

I hid lower in the tall grass. For once I was happy that I'd saved the gear my father had given me on his deathbed. He'd made it special for me. He used to make many trips out here when he couldn't bear his work.

The armor was black as the night, formfitting, hugging me around the waist and breast, allowing little space between the gear and myself. It had to be worn that way, for I was naked underneath. The less you have on, the faster and more soundless you move. Which was the difference between life and death out here in the Fairy Forest. Or so I was told.

I rushed through the grass and behind a tall tree in the shade. Sneaking my head around the corner I met face to face with Bleun.

"Found you." She whispered. I laughed jumping back, dodging her sword. I ran clearly around the tree and off towards the next. I watched her as she flew up and towards me a few lengths.

"Hey no fair! No flying!" I exclaimed as she dropped back to the ground silently, walking my way. She drew her thin sword and I mirrored her actions as she moved closer.

"Bleun you get the upper advantage!" I admitted. "You're a half fairy for God's sake!" I shouted at her. She dodged my blow.

"Yeah but you're eight years older than me! That means you should give me the advantage out of the courtesy of your heart." She smirked. I turned and ran reaching a tree perfect for climbing. I jumped up grabbing hold of the first branch and pulling my weight up I climbed higher and higher. I knew Bleun had a weakness with climbing.

"That's no fair!" She shouted up at me. "You said I can't fly! And I can't climb well! You know that!"

"Sorry you have to learn sometime!" I let out a loud laugh so she could hear me. But as I shifted on the branch I saw him. Dangerously beautiful, I could nearly see right through his wings delicately folded behind him. He had deep purple hair, his eyes emerald flecked with gold. He was wearing nothing except for a tight fitting pair of pants that fit snug against his calves. He stood tall and shirtless. He had muscles built up on his arms and his tousled hair hung down across his forehead. I had never seen a half fairy boy my age before. Only children. I watched him as he trained, his fighting skills silent and graceful. Each strike of the sword he was holding would be lethal, and almost certainly fatal.

As I glanced in front of me to my right I spotted another one. A girl. She wore a tight fitting shirt and pants similar to the boys, her see through blue wings were spread out as she flew up slowly and back down. Her black hair was neatly tucked in a bun on her head and her blue eyes pierced through me as she glanced my way. I swung down onto the lower branches and to the ground where Bleun stood.

"What is with all the older faes out here? I've never seen any older than you out here before." Bleun smiled returning her sword to its sheath and gladly took my arm.

“You see May, you have chosen the one day, out of very few that the oldest faes come out to break from training. You see because we all have one chance to become full fairies when we reach the age, and if we don’t succeed and change or don’t want it, we stay faes our whole lives.”

I turned my attention back to the boy. But he wasn’t there. As I turned back to look in front of me, a long sword was pointed right at my face and at the end of it, stood he. He looked even more marvelous than from a distance. His eyes pierced right through me, as I stood frozen. I wasn’t supposed to freeze! I was supposed to fight him! Bleun stood laughing at me and flew off through the trees to the other girl.

I drew my sword. This was my chance. I lunged at him and he dodged out of the way and disappeared behind a tree. I ran for the tree swiftly and silently with my sword posed. As I turned the tree he wasn’t there. Confused I looked the other way but no one was there. As I turned back I met the tip of the sword against the base of my throat. I froze again dropping my sword to the ground with a clatter.

‘Hello. I’m Chandresh.’

## Chapter 1:

I sat at the dining table, staring at my betrothed, Thomas Baker. He narrowed his eyes and smiled. They were a deep ocean blue: the eyes of the Devil. I felt my own gaze harden and suddenly wished to have my swords and slice his head clean off his shoulders. Actually, if I had told Chandresh how disgusting he was, he would have probably already done it for me. I clenched my hands together in my lap. I would not eat at the table with this bastard.

“So we are at an agreement? The wedding will take place at the next full moon?” Byren Baker suggested, wiping his mouth with a napkin. Thomas’ father was nice enough. It was just his son.

