

MadMen

Synopsis

Nan Klee

After a premonition of the impending nuclear holocaust in San Diego, Hannah Augustine persuades friend Penny McIntyre to head for the desert. With a cat named Tosha, the two drive out into the desert to hide in a box canyon, and soon are visited briefly by a man who gives Hannah a wolf for a companion. Safe between canyon walls, the two women survive China's deadly atomic attack of strategic US cities. With over 93 percent of the US population eliminated by neutron and atomic bombs, the two women follow Hannah's insight and journey across the country to a pre-arranged location in St. Paul, Minnesota. Along the way, she miraculously heals the injured leg of a Latino they've met, and soon discovers that she can converse with the wolf. After learning to light her cigarettes with a flame from her thumb, Hannah is defended from a sexual attacker by a great horned owl who is helped by her wolf and cat.

When the two women arrive at the University of St. Thomas, they move in with Jenifer, whom Hannah knows through telepathic contacts, her husband, Lynn Tonaka, and a son, James, whose father may have been Hannah's former fiancée, William Martin. Savaging for the winter, they draw three orphaned children to their home, as well as an old drifter named Arlo. Soon, the crazed William Martin and his friend Thomas arrive, causing emotional difficulties for many in the household. William still searches for a mythical woman he calls "Lady Ann," and Jenifer believes Hannah is that woman, despite his denials. As the community settles into survival and acceptance of their shared past relationships, Hannah avoids William, who repeatedly seeks her advice and then rages against her second sight.

Then flirtatious and handsome Marshall Roberts, a mutual friend of Penny and Hannah's comes on the scene. As psychically strong as Jennifer, Hannah, Thomas, and William, he causes tempers to flare, resulting in a battle of fireballs between William and Hannah over her smoking marijuana with Marshall. As a result of the fiery combat that he can't win, William accepts Hannah as his "Lady Ann," despite her human flaws. Although Andy and Hannah "marry," the marriage is not consummated, and William is not interested in Hannah as a woman or a wife. He continues to be mean and condescending to her due to his own emotional struggles, causing Marshall to act protectively toward Hannah during the long winter. Jennifer's ability to mirror Hannah's emotions keeps William from seriously harming her. Penny marries Thomas and soon is pregnant.

During the long nuclear winter, the community moves south to Memphis, Tennessee, where William and Hannah had met years ago. It is now on the Gulf of Mexico. Combining with another household of telepaths, they settle in to the business of living until ham radio operators begin to report Chinese troop movements coming in from the West. Using their naval aviation backgrounds, several of the community get an F-18 working and begin reconnaissance flights with the Geiger counter. Finally William recognizes his mistake in

marrying Hannah, releases her from this wedding vow, and arranges for Hannah and Marshall to consummate their love without the community's knowledge. Soon, the community finds that they must blow up the bridges that cross the Mississippi River to hold back the advancing enemy troops. After a daring attack on horseback against incoming Chinese tanks, the community decides to escape to South America using an E2 Hawkeye aircraft from the deserted naval base. Landing both planes safely, the survivors plan to begin a more peaceful life. After a few days, at evening vespers in a local church, William announces the change in marital status of both him and Hannah to the community. Since a priest readily available, Marshall immediately marries Hannah.

After a few weeks spent settling the communal family into a local tree farm, Hannah, Marshall and William fly the Hawkeye to Brazil, and refuel the aircraft before flying across the Atlantic Ocean. Evil psychics force the plane down into the sea, where they are rescued by the real Lady Ann and her crew of psychically gifted friends. Together they travel to the Straights of Gibraltar, which is no longer open to the sea, but a God given helper, Lady Miriam waits there for them with transportation and a plan.

To be continued