

LONELY KING

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(WITH HAL AMES)

Once upon a time in a kingdom in a country in the northern part of the land of nobles, there was a king, who had a bad hobby. He liked to fight with the other kingdoms.

His name was King Réymön.

As time passed, he became tired of fighting. Instead of fighting, he decided he wanted to love somebody because he was so lonely.

To find someone to marry, he went to the other kingdoms and asked them if they would let him meet their princesses, but they all said no. They did not like the king because he had always wanted to fight them.

The king became sad. He tried to figure out a way to marry a princess, when suddenly he had a good idea. He got onto his horse and rode away to a faraway place. He was going to a place where no one knew him.

On the third day he came upon a large rock.

On the stone was written, “If you go to the left, you will die. If you go to the right, you will find nothing. If you go straight, you’ll find your love.”

Of course, the king went straight. He went and went until he met a strange old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes. He was sitting near the road and called out to the king. The king did not understand what he said.

The king stopped and asked the old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes, “Why are you calling me?”

The old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes said, “You shouldn’t go straight because it has become very dangerous in the last year. You can

also die.”

The king didn't want to hear what he was saying.

He said, “No, I won't go to the left, nor will I go to the right. I am going to go straight. I'm going to find love. Don't stop me!”

The king rode past the old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes, ignoring his advice.

A few moments later, he saw a beautiful palace. It was in a wonderful garden with fountains and colorful flowers. The color of the palace was light pink.



The king was surprised since the palace appeared so suddenly. He rode up to the door of the palace. He was curious as to who lived there. He knocked on the door of the palace. The door was big and was made from red wood.

He waited for someone to answer the door until the sun was setting behind the palace. It was evening now, and the shadows were getting longer.

Then the door opened, and the king saw a beautiful princess, she was more beautiful than he could ever imagine. He fell in love. It was love at first sight.

He asked, “Who are you?”

The princess answered, “I am Florença, the princess of this palace. Who are you?”

“I am King Réymön from the Blue Kingdom. I am looking for my true love,” the king answered.

The princess stepped back, not believing what he just said.

“I live here, if you want, you can live here too,” the princess opened the door for him to come in.

The king agreed without much thought.

Over the next few days he lived like it was a fairy tale. Every morning he

found a yummy breakfast in his room. He saw amazing and beautiful paintings and decorations. In the garden there were bright and colorful birds and in the pond he saw golden fish.

As he spent time in the palace he realized there were two strange things that were not normal. He never saw any servants, nor cleaners, nor anyone else.

Second, he only saw the princess at night. When a few days passed, he started to see people, but they only appeared at night and they never talked to him. It was so very odd.

The princess asked if the king would marry her. He agreed, but he started to think that everything was not all good. He remembered the old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes near the road, who told him if he went straight he would die.

One day, he got onto his horse and went to search for the old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes. He wanted to search for answers to what he had said. He went on the same road back the way he had come, but he always returned to the palace. All roads ended back at the palace. The king became frightened. He didn't know what to think.

He sat under a tree near the road. The next moment appeared the old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes.

The king shouted, "Please help me! I don't know what to do!"

The old man in an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes answered, "OK, but now that the trap has closed, you must be very careful. This beautiful princess is really an evil witch. She wants to become beautiful and young like the princess, so she put her in the basement. However only at night can she be like the princess. The palace is not real. It's magic from the witch."

He continued, "The witch needs you because she loves another man who was turned into a frog, she wants the frog to become you. If she marries you, she can put



a spell on you and turn you into a frog. The frog she loves will become you. This will also allow the witch to remain like the princess. Then after they are married, they want to attack all the kingdoms and rule over them.

“The only way to leave the pink palace and free the princess, is to cut the nose off the evil witch when she is not the princess. During the day her nose is very long.”

The king was shocked but there was nothing else he could do.

He returned to the palace again and began to plan how to cut the nose off the witch.

The day of the wedding came, and it was to be in the evening. The witch, who looked as beautiful as the princess, called him to come to a big room in the palace.

She asked him if they could be married that night.

The king said that first they should have fun and eat and dance.

They had fun all night. The king kept putting off the wedding until it was finally morning.

Then the witch said, “We need to get married immediately.”

Suddenly, the sun began to rise, and the witch returned to herself. The witch’s long nose was easy for him to cut off. The nose turned into a white magic cloud, which spun around as the witch screamed and then it blew away. The nose was the magic force for the witch. Now, she was no longer a witch. The power of the nose was gone. She was now just an old woman. The pink palace disappeared and was replaced by a small cottage.

The king went outside and heard a scream from a small outhouse under a tree not far from the cottage.

She yelled, “Help me, help me!”

The king opened the door and saw the real beautiful princess. She was so happy that she was now free that she gave the king a big hug.

“Who are you and where are you from?” the princess asked.

“I am King Réymön from the Blue Kingdom, and who might you be?” he responded.

“I am Princess Nastia from the Green Kingdom,” she answered. “Aren’t you the king who is always fighting with other kingdoms?”

“Yes, I am, but I no longer want to fight. I am lonely.” Then the king asked, “Will you marry me?”

She of course said, “Yes.”

On the way to the king’s castle, they passed the tree by the side of the road and then the princess shouted, “Look! It’s my orange dog with red ears and yellow paws.”

The king looked around and then answered, “Where? All I see is an old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes.”

Then the old man with an orange vest, a red hat, and yellow shoes disappeared.

This is the end of the story.