“No. I’d rather do it on a day where the moon is not full. You know that is when the fairy’s come out.” My mother, Lydia, cut her food like a lady and wouldn’t look directly into Byren’s eyes out of respect. She would have met his eyes without hesitating if my father was still alive, but since he wasn’t she no longer had the authority to do that.

I finally picked up my fork. I was still looking at Thomas. “I have to agree Father, having a wedding on the night of a full moon isn’t very safe. But I don’t want to procrastinate either.” His gaze found mine, and he grinned. “The sooner we’re married, the better.” I felt rage entrap my whole body. How dare he speak to me like that! Not that he really said anything rude... but I know what he meant. And everybody else did too. My mother stiffened at his comment and his father shot him a glare. His grin got bigger as he saw the fury in my eyes. “Wouldn’t you agree, my dear Mayrose?” I stabbed the meat on my plate with my fork, in an obvious sign of anger.

"I couldn't agree more." I forced the words out of my mouth for my mother. Out of the corner of my eye I saw my mother visibly relax. I forced myself to smile at Thomas. If I didn't marry him, there was no future for my mother and none for that and me would break her heart. I couldn't do that to my mother. Not after my dad passed away. But neither could I stay at the table with him any longer. "I wish to be excused." I declared and put my fork down.

"You are excused, my daughter." My mother smiled at me, obviously thanking me for reining in my anger. I gave a curt nod and stood.

"I wish to escort my betrothed." He drew out the word "betrothed" as if to taste it. I clenched my fists at my sides. I would not give him the satisfaction of turning around and yelling at him... For Mother. I took a deep breath and repeated the thought in my head, over and over again.

I did not look at him as we walked up to my room. I opened the door.

"What? No good night kiss?" I ground my teeth together.

"I really don't feel like it." I said without turning. "Now get out." Thomas shook his head.

"So rude." I almost laughed.

"I'm rude? What is wrong with you?" I hissed, finally facing him. He grinned.

"Ah. I need to get you angry. Then I get your attention." I wanted to growl at him.

"Don't test me." I whispered. His grin changed to a smirk.

"What are you going to do? Punish me?" He teased. I felt the rage reach a boiling point. "I can't wait until I have you as my wife. In our own house." He carried on disgusting me. "We will be alone with just you and me. What great times we have to follow. You can punish me all you want then." His voice softened so it almost sounded like a purr. I shot a dreadful gaze straight into his eyes.

"You bastard." I hissed. He came closer to me.

"You defy me and I break off the marriage." He said softly. "Then I'll have a great time telling everybody else how unruly you are. You will never find another husband, and your mother will be heartbroken." He dropped his voice further. It was all I could do not to break his neck. He was right.

"Just get out." I said dropping my gaze. He moved. I backed up and looked straight into his eyes again. "Get. Out." I spoke under my breath. "Now." He stepped back throwing his hands up in defense and left back down the stairs again.

I dropped down onto my bed and decided I needed to get out of the house again. I opened my wardrobe and got dressed into my armor clothes and grabbed my cloak hanging up and tied it around my neck. I opened my window part way and scanned the ground outside. The tall old oak tree stood right next to the house on my side and reached clear past my window. At the sight of no one I pulled the window up all the way and climbed out onto a thick branch. I closed the window behind me so no one would notice and snuck down the tree; quickly and through the back meadows toward the forest line. As I snuck through the tall grass I whistled in the quietest tone possible that no human could hear. Bleun had taught me.

Once in the safety of the trees I crept along the path I had memorized until I was completely enveloped in darkness. I whistled again. Slowly very slowly I watched a few tiny lights twinkle up in the trees. I smiled with joy as I watched more

and more light up the forest. I watched blue, then red, then green all sparkle as if the stars had been tied to the trees. I knew what they truly were. Fairy lanterns, all the faes had them. I made my way through the trees and followed the path the lanterns gave me up to a high structure of rocks. It just looked like an ordinary cave but as I made my way around the side I snuck through a small crevice and into a tunnel. I held my right hand along the wall as I walked through the maze downwards and into the ground. The maze led me out into the large opening in the ground where I could look up and see the forest above me.

As I walked through the bottom of the small canyon I found a large opening in the wall and walked through. I felt a small surge of energy as I passed through the field and into the half fairy realm. Light blinded me as I walked out into the open.

