

" An Elf Prince"

The spring of 2024. Green flutter in the trees, flowers are blooming, longer days, atlast. And here I am, laying on the green grass. I close my eyes. It's just a frame. What's in the picture?...

I see a shadow rising over me. Like a silhouette of a man. I open my eyes; I'm surrounded by those beautiful flowers and trees. It's almost magical. A figure standing above me, a tall handsome looking man. I could swear I have seen him before, but I cannot recall when. A man has dark hair, but I can't say what colour exactly, and his eyes... His eyes are sky blue or maybe rather electric blue? Anyway, I rise, so I now I'm sitting on this meadow. At this moment my friend - Julia - whom I came here with comes up to us.

- Hi Annie! - said Julia - Hi Gavin! Oh, you haven't met each other yet, right? Annie, this is Gavin. Gavin, this is Annie.

- It is pleasure to meet you, Annie. - Gavin greeted me with warm smile on his face

- It's nice to meet you too, Gavin - I gave him sweet smile

- Oh, Gavin is a prince from nearby kingdom, but sadly he's not an heir to the throne, because he's second-born. - Gavin doesn't seem to be sad, but maybe it's just that I don't know him that well, hang on... a kingdom?

- A kingdom?

- Well, yes. Annie, are you okay?

- Yes, I'm fine, sorry, just... never mind. - A kingdom? I don't recall any kingdoms near... Wait where, am I? I stand up and look around.

I look around me once more. There is something off with everything around me. I look at Gavin, at his handsome face, his dark blond hair and his elfish ears. Wait, what? He has pointed ears... And so is Julia's.

- Where are we exactly? - I ask my companions.

- What do you mean "where are we"? In Spring Kingdom. -said Gavin

- So, you're the prince of...

- Summer Kingdom, yes. - Julia interrupted me in right moment, because I had no idea what kingdom he was the prince of.

- Wow, that's amazing. Could you take me there one day? - I asked him wondering what his answer will be.

- Of course, that's why we're here. I wanted to invite you two on a ball. My family is throwing a ball and Julia told me so much about you, so I decided to invite both of you. - a ball? Well, that's unexpected.

- And when the ball will be? - A real ball, I cannot believe

- Tonight, in Summer Palace. I know it's a bit late and Julia has told me that you have an important exam soon, but I think you should come. - Gavin said looking only at me.

- Okay... - I heard, only to realise that I was the one to say that.

- Great, see you then. - he said with his charming smile, and then simply vanished into the air

- What? How did he... - I was looking at the place he was standing on like a second ago with eyes and mouth open wide

- He teleported, he's a prince, so he can do that - Julia told me as if it was something obvious.

The rest of the afternoon we spent at her room, or I could say chambers, readying ourselves to a ball. When sun was going down, a carriage - a real carriage! - arrived to take us to the Summer Kingdom. I was curious why it was called Summer Kingdom. It's not like it's summer there all year, is it?

In Summer Kingdom it was hot, like it was maybe 20-something degrees. When we arrived at the palace, our carriage door was opened by someone. Julia got out of the carriage as soon as she could, and I went after her. This place was stunning and huge. It was built with white smooth stone that

seemed to be glowing, people that was there, were laughing and dancing dressed in beautiful colourful gowns and suits. There were candle lights everywhere and this place seemed just glowing with happiness. I've been here for the first time, but I already fell in love with this place. Julia and I were closer and closer to the entrance. Julia was dressed in gorgeous red gown, and I was in sky blue princess-like gown. I looked at a man that was standing in the door. It was Gavin. My heart started to beat like crazy. He looked and his bored expression softened, and a warm grin came up on his face. He looked perfect in this dark blue suit and a white plain shirt. He greeted us and invited inside. It was more beautiful than I could imagine. The music was played by musicians there and it was fantastic, definitely the best music I've ever heard. A crowd around me seemed to be enjoying the event. I leaned over slightly so I could ask my friend.

- Julia, do you maybe know why this ball was thrown?
- The king is to officially announce who will be his heir.
- What? Isn't it obvious? You said it will be his first-born.
- Indeed, because Alexandro is supposed to be an heir, but the king doesn't have to make him his heir. It's because if his first-born is not capable of taking over, he could still choose his other children. It's like that to avoid bloodshed.
- And it works?
- Most of the time. Now quiet, the king is coming.

A second after she has said that they announced king's arrival. When the king sat on his golden throne, two men came from nowhere and stood near the king. I've recognised one of them - it was Gavin. I figured that the other has to be his brother, Alexandro, I think. There was no queen on the king's side and his expression was sad. He announced which of his sons will be the next king. He'd chosen his first-born, of course. Gavin's expression seemed to relax. And then the ball officially has begun. The king vanished into thin air a while later.

I had fun and danced with many point-eared men. And then I was dancing with Gavin. I felt so magical and so good. At dawn my feet hurt a bit, so Gavin showed me a chamber I could sleep in. I didn't think of what was happening I just went to sleep. When I woke up, I heard a conversation. It was Gavin talking with another man... with the king.

- You can't just leave faerie land for her, but you have to take her home. -Faerie land? What does he mean "take her home"
- But dad, I love her - oh, so they were talking about his loved one, why did I feel so jealous?
- If you go there, you can never return and you'll have to forget about your home, your family- about us! - his father's voice was so close to breaking down

I couldn't help, but sleep, so I feel into this sweet darkness again.

I see a shadow rising over me. Like a silhouette of a man. I open my eyes. A figure standing above me, a handsome blue-eyed man. Gavin. We went to this meadow... The same place I had met him for the first time. I had a dream then... It was very weird dream. I dreamed that he is some Elf Prince, and we are on a ball. I wish it was true. Anyway, Gavin and I have just finished college. And now, surrounded by these woods and meadow with blooming flowers, by this beautiful frame, now we can live our happily ever after.