

**THE ART OF ABUNDANCE**

A Play by

Cheryl Ann Costa

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# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

Release Version 9-3/2002

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### Characters

**Kristine Cantrell, M.D.** (30-40-ish) Female, Psychiatrist, Published researcher on esoteric phenomena, she considered by some in academia a bit of a New Age researcher, behind on grants and the bills.

**Roberta Walters** Very rich, (late 50-late60's) Female, older and privately very unhappy, a bit cynical. The wife and heiress of the founder and owner of Walters Industries a very successful privately held Fortune 500 company.

**Synjin** (pronounced "Sin gin") (30-40-ish) Male or Female  
The very corporate posture, quiet, dutiful bodyguard and executive assistant to Walters, appears to have all the charm of a secret service agent, but is deeply sensitive and dedicated to Walters well being and happiness.

**Yeshe** An (30-40-50-ish older Tibetan Buddhist monk or nun person, a good friend of Dr. Cantrell, American writer and expert on Death & Dying.

### Scene Words Speakers

#### PRESHOW MUSIC

#### 1- THE GRANT

#### 2- EXPLORING THE PAST

#### 3- A QUESTION OF CHARACTER

#### 4- FINDING THE FUTURE

#### 5- JEFFERY

#### 6- THE EXPERIMENT

#### 7- CONSULTANT

#### 8- CREATING THE CAUSES

#### 9- EPILOG

**KRISTINE** Scenes: 9 Lines: 289 Words: 2647

**WALTERS** Scenes: 6 Lines: 178 Words: 2119

**SYNJIN** Scenes: 9 Lines: 93 Words: 1341

**YESHI** Scenes: 6 Lines: 85 Words: 1121

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## SCENE –PRESHOW MUSIC

The reason for the following arrangement of Pre-show music, is to give the audience a sense of precognitive –foreshadowing!

1: Tibetan music or Chant-

2: A song with an Irish feel, Enya -

3: A song with a Mexican feel, Abba – “Something in the air that night”

4: The Manhattan Transfer- “Hail to the Red Skins”

5: Que Sera, Sera written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans for Alfred Hitchcock's 1956 re-make of his 1934 film "The Man Who Knew Too Much" starring Doris Day and James Stewart. Recorded by Doris Day

This song is recommended just prior to curtain

### DORIS DAY- Que Sera, Sera

When I was just a little girl, I asked my mother,  
"What will I be? Will I be pretty? Will I be rich?"

Here's what she said to me ()

"Que sera, sera, Whatever will be, will be; The  
future's not ours to see. Que sera, sera, What will  
be, will be." ()

When I was just a child in school, I asked my  
teacher, "What will I try? Should I paint pictures?  
Should I sing songs?" This was her wise reply ()

"Que sera, sera, Whatever will be, will be; The  
future's not ours to see. Que sera, sera, What will  
be, will be."

()

When I grew up and fell in love, I asked my  
sweetheart, "What lies ahead? Will we have rainbows  
Day after day?" Here's what my sweetheart said

**(LIGHTS:Start a slow Fade up)**

"Que sera, sera, Whatever will be, will be; The  
future's not ours to see. Que sera, sera, What will  
be, will be."

()

Now I have children of my own. They ask their mother,  
"What will I be? Will I be handsome? Will I be rich?"

I tell them tenderly

**(Fades Lights up)**

"Que sera, sera, Whatever will be, will be; The  
future's not ours to see. Que sera, sera, What will  
be, will be. Que sera, sera!"

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## SCENE –1-THE GRANT

An assemblance of a therapist's office, messy cluttered, the place has a new age feel, the desk cluttered with books and magazine many inches deep, there are at least three chairs. A chair behind the desk, a pair of comfortable wingback chairs are located off to the side of the desk area slightly facing each other.

Sitting in the office in a wing back chair, is Dr. Kristine Cantrell, she has on a casual dress but also is wearing a frumpy button up sweater.

She wears a set of ear covering headphones on her head. Her eyes are closed and she seems to be listening to something intently or perhaps meditating, never the less she is calm, centered and one with the universe!

The phone starts ringing, Kristine is oblivious, after about 10 rings it stops ringing. Someone starts knocking at the door several times, but again She is oblivious.

The phone starts ringing again, after the fifth ring, the door opens with a Slow hesitant manner, in creeps a Tibetan style Buddhist monk/nun person, The phone still ringing,

The monastic sees that Kristine is off in meditation, nods head in Acknowledgement and proceeds to answer the phone.

YESHI

Good afternoon, this is Dr. Cantrell's office, can I help you?

(listens intently and looks over at Kristine)

No, I'd say she isn't here at the moment.

(nods acknowledging the conversation on the other end of the phone)

I'll give her the message.

YESHI hangs up very carefully and gently.

YESHI then sits down on the edge of the other wing back chair with hands upon the lap and patiently waits. In a few moments the phone begins ringing again.

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YESHI gently rises and answers the phone.

YESHI

Good afternoon, Dr. Cantrell's office may I help you?

YESHI listens attentively.

YESHI

Oh, you might say I'm covering the phones while she is out. Can I help you?

YESHI listens attentively again

YESHI

Oh I see,

(beat)

Did it!?

(beat)

I'm so sorry!

(beat)

You are?

(beat)

I'll be sure to explain it to her, thank you for calling and ---“have a nice day.”

YESHI hangs up the phone and returns to the chair and quietly sits in the chair next to Cantrell.

Moments later Cantrell comes out of her meditative trance, opens her eyes and takes off of her head set, and glancing to her side is suddenly startled to see YESHI's presence and briefly startled yells.

KRISTINE

AAAAAHHHH!

Trying to calm the startled Kristine.

YESHI

Kristine! It's just me. Relax

Kristine holding her chest as if to calm her heart and catch her breath.

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KRISTINE

Ohhhh, YESHI

YESHI

I let myself in, the door was unlocked.

KRISTINE

Do monks and nuns usually let themselves in?

(grinning)

YESHI

Not usually, only if we're considered family. In this case your phone was ringing and you appeared to be "flying in the ether."

She acknowledges the courtesy of YESHI's gesture to get her phone.

KRISTINE

The phone? oh, YESHI thank you for getting the phone, who was it?

YESHI

Your welcome, it was the Electric company.

the stage lights black out, the stage is now lit by light blue tablo lighting

KRISTINE

What the heck!

YESHI attempts to explain.

YESHI

It was the Electric Company, they were calling to tell you that your check bounced and that they were shutting off your power.

KRISTINE

But there was plenty on money in the checking account there must be a mistake here.

(she gets up and goes to the desk, lifts up a stack of books and pulls out an envelop with the bill)

I'm going to call them and straighten this whole thing out.

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YESHI

The other call was from....  
(Kristine picks up the phone and clicks the receiver switch several times.)

KRISTINE

Hey it's dead!

YESHI

....the phone company. The nice man said thier check bounced too.

KRISTINE

Damn it Sam!

YESHI

Your Ex?

KRISTINE

Ya, he keeps raiding my checking account.

YESHI

But you've been divorced for two years? Why do you still have a joint checking account?

KRISTINE

I haven't gotten around to closing it and besides Sam gets himself into a financial bind from time to time. It's just easier to let him write a check or two, rather than have him come over here whining.

YESHI

Perhaps this might be a good time to set up a new account.

She sits down all depressed looking.

KRISTINE

No, it's not.

She puts her face in her hands for a moment.

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YESHI

What's wrong Kristine.

Looking at YESHI with a stiff upper lip on the verge of tears.

KRISTINE

That was the last of my money!

YESHI

What about your research grants?

KRISTINE

They're totally tapped out, I'm broke.

YESHI

Gee Kris, I'm sorry to hear that, is there anything I can do?

Kristine puts her head back in the wing back chair and sighs, half joking, half serious.

KRISTINE

I don't suppose a Buddhist monastery would take a Jewish girl, would they?

YESHI is amused at the possibility of Kristine becoming a nun.

YESHI

Actually we would take just about anybody, with a serious intention to be of benefit to others.

(he pauses and ponders for a moment)

In fact, we've taken quiet a few Jewish persons over the years.

(YESHI pauses)

Buttttt...

KRISTINE

BUT what?

YESHI

You don't seem like the monastic type Kristine.

KRISTINE



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Try me.

YESHI

Ok, Number One, you can't kill sentient beings.

KRISTINE

No problem, besides it's against the law.

YESHI

Number two, you can't steal.

KRISTINE

No problem, why would I want to?

