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## The Magician's Tale

Jilly Dybka

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# Dybka: The Magician's Tale

## THE MAGICIAN'S TALE

Jilly Dybka

*for Vanteen The Magician*

### I. The Early Years

A carnival came to town the same week  
I graduated from high school. I told  
my mother I was going. The head geek  
gave me a midway job. I'd watch the old  
magician's melodic hands. (A penny  
dose of spectacle for all the farm sons  
and housewives.) Then came the Army  
and Uncle Sam. The war called the Great One. . . .  
I'd hone my ethereal fingerings  
off duty with cards or a billiard ball.  
Back in the States, I had to pull some strings,  
but got through the College of Manual  
Dexterity and Prestidigitation.  
Poof! I became ZAMTEEN: The Magician.