



Christa Tapista



Legend has it Salamina was born in a group of people tied with chains in a cave in North Cyprus. Salamina kept drawing in her early years these illuminated circle shapes on the wall, that looked like luxury light bulbs, or fallen stars on a country side's summer sky. Salamina was convinced she had memories before she was born; she remembers staring at her fellow soulmates waiting to be born in a Baroque style wooden waiting room. They made ambient bell sounds and were rhythmically floating in the room, they sparkled like diamonds created from the reflection of the sun on a Mediterranean beach. ☐ Her first years in the cave were miserable but comfortable. She shared the cave with 15 prisoners. Even if she didn't know better, living in a cave with other prisoners felt like a shit show; their strange mood swings, their deluded theories that led nowhere, their grotesque aromas. ☐ She understood them and loved them, but sometimes their hopeless energy felt like an endless, intrusive rumination. There were moments of connection and shared love, which Salamina deeply cherished. ☐ Her drive and ferocious energy shimmered in her orange, brown eyes. This made the other prisoners envy her. ☐ Her parents were strangely not in the group, she had no idea how she got there, the others didn't know either. There was this couple chained next to her, a man and a woman in their 40's; they constantly shouted and were attacking Salamina, over breadcrumbs, over petty things ~ mostly

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blamed her for their misfortune. Salamina pretended they didn't exist; she felt everyone's energy in a supernatural way, she had to protect herself from the hyper trash ones. ☐ Once in a while birds would fly in the cave, they would come in and sing Italian Opera songs; sometimes they sang so poetically that they seemed like Philharmonic icons with their spastic, elegant movements and psychedelic colors on their black, purple feathers. Salamina loved them, she knew just by looking at them, that there is a way out, there was an adventure waiting for her. ☐ She knew she had to follow the birds, but she felt so deeply judged every time she discussed this idea with the others, they made her feel like a delusional brat; unsatisfied with everything ~ a part of her agreed, but she also believed in her intuition. ☐ All the prisoners could see was this massive wall, with reflections and shadows from the outside world, they couldn't see anything outside the cave. ☐ Salamina decided to follow the birds; she starved herself for days in order to make her feet slimmer, she knew she had to slip out of the chain as soon as possible as her foot was growing every day ~ she was already 7 years old. ☐ She pissed on herself to attract the birds help, the birds came over and started licking her foot. With the combination of Salamina's and the bird's saliva, Salamina's foot gently slipped out of the chain, she then walked behind the wall, towards the light, outside the cave, into the world. ☐ To be continued.