YESHI

Number three, you can't lie, especially about your spiritual attainments.

KRISTINE

No problem, I'm not spiritually attained.

YESHI

Kristine? Are you still on the wagon, we're not allowed intoxicants?

KRISTINE

Yep, recovering and sober six and a half years.

YESHI

Good for you, the last question are you willing to give up SEX?

Kristine almost says yes then thinks again hesitantly.

KRISTINE

Ohhhh NO!, On second thought I guess I'm not the monastic type.

YESHI

Too bad, perhaps you can be a monastic in the future, you're four- fifths there.

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KRISTINE

I don't know about that, I guess I like sex too much.

YESHI

You'll get over it,

(SOUND: Knock Knock at the door)

I did.

Kristine walks over to the door pondering YESHI's last comment. She answers the monastic just as she is opening the door.

KRISTINE

YESHI I don't think I'll ever get over....

(still looking as YESHI, turns her head towards the well dressed older woman in the door way.)

...SEX!

The woman in the door way is startled by the statement single word, but after a moment smiles at her. Kristine realizes her blunder to the stranger and tries to recover.

KRISTINE

Oh my Gawd, I'm so sorry.

WALTERS

Don't be!, It's the most refreshing greeting I've had in years.

KRISTINE

How can I help you?

WALTERS

I'm seeking Dr. Kristine Cantrell

Glancing back at YESHI.

KRISTINE

Oh gawd another bill collector.

WALTERS

No I'm not a bill collector, you might say I'm an angel!

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KRISTINE

Huh? ---- An angel?

WALTERS

If you're Dr. Cantrell, I have a job for you, a commission for research work, a grant!

Shocked at this turn of events she stands there for a moment jaw open.

YESHI

Piss, Kristine! Invite them in!

KRISTINE

Oh!? My gosh where are my manners, please come in.

Walters and his personal secretary enter the cluttered office.

Walters looks around at the clutter and at the YESHI, who just smiles a toothy smile back at the distinguished old executive.

KRISTINE

Please have a seat

(she picks up a stack of books off of one of the chairs and motions to YESHI to give the chair to Walters, YESHI gets up and moves away from the wing back chairs.)

Ms. Walters this is Yeshi a monk/nun at the Namgyal Buddhist monastery.

Walters bows slightly, then offers a hand shake.

WALTERS

Pleased to meet you lama, judging from your robes I would say that you are of a Tibetan tradition.

YESHI smiles and nods with a look of being impressed.

KRISTINE

Are you a Buddhist Ms. Walters?

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WALTERS

No Doctor, but when I was younger I traveled extensively in the far east and the Himalayas. It was there that I picked up a considerable respect for eastern spiritual thinking.

(Gesturing back at the other suited gentleman)

Doctor, Lama, this is my personal secretary Synjin.

YESHI and Kristine respond together.

KRISTINE

Synjin

YESHI

Welcome Synjin

Done with courtesies, Walters is straight to the point, sits down in a wing back chair, he gestures to Kristine to sit in the other wingback.

WALTERS

Dr. Cantrell, can we speak in private?

YESHI takes the hint and starts to get up.

YESHI

I must be going.

Kristine trying to keep balance

KRISTINE

Nonsense YESHI please stay and take notes for me.

(turning her back to Walters, and mouthing PLEASE to YESHI, turning back to Walters)

Walters the good lama is frequently a research assistant and is privy to my most sensitive research.

WALTERS

Ok, the lama can stay.

YESHI nods in acknowledgement and brings over folding chairs for self and Synjin.

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KRISTINE

Ms. Walters you said something about  
(beat)  
a Grant?

Walters put up her hand and almost immediately Synjin has a folder in Walters hand.

WALTERS

Dr. Cantrell, do you have any idea who I am?

KRISTINE

No Ma'am I don't.

Walters looks to Synjin as if to cue him.

SYNJIN

This is Ms. Robert Walters CEO and majority owner of Walters Ship Building, Walters Aeronautics, and Walters Space Systems. The enterprise is included in the Fortune 500.

Walters raises her finger to qualify a point.

WALTERS

Fortune 200!

Synjin acknowledges the correction and qualifies.

SYNJIN

Fortune 200!

Impressed YESHI - just nods his head, Kristine not quite sure what to say Next.

KRISTINE

I see.  
(beat)  
What can I do for you.

Walters opens the folder on her lap.

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WALTERS

I've been researching you doctor and...  
(She stops and looks around the room and  
the partial darkness.)  
Do you suppose we could turn on some lights?

YESHI pipes in to Kristine, almost grinning.

YESHI

Kris number three

KRISTINE

Number three? OH number three!

WALTERS

What may I ask is number three?

KRISTINE

Oh just a set of rules we try to live life by.

WALTERS

I see.

Kristine takes a deep breath and sucks it up.

KRISTINE

Ms. Walters I'll be up front with you, I'm a bit  
behind on my grants and well the electrical power has  
been turned off.

WALTERS

Doesn't surprise me. According to my research you are  
totally out of grants.  
(looking to Synjin)  
Synjinsee to it.

Synjin nods and walks over to the desk phone and after removing the receiver  
clicks the phone switch twice.

SYNJIN

It's dead!

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Kristine just sort of smiles, obviously embarrassed.

WALTERS

Synjin see to that as well.

Synjin pulls his cell phone out and moves up stage to get some privacy.

KRISTINE

You really don't have to do that...

(Walters cuts her off)

WALTERS

Nonsense doctor, we're going to be business partners.

KRISTINE

We are?

WALTERS

Of course we are.

KRISTINE

So--Ok?

WALTERS

Doctor, I'll get to the point, I've spent a life time amassing an empire and a personal fortune valued at over 500 million dollars.

KRISTINE

My goodness.

(looking at YESHI, who just smiles)

WALTERS

Theres only one problem, I'm dying and if my over priced doctors are Right, I'll be dead in under a year.

(She reflects a moment)

About six months they say.

KRISTINE

I'm so sorry to hear that.

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YESHI

"Om mani padme hung ho rhih'

WALTERS

No need to be I've lived a rich adventurous life practicing the Art of Abundance.

KRISTINE

Can I ask what the medical problem is?

WALTERS

Certainly! It's a tumor the size of a pea in my brain, they say when it becomes the size of a walnut or there bouts it will kill me.

(the lights returns to full illumination-

Walters nods saying)

Thank you Synjin.

KRISTINE

So I take it that you've come to me for some alternative therapy?

WALTERS

No, I'm interested in a lot of iffy alternative therapies.

KRISTINE

Thank You, you're too kind.

(In stronger voice)

How can I help you Ms. Walters?

WALTERS

Ah good

(the phone rings one long ring, Synjin

closes his cell phone and walks down stage,

Walters nods a job well done, Kristine a

bit embarrassed and perhaps humbled- speaks to Walters almost whispering)

KRISTINE

Thank you



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WALTERS

Doctor, I have read all your books on past life regression and I especially liked your book on reincarnation theories; "**ADVENTURES OF THE SOUL**"

KRISTINE

I'm glad you liked it.

Walters put up her hand and Synjin dutifully places a copy of Kristine's book **ADVENTURES OF THE SOUL** in her hand. Kristine looks at YESHI.

KRISTINE

You want an autograph!

WALTERS

No doctor I'm not after your autograph, I'm interested in your ideas.  
(She opens up the book to a book marked passage)  
I especially liked the closing chapter... (quoting)  
"...having demonstrated that pre-natal memories are a documented fact, and given the concepts that universal spiritual essence seems to exist in a timeless state. It is hypothetically possible to assume that as we can touch our past lives via regressive modalities perhaps we can touch our future selves with as yet undiscovered technique."

YESHI

You wrote that Kris?  
(smirks a grin of respect)  
You sound like a lama.

Kris does a half hearted blush.

WALTERS

That she does! Lama YESHI

KRISTINE

I still don't understand, what you want.

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WALTERS

Doctor I want you to document several of my past lives. I'll put the resources of the Walters industries at your disposal to research what you personas you find and confirm that these personas really existed.

KRISTINE

OK OK but Why.

WALTERS

Doc, then I want you to test out your theories on future personas, I want you to find my next couple of future selves---as may as it seems practical.

YESHI perks up

KRISTINE

Are you having a crisis of faith and you want to confirm that death is not the ultimate finality?

WALTERS

Not exactly.

YESHI's face gets a stunned look of realization.

YESHI

Good God!!! You want to leave your money to yourself?

