

## *Till Death, 0*

## *About...*

*Till Death* is the story of Sophia and Rupert Higgins told as a slice of life comic strip except, instead of drawings, each “strip” is a drabble: exactly 100 words, no more, no less.

Each drabble stands alone and makes the most sense in the presented order. Between the three asterisks below and the heading, containing the strip number and **Chapter Title**, is exactly 100 words.

Four of Rupert’s mystery novels have been professionally published. He writes erotic fantasy for fun. He’s also an amateur wizard.

Sophia does independent programming contracts when she isn’t otherwise engaged.

This is their story.

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## *Till Death, 1*

## *Meeting*

## *Till Death, 2*

## *Meeting*

*Years ago...*

“Can you fix it, Rupert?”

“I’m just a hobbyist. This platform transforms someone into a mannequin?”

“It use to. It stopped working. See that mannequin. Her name’s Sophia Warner. She’s been stuck for a week because the platform broke.”

*‘Sophia.’*

*“blah, blah, blah...”*

*‘Sophia Higgins?’*

*“Did you hear me?”*

“What?” Rupert said, tearing his eyes off the mannequin to pay better attention.

“Can you fix it? My usual guy can’t do anything till next month. I can’t afford to pay her for a full month on display.”

*“Yeah, if I have to I’ll make a new charm.”*

*“Great.”*

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*‘Pretty mannequin in pretty dress.’*  
*‘Pretty mannequin in pretty dress.’*  
*‘Sexy man notices pretty mannequin.’*  
*‘Pretty mannequin in pretty dress.’*  
*‘Sexy man watches pretty mannequin.’*  
*‘Pretty mannequin in pretty dress.’*  
*‘Sexy man looking at dress?’*  
*‘No, at me!’*  
*‘Sexy man smiling at me.’*  
*‘Sexy man put necklace on me.’*  
*“If this works, you’ll be human in a moment.”*  
*‘Pretty mannequin in pretty dress.’*  
*‘Sexy man does magic? Hot.’*  
*‘Sexy man likes pretty mannequin?’*  
*‘Human? Wait! How do I look?’*  
She inhaled.  
“How do you feel?” He said, helping her from the display.  
Their eyes met.  
They smiled.  
Handshake.  
“Sophia.”  
“Rupert.”

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**Till Death, 3**

**Meeting**

“Thanks for the necklace. What’s the occasion?”

“Don’t take it off. I didn’t fix the mannequin platform.”

“You didn’t? I feel restored. I can move.”

“Magic necklace.”

“If I take it off, I’ll be a mannequin again?”

“Yes.”

“I thought you were fixing the platform.”

“That will take more time. I made the necklace to bypass the other spell. It’ll work for a few days at least before it needs to be recharged.”

“And then I’m stuck again?”

“Yes.”

“Kinky. Do you want go to dinner? I owe you.”

“Like a date?”

“Very much like a date.”

“It’s a date.”

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**Till Death, 4**

**Meeting**

“What should I wear, Maggie?”

“Don’t freak out. You have plenty to wear.”

“He’s only seen me wearing that amazing dress I was stuck in for a week. My clothes pale in comparison.”

“From how you described it, he has no idea what the dress you were wearing looks like.”

“He’s a wizard. They’re observant.”

“Some wizards. Other’s are so scatterbrained they’re dangerous. Remember the story about that wizard who turned an entire school full of elementary children into cats? Feral students were still being found years later.”

“Do you think he’d turn me into a cat if I ask?”

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**Till Death, 5**

**Meeting**

“Shouldn’t you be getting ready for your date?”

“Is that tonight?”

“Forty minutes from now. Your first sight, true love won’t be happy that you forgot tonight was your first date when you no show.”

“How will I ever get ready in time?” Rupert cast a spell. His clothes turned into a blue dress shirt, tan jacket, no tie, dark brown slacks. His hair was properly coiffed and his face shaved smooth.

“That is so fucking annoying, Rupert.”

“Dave, I’ve offered to do it for you. You always decline.”

“I know what you did to that school.”

“I was tricked.”

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