems from religious pigheadedness. As Michael watches the crowd being swayed by Emmaline's words,

he says to Deidre, "And now the reign of the Antichrist truly begins..."

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