WALTERS

Lama you're sharp!

Kristine's face gets a stunned look of realization.

KRISTINE

You're serious? !

WALTERS

Serious as a heart attack!

KRISTINE

But I'm not sure if this is possible.

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(Walters looking at the book)

WALTERS

Nonsense, the Dr. Cantrell who wrote this book  
thought it was possible!

(tapping on the book with a finger, looking  
intently at Kristine)

Kristine wouldn't you really like to know ?

(getting close to kris)

Wouldn't you really like to explore the unknown  
frontiers of mind and spirit.

(almost slyly)

Prove the academic community wrong about you?

KRISTINE

Sure I would but--but I'm not sure if we can do this,  
we're on really shaky theoretical ground here.

WALTERS

Are you willing to try doctor? What else do you have  
on your plate?

Kristine thinks it through for a moment

KRISTINE

Nothing actually!

WALTERS

Then do we have a deal?

(Walters puts her hand out)

KRISTINE

Well?

(beat- Kristine get a big smile)

Yes!!! We--have--a--deal!

(they shake on it)

WALTERS

Wonderful!

(looking at Synjin)

You see Synjin, A true explorer, no thought of money,  
not like all those other researchers.

(Synjin Nods)

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Kristine a bit taken back, almost like the wind was knocked out of her.

KRISTINE

You spoke to other researchers?

WALTERS

Of course we did, a total bunch of skeptics and narrow minded old fools.

KRISTINE

humh Speaking of money---

Walters raises a hand, Synjin places a check in Walters hand.

WALTERS

Certainly! Here is a cashiers check for \$100 thousand dollars as a retainer for the next six months.

Kris is flabbergasted looking at the check.

KRISTINE

A hundred what---

WALTERS

Doctor, that's yours, no matter what we find. I want you to fix your financial problems. I want your head clear for this effort, is that understood?

KRISTINE

Yes I understand.

Walters gets up to leave, part way to the door she turns to look back.

WALTERS

---and Kristine if we succeed, there will be a chairmanship at a major university for you, (with force and authority)  
I guarantee it!

Kristine, again is totally flabbergasted

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KRISTINE

Thank you, I don't know what to say?

WALTERS

Just say yes, Kristine.

KRISTINE

Yes, YES!!! I accept your offer.

Walters smiles broadly, Synjin smiles broadly and nods, Walters reaches out to shake hands with Kristine again, while shaking says.

WALTERS

Welcome to Walters Industries Dr. Cantrell

As Walters turns and leaves, Synjin turns and pulling a business card from a jacket pocket and speaks.

SYNJIN

Here's my number, call any time day or night if you need anything! When you are ready to start, call and we'll arrange a series of appointments for the boss.  
(Synjin turns and leaves, Kristine helps close the door behind Synjin and leans against the door facing YESHI)

KRISTINE

YESHI this is fantastic!

YESHI's face has a look of concern.

YESHI

Can I preach a little bit at ya?

KRISTINE

Sure what's on your mind?

YESHI

Kris, that person has major poisons, with greed and pride at the top of the list. Not to mention a serious case of grasping.

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KRISTINE

I know, I know  
(trying to put a better spin on the issue)  
But I got a grant, one I needed so desperately.

YESHI

Ya ya, please open a "new" bank account, so your ex  
won't get his hands on this new cache of money.

KRISTINE

OK Ok no problem  
(she is distracted and pondering, and is a quizzical tone asks)  
YESHI, do you think I can really do what Walters is  
asking for.

YESHI

What? Find this person's future self? (thinks for a moment)  
Yes I suppose so but future lives are complex things.  
Remember everything that happens to us and what we  
become is based on our past causes.

KRISTINE

You mean the sum and differences of what we have  
been, concept?

YESHI

More than that, karma comes into play, who knows what  
past causes will ripen when you start messing with  
this beings future. Please tell me, you'll be careful!

KRISTINE

YESHI my old friend, I will be very careful!  
(They face each other, smile and with  
clasped hands bow and touch foreheads,)

LIGHTS: Fade to Black - end of scene.

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## SCENE –2 -EXPLORING THE PAST

LIGHTS up

Kristine is preping for the visit, the place is generally picked up, in terms of slightly less clutter than before, but not by much.

While she is fussing with equipment and has stereo cables around her neck there is a knock at the door, she moves over to the door, it's Synjin.

SYNJIN

Good afternoon Doctor Cantrell

KRISTINE

Synjin

(she looks over his shoulder looking for Walters)

Where's Ms. Walters?

SYNJIN

She's in the limo, finalizing a shipbuilding deal.

(Kristine cranes her neck to look out the door towards the lime.

KRISTINE

Does she do that often? I mean work from the limo?

SYNJIN

No she prefers her office, you should be honored--

KRISTINE

What do you mean?

SYNJIN

You wouldn't believe the effort it took to carve out the hour blocks you require out from her schedule. Ms. Walters is a rigid time manager.

KRISTINE

How did she ever find time for a family.

SYNJIN

She didn't!

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KRISTINE

That's so sad.

SYNJIN

One makes a choices in life, doctor, Walters made hers.

KRISTINE

Do you ever call her by her first name?

SYNJIN

No!

KRISTINE

Why not?

SYNJIN

It's not my place, I respect her, besides, I've only heard of one person who ever called her by her first name besides her late husband.

KRISTINE

Who was that?

SYNJIN

My predecessor just before he was fired!

KRISTINE

Oh my!

SYNJIN

5 years 7 months ago.

KRISTINE

I see.

Walters knocks on the door and makes an entrance, strolls in and makes himself to home.



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WALTERS

Good afternoon Cantrell are we all set for the first  
hypno-trace session,  
(glances around)  
Say you cleaned the place up.

KRISTINE

Ms. Walters before we start I think we need to  
establish a few ground rules for the sessions.

WALTERS

Ground rules? What did you have in mind.  
(Kris takes a deep breath)

KRISTINE

Well, to start with my name is Kristine or Kris Dr.  
Cantrell not Cantrell.

WALTERS

Ok, Kristine it is, anything else?

KRISTINE

When I work a process  
(beat)  
I like to be on a first name basis, it helps break  
down ---barriers---

WALTERS

I'm listening.

KRISTINE

(takes a breath)  
----I'd like to call you by your first name,  
(Walters reacts, and Kris cautions)  
uh-uh--Strictly limited to our sessions of course.

WALTERS

(there is a moment of tension as Walters  
considers)  
Ok.

Kristine still hedging.

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KRISTINE

So what do I call you Ms. Walters?

WALTERS

Roberta will be fine.

Kristine looks at Synjin.

KRISTINE

---and what about you?

Synjin looks pained at the possibility.

WALTERS

Come, come Synjin, we have no secrets from "Kristine."

Synjin almost whispering or mumbling under breath.

SYNJIN

Marion

Walters doesn't quite hear it, having a bit of fun with Synjin's uncomfortable position.

WALTERS

I didn't catch that?

Synjin repeats loud enough to be heard

SYNJIN

MARION

KRISTINE

I see, suppose we stay with Synjin.

SYNJIN

Thank you

KRISTINE

Ok lets get to work, Roberta please sit here and make yourself comfortable

(Walters complies)

Synjin why don't you sit over here and observe.

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(Synjin takes a seat)

WALTERS

Now what

KRISTINE

Roberta, please put on these goggles and this headset, it's for meditative hypnosis.

(she hands a large set of head phones over to Walters.)

WALTERS

What no swinging pocket watches?

KRISTINE

No, sorry to disappoint you, but swing watches went out with spinning spiral wheels.

WALTERS

So what does all this stuff do.

KRISTINE

The goggles will flash colored lights at your eyes in computer controlled patterns that help induce a trance like state.

WALTERS

---and the headset?

KRISTINE

The headset is to flood your auditory senses with white noise with varying patterns, all mixed with some soothing music and ocean sounds.

WALTERS

How long does it take?

KRISTINE

If you relax and focus on it a few minutes, when your under, I'll talk to you via the headset.

Walters puts on the headset and goggles, Kristine starts the cassette deck, turns on the remote VCR, Walters sits back, Kristine looks at Synjin,

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KRISTINE

If you want to step out, now would be the time, this could take a while.

SYNJIN

Doctor I'm your control  
(pauses a moment then explains)  
I'm your witness, Walters want checks and balances.

KRISTINE

Please explain, she can't hear you.

Synjin relaxes a bit

SYNJIN

My boss is a bit of a control freak to be honest with you.

KRISTINE

Judging from her success, I'd tend to agree with you.

SYNJIN

She wants me to be present for these sessions to provide a degree of protection.

KRISTINE

Protection?

SYNJIN

While you are crawling around in her sub conscious to be perfectly frank.

KRISTINE

I see

SYNJIN

Doctor, I am a very loyal employee and to some degree one of her few friends. I just want to see her happy. I personally think all this new age stuff is hogwash.

KRISTINE

Do you have an open mind?

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SYNJIN

Yes

KRISTINE

Good, because if I'm right in going to blow your socks off.

SYNJIN

That will be a pleasant surprise  
(soft beep)

KRISTINE

I think she's soup!

SYNJIN

Soup?

KRISTINE

The goggles are fitted with an alpha wave detector.  
When she sustains alpha for a solid five minutes  
she'll be under.

Kristine gestures to Synjin to sit.

Kristine puts a headset and microphone on and adjusts it, she then prepares to turn up the volume control on the control audio mixer on the mixer. She looks to Synjin and says...

KRISTINE

Shhhhh

(turns to Walters and says)

Roberta how old are you?

Mrs Walters speaks normally but very focused.

WALTERS

63

KRISTINE

Roberta, I'd like you to remember your 21st birthday,  
Where are you?

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WALTERS

(A younger persona)  
I'm in the Ratskeller.

KRISTINE

What's that?

WALTERS

It's my favorite pub off campus from school.

KRISTINE

What school?

WALTERS

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

KRISTINE

Are you happy?

WALTERS

Yes I'm happy, this is my first birthday party thrown  
by some of my school chums.

KRISTINE

Didn't your parents ever give you a Birthday party?

WALTERS

No, they abandon me to boarding school. When I was  
eight.

Kristin hands Synjin a steno pad and turns off the mike

KRISTINE

Take Notes Please!  
(to Walters, she turns the mike back on)  
Roberta I want you to move to your 5<sup>th</sup> birthday,  
where are you?

WALTERS

My fathers house on the Hudson.

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KRISTINE

OK Roberta, I want you to move now to an earlier time a time before you were Roberta.

(pause)

Where are you?

(There is a pregnant pause, Kris looks at

Synjin, he shrugs his shoulders, Kristin

repeats Walters)

Where are you?

WALTERS

(Male persona- An Irish accent -

labored almost gasping)

I'm in bed, I think I'm dying.

KRISTINE

Why are you Dying? How old are you? Where's your home?

WALTERS

I have the flu, I'm 64 and I live in New York City.

KRISTINE

I want you to move to you thirty-fifth birthday,

Where are you?

(Walters speaks nothing, after a few moments)

Where are you?

WALTERS

(still with an Irish accent, but stronger and snappy)

Shhhh, you'll scare the fish.

KRISTINE

Are you fishing?

WALTERS

No, I'm knitting a sweater; of course I'm fishing lass?

KRISTINE

Where are you fishing, where do you live, now?

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WALTERS

Malin of course where else would I be liven.

KRISTINE

Where is Malin? I'm a visitor.

WALTERS

In the Northern coast of Ireland lass.

Kristine gives Synjin a knowing look, Synjin looks obviously impressed

KRISTINE

What is your name?

WALTERS

Patrick Malin at your service, lass.

KRISTINE

Patrick, I want you tell me about your life in Malin.

WALTERS

Certainly lass, my father moved here from Ulster in 1834, he became a fisherman and it was here he met my mother.

(Cross fade for scene change -later)

KRISTINE

I want you to move to your next memory

WALTERS

(Female persona - in the midst of child birth, a bit loud and in apparent pain-with a Scandinavian accent)

Oh sweet Jesus it hurts, there's something wrong.

(stressed, labored breath)

KRISTINE

What's wrong?

WALTERS

(Still in stress) The baby is breached.



# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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KRISTINE

I want you to move to the day before your labor started.

WALTERS

(Suddenly she is humming a little song.

KRISTINE

Who are you?

WALTERS

(with a Scandinavian accent)  
My name is Ingrid Jensen.

KRISTINE

How old are you.

WALTERS

24

KRISTINE

Where do you live?

WALTERS

Norway

KRISTINE

What year is it?

WALTERS

The year of our lord 1796.

(LIGHTS: Begin a slow fade)

KRISTINE

Tell me about yourself and your village.

WALTERS

I'm a member of my church and I help my mother with cleaning fish from the village fishing boats.

(LIGHTS: Fade to Black)

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Between scenes, Walters removes the goggles and headset, both Walters and Synjin pull out cell phones. Synjin move up stage, Walters stays down stage.  
Kristine exits the stage during the black out.

### SCENE –3-A QUESTION OF CHARACTER

LIGHTS: UP

Walters is walking around Kristine's office with her cell phone talking on the phone, the dialog is alternating and some times slightly overlapping with Synjin.

WALTERS

Senator I don't care if they have 50 trade agreements  
with us I'm not going to sell them any of my ships.  
Sure ---I'll be happy to listen---ok shoot senator  
(she listens pacing)

On the other side of the room lightly pacing is Synjin with a cell phone in his ear.

SYNJIN

Yes, yes I'm here--- don't put me on again---  
please---are you the desk top operations manager? I'm  
calling for Ms. Walters, I need a T-1 line with a  
local router, a firewall and several high end  
research grade desktop system installed at 113 St.  
Elmo Street in Silver Spring, in the next 24 hours!  
(Preturbed)  
Yes I'll Wait.

WALTERS

Senator how old are you? --I see--- you're a little  
young to remember World War two. Senator in the  
1930's Howard Hughs tried to save his fledgling  
aircraft company by selling the Japanese an airplane  
called the H-8. A few years later our boys had to  
contend with them, they called them Zero's, so you  
see my point, I am not going to sell my ship to that  
particular foreign power. Good afternoon senator.

SYNJIN

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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Look this has the highest priority, this request is coming from WALTERS herself. (pause)  
No I didn't have an external connect request. No, I don't have a network diagram, I kind of figure you guys would do it, Yes, I'm concerned about security. What do you mean three weeks. Who is this? Tina Who?, Tina Phillips.

WALTERS

What's wrong?

Synjin puts his hand over the receiver and talking to Walters on the side.

SYNJIN

Our IT security says they can't supply us with the research suite for three weeks because of security concerns.

WALTERS

Let me speak to her  
(she takes the cell phone)  
Tina, This is Ms. WALTERS, Please explain the problem ----  
(she listens and reacts)  
Oh? ---Realllllly, If you had your way could you make it happen? I understand it's a matter of policy.  
Honey could you do it by the book and still make it happen? Would you let me speak to your manager.

SYNJIN

That gal is a brick wall - says it's 3 weeks effort to do it right.

WALTERS

Yes!! She is brick wall, I want to speak to her manager.  
(returns focus to the cell phone)  
Hello who is this??? Beyers? Frank Beyers! And what do you do Frank?----Oh you're the Director of computer security, what's the problem.  
(again she listens)  
Aha--- Aha, ok I understand, So you're willing to make an exception in my case. So you'll work around

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

Release Version 9-3/2002

the paper work for me, I'm honored  
(Synjin, gets a big smile and acts relieved)  
Frank your fired!

Synjin reacts

SYNJIN

Huh

WALTERS

Why? You just compromised my network to grease  
yourself with me. I HATE THAT. Let me speak to Tina.

SYNJIN

What are going to do for a Director of Security?

Walters holds up her hand finger one as if to ssssh Synjin

WALTERS

Tina, WALTERS again. What's the earliest you can do  
this job for me, if you dot the I's and cross the  
T's, 48 perhaps 72 , ok kid you do it your way, but  
by the book  
(smiles)  
oh Tina, congratulations you are the new head of  
security. Thanks for sticking to your guns for me!

SYNJIN

Ms. WALTERS are you sure you want to do it that way  
Beyers has been with us a long time.  
(WALTERS looks at YESHI)

WALTERS

Hi YESHI. Do you think I'm wrong?

YESHI

I'm just a simple monk

WALTERS

That's my point

YESHI

I'm not sure I understand.

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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WALTERS

Lama would you compromise your vows to make your supervisors happy?

YESHI

Certainly not

WALTERS

My point exactly He was willing cut corners and compromise policy to suit me

SYNJIN

Do you want Beyers out cold.

(WALTERS looks at YESHI --- who gives him a Look)

WALTERS

Oh--- ok give him a generous severance package or retire him make it a generous win win proposition.  
(YESHI nods with approval, acknowledging Walters kindness.)

YESHI

That was compassionate.

(Kristine enters the room carrying a tray of soda's

KRISTINE

Here's some refreshments

WALTERS

Thank you doctor

KRISTINE

Your welcome (she sets tray down)

WALTERS

So Kristine tell me what you've found.

KRISTINE

I'd love to but I can't

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

Release Version 9-3/2002

SYNJIN

Why?

KRISTINE

Control

YESHI

Lab rules

WALTERS

What can you tell me?

KRISTINE

Only that we found to persons that appear to have lives that we can document, that's why. I asked Synjin for a research computer.

SYNJIN

It's all arranged

KRISTINE

Roberta, I'll give you a complete rundown after our research is done and confirmed.

WALTERS

So now what

KRISTINE

Now we take as stab at the future.

WALTERS

when?

KRISTINE

In a few days, after a confirm your previous      persona's

LIGHTS: fade to black

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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## SCENE –4- FINDING THE FUTURE

WALTERS off stage Synjin to. Walters changes to polo golf shirt, Synjin to music

Lights Up

YESHI is sitting meditating the wingback. Kristin has changed to slacks & sweater enters she goes to the desk starts looking thru folder

KRISTINE

Yeshi?

YESHI

Yes Kris?

KRISTINE

What was your impression of the other day's session?

YESHI

--In what context as a person or as a monastic?

KRISTINE

Both

YESHI

As a person, I am fascinated by it all ..as a monastic I'm bored and concerned.

KRISTINE

Your Kidding.

YESHI

The reincarnation is at the heart of my beliefs. That future life you touched was predictable.

KRISTINE

Then why are you concerned?

YESHI

The rules of Karma, Kris

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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KRISTINE

Your don't think we can change the future do You?

YESHI

Oh, I know you can, Just not as you expect

KRISTINE

YESHI! Level with me what's on your mind

YESHI

Kristine --- Buddha taught us that we all suffer and that we can fix this suffering with right living, right wisdom and moral behavior.

KRISTINE

Ya ya--- the Four Noble Truths what's your point?

YESHI

Walters is not practicing the path, I can't see how you're going to change her future path.

KRISTINE

By using "cause and effect" principles.

YESHI grinning because she bagged him with the right answer sort of

YESHI

Ok you got me, I agree you'll change her life, I'll grant you that. But you won't change her, the being. She's her problem. She's a victim of her own habitual tendencies.

(Knock Knock )

KRISTINE

Well perhaps we'll make history

(A double knock and the door opens)

KRISTINE

Roberta, Synjin good afternoon.



# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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WALTERS

Good afternoon doctor

SYNJIN

Hello Kris

KRISTINE

So Roberta, are you all set to go to surf the temporal waves of time and space?

YESHI grimaces, and moans

YESHI

ohhhh moan

WALTERS

Don't romanticize it , Doc.

KRISTINE

I was making a joke.

WALTERS

So all joking aside, I'm perplexed Doc, how are we going to fix it so my future life will be wealthy,  
(She motions WALTERS to the chair)

KRISTINE

Well I have this theory,  
(she begins fussing with the equipment)  
If we put certain things in place, documents etc,  
before a session. Then we can sort of test the effects. Mr Synjin do you have the durable power of attorney?

SYNJIN

Yes.

KRISTINE

Good.

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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WALTERS

A durable power of attorney, What's that for.

KRISTINE

I want your permission to write a check or write documents in your name, then I can test the effect on the future.

WALTERS

I'm still missing your point.

KRISTINE

Ok if I give Mr Synjin a task to do, it's a good as done right?

(Synjin nods)

WALTERS

Certainly

KRISTINE

My plan is to write check in your name in order to establish a scholarship. It's an experiment to see if we can gift money to your future self.

WALTERS

And if it doesn't work?

KRISTINE

We'll have old Synjin here tear up the document.. And everything should settle back to the original base time line

WALTERS

Please define the word "should."

KRISTINE

Like all things unknown we are breaking new ground here there are no guarantees.

(Walters Thinks)

WALTERS

Ok, so we still have a few risks.

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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KRISTINE

Yes we do Roberta, first we have to find your immediate future persona.

WALTERS

Is it risky?

KRISTINE

Perhaps, are you still game to do this?

Kristine gets a cassette tape from the desk, looks at it and confirms its the one.

WALTERS

I'm a guinea pig, aren't I?

KRISTINE

Yep, a grade A guinea pig  
(she just smiles and changes the subject)  
Now, to pre-gress you to the future. I want to put you under using an bi-sync technology.  
(She pulls the old tape out, inserts the new tape.

KRISTINE

Yep  
(she puts the new tape in the deck. Synjin could you start the video camera?

SYNJIN

Do you want new videotape?

KRISTINE

Yes please

(Synjin opens a packing cube , she hands the goggles and head to Walters)

KRISTINE

Roberta, lets go find your future.  
(Walters places the head set and goggles, and is obvious to the rest of them, just waiting.)

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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YESHI

Kris did we really find her past? Are we really ready for this step?

KRISTINE

Yes! Walters is ready.  
(She puts her hand up into her mike and speaks to Walters.)  
Are you ready Roberta.  
(Walters nods her head)  
Ok we're set  
(She pulls the volume pot down and She starts the tape)

SYNJIN

What's the difference about this tape

KRISTINE

This tape uses two low frequency tones, one's at 100 hertz and other about 108 hertz, the two tones are played separately in each of her ears.

SYNJIN

Ok, so what's it do?

KRISTINE

The tones get each hemisphere of the brain resonating at different levels, the beauty is that it produces a 8 hertz beat resonant between the hemispheres.

YESHI

Ahhh, you'll effectively forcing her into a meditative alpha state.

SYNJIN

Couldn't you just have her meditate?

KRISTINE

Sure we could---  
(She looks at YESHI)

YESHI

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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---But that degree of perfected meditation could take years to master.

SYNJIN

But she doesn't have years?

KRISTINE

Agreed, So we have to mechanically, force the issue if we're going to touch her future before she gets to sick to do this...

SYNJIN

What do we do if it doesn't work?

KRISTINE

Then we'll try something else

(SOUND: steady tone)

YESHI

Gee that was fast

KRISTINE

Yes it was (puzzled)

(Kris opens the microphone)

KRISTINE

I want you to move forward in your life 3 months tell me what your doing

WALTERS

I'm in my office signing papers

KRISTINE

What kind o papers

WALTERS

Divestiture papers, I'm preparing to dissolve my holdings.

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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KRISTINE

move a head 3 more months. Where are you?  
(Nervous)

WALTERS

I'm in my bed I can't see very well, everything is  
Blurry

KRISTINE

Move a head to the next time you're a child, what are you doing?

(Childlike)

WALTERS

I'm playing with a stuffed dragon  
(Manner as if talking to another child)

KRISTINE

Who gave you that dragon?

WALTERS

My Mommy!

KRISTINE

Can you tell me your name?

WALTERS

(shy at first)  
Who are you?

KRISTINE

I'm a Kris. What's your name?

WALTERS

Jeffery, my name is Jeffery

KRISTINE

Pleased to meet you Jeffery

WALTERS

Where are you?

**THE ART OF ABUNDANCE**

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KRISTINE

Jeffery I want you to move ahead until your all grown up I want you to move to your 35th Birthday, What are you doing Jeffery? ,Jeffery, what do you do?

WALTERS

(in a thick blue collar accent)

Who wants to know?

KRISTINE

A friend

WALTERS

I don't know if I should tell you

KRISTINE

Please -----

WALTERS

Ok hon I'm Jeffery R Stevens

KRISTINE

Would you be willing to share your mother and fathers Names?

WALTERS

What's it to you?

KRISTINE

I might have a present for them

WALTERS

My mothers dead, she died when I was 16.

KRISTINE

What was her name?

(Pause)

WALTERS

Susan

(Pause)

Susan Louise King she was a sweet woman

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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KRISTINE

She was your mother,, of course she was sweet

WALTERS

She wanted me to go to college

KRISTINE

Perhaps you still might.

WALTERS

Not me.

KRISTINE

What was your father's name.

WALTERS

Dads name was Fred William Stevens.

KRISTINE

And where were they each born?

WALTERS

Are you a cop?

KRISTINE

No I'm not a cop, I'm just a friend of the family.

WALTERS

Mom was born in Virginia, dad was born in  
Baltimore----(he abruptly stops)  
Run you bastard run!!---

KRISTINE

(She hesitates, then moves the mike slider)  
Where are you? And who were you yelling at.

WALTERS

My living room silly---- I'm watching a football game.

KRISTINE

Where do you live?



# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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WALTERS

Dundalk, Maryland

KRISTINE

What's the date, How old are you?

WALTERS

2043 ---I'm 35 years old

(Kristine puts her arms right in a cheer "yes")

KRISTINE

What do you do?

WALTERS

I work the Docks I'm a cargo-tech, I load container ships.

(Kris pull the slider down to mute - points to Synjin and the clip board)

KRISTINE

Notice the connection to shipping

SYNJIN

Yes, I did

YESHI

Classic case of habitual tendency

(they give him the look, Kris nods in agreement)

Kris pushes the slider up, and speaks to the future Walters

KRISTINE

Who's playing football?

WALTERS

Washington and Tampa and the Buccaneers are losing.

KRISTINE

So the Redskins are winning---

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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WALTERS

REDSKINS!!!?? Good grief, hon, they haven't been called the skins for nearly forty years.

LIGHTS: Begin slow fade -- YESHI's quietly giggling, Synjin visibly surprised

KRISTINE

I don't follow football so what are they called now?

WALTERS

**The Warriors** everybody knows that, hon. Some native American tribe owned this casino you see, bought the team back in aught five,

(LIGHTS: dark)

The first thing they did was change the name-----

Exit WALTERS and YESHI

## SCENE -5- JEFFERY

LIGHTS: up

Synjin sitting at the terminal working

SYNJIN

Come on come on

(Pull out his cell phone presses one button pauses waits for the cell to be answered)

This is Synjin , what's with the Network Performance this afternoon ---uhuh-- Yep I see

(Pause)

Thanks for the info

(Hangs Up)

(Kristine enters)

KRISTINE

How are you making out with researching Jeffery's parents?

SYNJIN

Not good, the network has a bottleneck, the search engines are bogged down.

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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KRISTINE

(Takes a deep breath and blows thru her  
lips in a pucker)  
We'll Just have to be patient

SYNJIN

So what's your plan?

KRISTINE

I would like to give a significant gift to Jeffrey's  
parents or at least put the documents in motion

SYNJIN

And if it doesn't work?

KRISTINE

We'll tear it up and try something else

SYNJIN

What if none of it works?

KRISTINE

Don't be a Pessimist Synjin I'm confident that  
something will work.  
You seem really loyal to you boss.

SYNJIN

I hope so. I owe a lot to him

KRISTINE

Your position, your job and career?

SYNJIN

No I mean everything

KRISTINE

Care to share?

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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SYNJIN

I was a welder in one of his shipyards, I caught a mistake in the steel that being used in the hull of a ship we were working on. Had I not spoke up, and that steel had been used in the hull it could have caused a serious problem later at sea.

KRISTINE

Would the ship had sunk?

SYNJIN

Yes and worse; It was a tanker. Had it been full of crude oil it could have been a serious environmental disaster.

KRISTINE

So what did you do?

SYNJIN

I told my supervisor who told me not to worry about it.

KRISTINE

Your kidding.

SYNJIN

So I stomped my way up to the executive offices in my welding gear, I was a filthy mess, you should have seen it--

KRISTINE

(giggle)

SYNJIN

---I walked right thru executive row with all these exec secretaries fussing at me and walked into Walters's Board Meeting and announced that he was building ships with substandard steel.

KRISTINE

What did he say?

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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SYNJIN

She just liked at me with a fire in her eye and said,  
You're fired!

KRISTINE

He didn't. What did you say?

SYNJIN

She sure did, then I said, OK I'm fired, But your  
tanker out there is still being built with substandard steel.

KRISTINE

Good grief.

SYNJIN

Then she took a deep breath, grabs her hard hat and  
said Lets go see. When she saw what I was talking  
about, a bunch of heads rolled.

KRISTINE

Goodness, I guess you got your job back

SYNJIN

Nope!

KRISTINE

What?

SYNJIN

The next day, I reported to work and there  
was a pink slip and my last paycheck.

KRISTINE

Oh what a bummer

SYNJIN

---And a note to come to the head office when I got up  
there she took me around the office and introduced me as the  
trouble-maker from the welding gang.

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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KRISTINE

That wasn't nice

SYNJIN

Then she took me to dinner and told me that he was going to send me to school.

KRISTINE

School ??

LLIGHTS: start fade to Black

SYNJIN

He got me into Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute N.Y. He paid my tuition and even half salary to attend .

LIGHTS : Dark

## SCENE -6- THE EXPERIMENT

KRISTINE

Ok we're ready to change the future, Synjin do you have Roberta's executive check book?

SYNJIN

Yes, right here

KRISTINE

YESHI have you confirmed when they'll get married and conceive Jeffery?

YESHI

Yes, 2006

KRISTINE

So let's issue an order that directs a check for 50 million dollars from the Walters trust will be issue to the parents upon Jeffery's first birthday.

Synjin, writes the note and seals it in the executive directive envelop.

SYNJIN

Done

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

Release Version 9-3/2002

KRISTINE

Let's see what it did  
(She opens the mike)

KRISTINE

I want you move ahead to until your Jeffery, find  
your 35th birthday, where are you.

(Walters in a stuff, snobbish voice but drunk)

WALTERS

I'm in my penthouse  
(drunk-ish)

KRISTINE

What wrong with you?

WALTERS

I'm drunk sister.

KRISTINE

why are you drunk.

WALTERS

My wife hates me, my kids hate me and my two ex's are  
suing me for more money?

Kristine gets a head shaking look from YESHI and a stern look from Synjin

KRISTINE

So, Jeffery you have a problems with your wives, why?

Trying to be private with Kristine

WALTERS

Can I trust you to not spread it around; you know  
gossip and all that stuff.

KRISTINE

Yes of course, Jeffery tell me about your problems?

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WALTERS

Well you see my wives have a problem because I play around and I have a little problem with the white and booze.

Kristine a bit shocked

KRISTINE

Jeffery, are you telling me that you are addicted to cocaine?

WALTERS

Yes.

KRISTINE

and you have problems with you wives and kid because of it?

WALTERS

Well my third wife told me she could deal with the powder and alcohol but she drew the line at my gambling.

Kristine closes the mike, and says to Synjin

KRISTINE

Give me that envelop  
(he hands it to her, and she tears it up  
throws the pickes on the ground. She takes  
a deep breath and opens the microphone)  
Tell me where you are Jeffery?

(walters resumes the blue collar sound)

WALTERS

It's my birthday and I'm celebrating it in at my home  
in Bowie, Maryland

KRISTINE

--- you celebrating it with your wife and kids?



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WALTERS

Wife who told you that sister? I'm not married.

KRISTINE

Who are you sharing your birthday with?

WALTERS

My mother and a dozen of my person friends.

(YESHI, Synjin and Kristine get startled looks on their faces.)

KRISTINE

Jeffery, someone told me you mother died of  
appendicitis with you were 16?

WALTERS

Nahhh, she had a bout of it but the doctors pulled her  
thru.

(Synjin motions kris to close the mike, she complies)

SYNJIN

What the hell's going on? His mother died with he was  
16 what wrong.

YESHI

(Looking at Kristine)

I think we are seeing a classic case of Heisenberg's  
Uncertainty Principle here.

(Kristine looking like a scared rabbit, nodes her head)

SYNJIN

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, refresh me YESHI

YESHI

In simple terms, I have a white wall and then I paint  
it blue, I just changed the wall, if I again paint it  
white is it the same wall

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SYNJIN

Yes. of course it is,

YESHI

No it's not, now the white is a fresh coat of pain,  
it's not the original white wall and the fabric of  
the wall is now subtly changed---

SYNJIN--

because the wall now has an under lying coat of blue  
paint in it's fabric.

YESHI

Yes

KRISTINE

Lets try something else

SYNJIN

Kristine, don't you think that is a bit risky,  
considering this new information?

KRISTINE

I told you both that this was risky; we must press  
forward, but tread carefully. Remember our objective  
is to make Roberta's future persona, "Rich and Happy."  
(ponders)  
Why does a person with money become an out of control  
hedonist?

YESHI

Lot's a reason, bad influences and bad choices---

SYNJIN

I think it al boils down to character and self  
discipline.

KRISTINE

Suppose we issue a grant for him to attend a boarding  
prep school and give him a scholarship to Oxford all  
expenses paid, with the knowledge that he'll inherit  
a bigger chunk of money upon successful graduation.

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YESHI

You are assuming that prep school and oxford will make a decent man out of him.

Synjin---Musing, I think Roberta would approve

KRISTINE

Then we're in agreement

The other two nod

KRISTINE

Synjin issue an order to grant young Jeffery a commission to attend prep school and then attend oxford.

As Synjin begins writing on his clip board

YESHI

Kris I really think you must consider the possibility of his karma before you press forward , really don't think you can script the future like this.

KRISTINE

YESHI I willing to entertain any suggestions

YESHI

I have none at this time, but I'll think on it.

KRISTINE

Then I must press ahead with my own ideas for the moment. Synjin  
How are you coming?

SYNJIN

Almost finished, I have him going to a prep school in England and later a full scholarship to oxford.

(Synjin folding the paper and placing it in an envelop)

KRISTINE

Great seal it

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(Synjin seals it and all is ready.)

SYNJIN

Done

Kristine takes a deep breath and opened the mike

KRISTINE

I want you to return to this moment, who are you?

WALTERS

I'm Roberta Walters

KRISTINE

I want you to move ahead until you are Jeffery age  
five,  
(she takes a breath)  
Jeffery are you there

WALTERS

Yes

KRISTINE

I want to you move head to your 35th birthday, what  
are you doing?

WALTERS

Nothing, I never had a 35th birthday.

(Surprised, KRISTINE looks at a perplexed Synjin and YESHI)

KRISTINE

I want you to move back to the last time you were  
Jeffery, tell me what you are doing

WALTERS

I loading my pistol

KRISTINE

Why are you doing that

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WALTERS

I'm going to kill myself

(again shock among the team)

KRISTINE

Why are you going to do that

WALTERS

I just flunked out of oxford; if I had graduated I would have inherited a big trust of money from some dead industrialist.

KRISTINE

Jeffery I used to talk to you when you were five do you remember me?

WALTERS

I remember a lady used to talk in my head when I was a kid.

KRISTINE

Jeffery I'm your guardian Angel, I want you to pick up you phone and call a suicide hot line and ask for help, will you do that for me Jeffery.

(YESHI appalled and starts to speak, but Synjin calms YESHI.)

WALTERS

Yes

KRISTINE

I want you to move to your 35th birthday, where are you what are you doing.

(Jeffery is drunk)

WALTERS

Hey lady where the hell have you been, I haven't talked to you since I flunked out of oxford.

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KRISTINE

Why are you drunk

WALTERS

I just lost my job at the hospital; I was fired for coming in drunk.

KRISTINE

Why are you drinking;

WALTERS

My life is crap, I wish I were dead.

Shocked looks, Synjin give Kristine a mean look.

Fade to black

## SCENE -7- CONSULTANT

Walters gone Synjin and Kristine are arguing with YESHI sitting out of the line of fire

SYNJIN

---and another thing

LIGHTS UP

SYNJIN

I really think that what professor Berkstein said about you and your research is true.

KRISTINE

Just what the hell did Harry Berkstein have to say about me

SYNJIN

He said that you practice the worst kind of pseudo science, and that your work and you have the worst credibility.

KRISTINE

Anything else Synjin?

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SYNJIN

Yes, if it weren't for the fact that I think the world of Ms. Walters, I would have recommended that she drop you like a hot potato weeks ago. At first I thought you were a fraud and a crackpot, now I see you as a reckless practitioner of the worst kind of science.

(Synjin pick up and storms out- Kristine stares at the floor )

KRISTINE

Well YESHI do you have any comments.

YESHI

I think the test pilots have a phrase for this sort of circumstance

KRISTINE

What do the test pilots say

YESHI

Screwed the pooch!

KRISTINE

(Laughs)

(gives YESHI the eye for cheering her up and making her smile)

Perhaps we have YESHI old friend

YESHI

I've been doing some thinking, perhaps we can do some damage control.

KRISTINE

What you do have in mind?

YESHI

I've told you before that we need Roberta to change her karma, up until now you and Synjin have written all the check and documents. I think it's important that we have take control of her future.

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KRISTINE

We'll blow the laboratory controls on this effort.

YESHI

Kris I think we have done far worse, we have seriously messed up this being's future life with our dabbling.

KRISTINE

What do you have in mind.

YESHI

The next time Walters is here lets get her to do something to change her own future. Start by getting her taking control of her own charity.

KRISTINE

What do you mean?

YESHI

I'm talking about generating the Cause for her own future abundance.

KRISTINE

I've been doing some research the Walters industries has a foundation and it's very generous organization.

YESHI

May I emphasize the word organization. I'm not sure how hands on Ms. Walters in regards to the charity of her foundation.

KRISTINE

We'll have to ask her

LIGHTS: fade to black



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## SCENE –8- CREATING THE CAUSES

Walters enters with Synjin and greeted by Kristine

WALTERS

What's the good word?

KRISTINE

We'll be honest with you, this is proving to be more difficult than we had hoped.

WALTERS

I appreciate your frankness; I understand loosely that my future self has developed certain life difficulties.

KRISTINE

You could say that,  
(looking at Synjin)  
how much have you told him, Synjin?

SYNJIN

Not much, just that her future self is miserable and worse off than when we found him, nothing more.

WALTERS

Synjin did recommend that I consider dropping the project altogether, so that my future will have a fighting chance.

KRISTINE

If that's your wish, to drop the project, I'll be happy to give back a little over \$90k worth of the money you gave me.  
(Walters holds up her hand)

WALTERS

Woooo, put the brakes on honey. We're going to proceed on course----  
(the door opens and in walks a breathless YESHI. with a small folder)  
as if things were going smoothly. )

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YESHI

Sorry I'm late, looking at the solemn moment, Did I interrupt something.

KRISTINE

Roberta was just telling us that we're going to proceed on course, even though things are a bit messed up in the future.

YESHI

!!! Then before we get started I need to speak to Ms. Walters alone please.  
(Kristine is put off, but acknowledges, grabs Synjin and step out side)

WALTERS

What's on your mind YESHI-la

YESHI

(YESHI points at Walters)  
You added a LA to my name as an endearment, I knew you knew more about Tibetan culture than you were letting on.

WALTERS

I visited Nepal for near six months when I was just out of college, so what's on your mind YESHI.

YESHI

Roberta, what we're dealing with is a problem with the causes and effects of your karma.

WALTERS

Is it something we can fix?

YESHI

I'm not sure, but I have a suggestion. I've prepared a list of worthy charities, I want you to write out a check to one of them.

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WALTERS

I have a whole charitable foundation that does that sort of thing, with lots of research. What if it's not tax deductible?

YESHI

It's charity Roberta, give from you heart Roberta what difference does it make.

WALTERS

Ok I'll look over the list, why don't you invite Kris and Synjin back in.

(YESHI walks over to the door and while Walters examines the list of charities)

YESHI

We're ready!

As Kristine and Synjin enter Walters waves Synjin over and they talk privately, WALTERS points at Yeshi, Synjin , started digging in his brief case and pulls out a folder. he opens it and Walters makes a note of something and finishes writing a check

Kris and Yeshi down stage

YESHI

Kris I've proposed to Ms. Walters that she make a significant charitable donation herself here now and on the spot to see if it impacts the future.

KRISTINE

What did she say?

WALTERS

I said yes  
(handing a check to the Synjin, who dutifully places it in an envelop and seals it)

KRISTINE

who did you cut the check to?

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WALTERS

That's personal Kristine.

YESHI

I provided her with a list of needy charities not normally addressed by her foundation.

KRISTINE

OOO--OK

(she looks at Walters )

Shall we get started.

(walters nods and walks over the chair and places the headset and goggles on, YESHI is assisting)

KRISTINE

(started the process)

So Synjin, I'm curious how much you bent Roberta's ear?

SYNJIN

Not much, I just told her that aspects of the process have been going badly and that I thought your process was too loose.

KRISTINE

too loose? Look Synjin, I told her going into this that we're moon walking all of this is highly experimental.

SYNJIN

Ms. Walters certainly understands that, I was just doing my job as a monitor and advocate for her.

KRISTINE

(a bit rubbed)

Advocate?

SYNJIN

(pulls out an envelop)

This is power of attorney, granted to me to pull the plug, when and if something is seriously wrong.

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KRISTINE

How long have you had THAT?  
(devolping fire in her eye)

SYNJIN

Since the beginning, there were many in the academic community who viewed you as a crack pot, Ms. Walters felt otherwise, as her advocate, I talked her into a parachute if I deemed your processes to be dangerous or fraudulent, I was authorized to terminate the effort on her behalf.

(Kristine is now really rubbed the wrong way,)

KRISTINE

So you're to be the judge if I success or fail?

SYNJIN

Yes and if by some chance you succeed at making the boss happy down the line, I'll be the judge if it's suitable and consistent with her wishes.

(SOUND: Delta tone) (YESHI oblivious to the discussion)

YESHI

She's ready! Kris

(Kris walks over to the control panel, and Synjin to the video camera)

(Kris sits on her Stool, puts on her head set and takes a moment to close her eyes and compose herself, then she moves the audio slider and speaks to Walters)

KRISTINE

I want you to go forward to Jeffery's thirty fifth birthday. Where are you and what are you doing?

WALTERS

I'm sitting in the shade of an old tree on campus and I'm reading a book.

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KRISTINE

What Campus?

WALTERS

Oxford university.

(Synjin, Kristine and YESHI look surprised at each other. )

KRISTINE

Jeffery what are you doing at Oxford,

WALTERS

I teach here.

(Shock in the room on all their faces)

KRISTINE

Jeffery you teach at oxford? What do you teach I heard that you flunked out when you were 22.

WALTERS

Absolutely I flunked out, I was about ready to blow my brains out when you spoke to me and told me to call a suicide hot line.

KRISTINE

I take it that you did?

WALTERS

yes I did, and I ended talking to these really great Tibetan monks from the Namgyal monastery (YESHI perks up, Synjin looks at the envelope he has sealed in his hand.) They helped defuse my depression, they taught me how to mediate, after about a year I came back to oxford and finished my degree

KRISTINE

I'm surprised that let you back in,

WALTERS

At first they didn't want to but the dean of the school intervened

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KRISTINE

Then what

WALTERS

Then I stayed on for post graduate work and got a job here teaching philosophy

KRISTINE

Are you married, do you have kids?

WALTERS

Oh no, I'm not married ---I can't be.  
(YESHI begins to nod his head, grinning to himself)

KRISTINE

Why ?

WALTERS

Well I live at the Namgyal monastery, I'm a Buddhist monk, we're celibate you know.

(Kristine is shocked- searching for words)

KRISTINE

What did you do with that trust you got after you graduated,

WALTERS

Oh it's invested and being used to maintain the monastery and it charitable causes.

(YESHI grabs a clip board and begins to scribble)

KRISTINE

Are you saying you gave all that money away to charity?

WALTERS

As a monk I have no need for money.

(Synjin is shaking his head looking disgusted) (YESHI points at the clip

## THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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board all most pounding on the clipboard and Kristine read two questions)

KRISTINE

Jeffery are you Happy?

WALTERS

Of course I'm happy, I live a peaceful life, and I have the opportunity to stimulate bright sharp minds, on a daily basis, it very fulfilling.

(she gets a grin on her face)

KRISTINE

Jeffery would you consider yourself rich?

WALTERS

Considering the excellent life I have,  
Honey, I am rich beyond my wildest dreams.

(YESHI smiling broadly, Kristin grinning and Synjin nodding with approval.

(LIGHTS: Fade to black)



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## SCENE –9- EPILOG

LIGHT UP: The office is just as un-kept as always. Kristine is reading in on of the big wing back chairs.

There's a knock at the door, gets up to answer, it's Synjin

KRISTINE

Will if it isn't Synjin, what a surprise!  
(they shake)

SYNJIN

Dr. Cantrell, it's good to see you too.

KRISTINE

My condolences on the passing Ms. Walters.

SYNJIN

Thank you, for attending the funeral.

(trying to get around the awkwardness)

KRISTINE

It was the least I could do, So come in, have a seat, what can I do for you?  
(the sit at the wing backs)

SYNJIN

I've come to give you several proposals for several chairmanships at four great universities, i strongly suggest that you travel to each university and meet everybody before you choose.

KRISTINE

You really made that happen?

SYNJIN

I didn't, Roberta made that one happen personally, she spent many hours visiting universities

KRISTINE

Ok I'll look them over

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SYNJIN

Finally, here a check for one million dollars from the estate, Roberta wanted you to be comfortable enough to take any the teaching jobs with out worry of money.

KRISTINE

(standing there with her jaw open)  
I'm not sure want to say

SYNJIN

You don't have to say anything, Roberta wanted you to have this.

(beat)

but suppose you say you'll have dinner with me tonight

KRISTINE

Why do we have other Walters business

SYNJIN

Not exactly---- I have a limo waiting to take us any place you like.

(she grabs her sweater)

(SOUND: Soft closing music )

KRISTINE

Ok Synjin, I'm game

(as they begin to walk to the door, he opens it)

So what will your new boss say, about using the company car for personal business?

SYNJIN

I am the boss

(He laughs and then she laughs,)

(SOUND: the music swells) and they leave closing the door behind them)

LIGHTS: Fade to Black

CURTAIN

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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## Synopsis:

Christine Cantrell, M.D.: Psychiatrist, Published researcher on esoteric phenomena, behind on grants and her bills. She has her research interrupted but the realities of life and the harsh reality that she is out of money. An abundantly rich older woman seeks out the down on her luck, out of the mainstream professor who is a specialist in metaphysical stuff. The older woman, Roberta Walters is dying, she strongly believes in reincarnation and wishes to discover her immediate future lifetime persona and wants to leave all her money to herself in that persona. She offers Professor Cantrell a significant amount of money to do the research effort and conduct the past life regression and future life progression sessions. But ....there are problems and none the least is a little thing called "karma."

## About the Author

*The author's thoughts and motivations for writing The Art of Abundance*

## The Art of Abundance

### Inspiration

The plain truth is I was inspired by the musical:

***"On a On a Clear Day You Can See Forever."***

That story deals with a woman who's trying to quit smoking. As a therapy patient, under hypnosis, she tells her psychiatrist of the many past lives she's led. The problem is, she's in love with her therapist... and he's falling for the woman she used to be.

There was a funny line in the movie version about a philanthropist who wanted to underwrite the psychiatrist's reincarnation research so he could leave his money to himself.

### Conceptually

This concept seems silly on face value but after some thoughtful examination the concept represented an interesting notion. Being of Buddhist faith, and vocationally a Buddhist nun, I have been trained in the mechanics of Karma as well as the topic of reincarnation. Professionally I'm well read in the subject of Quantum Theory. I was intrigued with the ordered chaos that researching such an effort would have on future history, in essence the Butterfly Effect.

The "Butterfly Effect", or more technically the "sensitive dependence on initial conditions theory", is the essence of chaos. In layman's terms **Predictability**: Does the Flap of a Butterfly's Wings in Brazil set off a Tornado in Texas?

So at the very core of this story is the notion of how fluid and delicate the cosmic ether or multi-universe is to change and observation.

# THE ART OF ABUNDANCE

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## Practicalities of the Script

The first thing I wanted to do was get the hero and young ingénue love dynamics out of the story. This wasn't going to be a story of timeless love across the span of life times but rather a story of pride and greed across the span of life times. This was going to be about our habitual tendencies that follow us lifetime after lifetime.

As well I wanted to update the themes of who the successful professionals are. That's why I leaned toward a wealthy successful female industrialist with her understudy assistant and a female research psychiatrist who's from the lunatic fringe of research. Usually all the innovation and risk taking comes from the "**out of the box**" thinkers anyway.

I have been accused of inserting my persona into the play. But in reality the character of Yeshe is there to be a subject matter expert and to explain very complex things in very simple terms to the audience. Yeshe as well is there to be a moral conscience to the story's protagonist Kristine Cantrell. CAC

Cheryl Ann Costa - (American playwright, April 23, 1952- )

## The 50 word Bio

Cheryl Ann Costa is in a word, unique! Cheryl has been an airman, a submarine sailor and a talk radio host. Professionally, she is a security engineer for a top Fortune 500 company, vocationally she's an ordained Tibetan tradition Buddhist nun and avocation ally she's a playwright.

## The 100 word Bio

Cheryl Ann Costa's theater experience started when she was 15 years old –1967–, and mostly on the technical side of stagecraft for nearly 22 years. Then in 1992 she started concentrating on character acting, directing and most of all being a playwright. Since 1993, she has authored over fifteen plays, debuting many of them in the Washington, DC metropolitan and suburban Maryland. Some plays have been produced internationally and translated into other languages. The unique topic matters of her work have been the basis for many high school and college level term papers internationally.