I whistled again but in a different tone and waited for a response. Nothing. I whistled again and this time I got a reply. Slowly and softly a light whistle filled my eardrums and made my heart beat faster. He was on his way.

I quickly turned and ran back out of the realm and into the canyon again. I jumped up the rocks quickly and through maze with my left hand on the wall and out into the black of the night once again. I waited sitting at the base of a large red wood and waited with my face in my hands. I counted to sixty and once I looked up the familiar face greeted me. Chandresh held out his hand to me and I took it, helping me up.

'Hi.' I mumbled.

'You sound troubled.'

'Just Thomas again.' I muttered. Chandresh didn't reply. I stopped staring past him. I looked at his face. It had turned dark with rage. That enough made me smile. 'It's okay. I really wish you were there to kill him.' He let out a hollow laugh at my remark.

'Why do humans even bother with marriage?' I heard him whisper as he turned away. I placed a hand on his shoulder and turned him back to face me.

'Please Chandresh. We've been through this before.' His eyes looked up from the ground and he held my gaze as I slowly removed my hand from his shoulder.

'You are not like the other humans though May.' He whispered quietly. I blushed.

'Thanks Chandresh, but I'm still human. And I do believe in marriage. Just not with.' I held my breath from saying it.

'Thomas.' He hissed. I actually thought he had seen him for I turned around to look behind me but no one was there. 'You know, I really wish I could meet him.' I grinned giving him a light punch in the shoulder. I watched as his wings twitched and sent off a faint sparkle in the black light. I could barely even see his face.

I whistled lightly and Chandresh joined in shortly after until a few fairy lanterns were lit around us. Now I could clearly see his face. Enough to tell that he had ink swirl down his neck and behind on his back.

'What's that?' I asked curiously pointing at the ink.

'I got marked today.' He hesitated. 'Everyone gets marked at 18.' He added.

'What is it supposed to be?' I asked. He smiled and turned for me to see his wings and the ink that went down his shoulder blade and stopped between his wings. It was a bunch of intricate swirls spreading out with symbols intertwined in them written in Seluids.

'What does it say?' I asked again. Then realizing I kept asking questions I stopped.

'It says what I am destined to become. A fighter.' He shrugged at the thought.

'Do you even want that?'

'May? Do I want it? That is what I have trained for my whole life.' I could hear the passion grow in his voice.

I backed down, 'Okay. Okay, calm down Chandresh.' I let out a small giggle. I watched as he blew a tuft of his hair out of his eyes. His eyes. I stared into the golden flecks that pierced his green eyes. So, perfect. They were too perfect for any human to possess. I felt the warmth grow within them and I was forced to look away.

'I'm sorry.' I muttered.

'You can't help it, you're human May.' He responded softly. 'No one can really help it.' I laughed feeling on top of the world for a single moment, and then was dragged back down thinking about being human.

'Chandresh.' I said.

He turned his attention away from the lanterns and looked at me.

'Yes?'

'I think I have to go. Before my mother notices I'm gone.'

'May, you know you could just come and live here in the woods. With us.' I sighed.

'Chandresh we've been here before. I'm human, I can't. I will be back during the day though to see you, when you have your break.' I smiled as he took a step closer.

'I guess that will be fine.' He puffed out a small breath of air. He took another step inward standing close enough for me to feel the warmth he gave off. Closer than I had ever stood to him before. My eyes brushed past his lips and up to his eyes. Standing this close they actually looked like there was gold in his eyes. Real gold. I watched, as his eyes looked me over as if confirming something.

'Your eyes are much too beautiful for a humans. The green mixing into the blue.' He whispered leaning his head closer in. 'It's as if I can almost see yellow in them too.' I smiled at his compliment, closing my eyes I leaned in too and brushed his lips gently, moving closer he kissed me. It was like a feeling I had never had before. The warmth the swirled through my stomach and in my throat: the closeness I suddenly felt to him: the flavors I tasted on his lips: the powers he possessed. It was inhuman, well half human. He pulled away gently and opened his eyes. Something had changed in them. The emerald green shone brighter and it seemed his eyes grew sharper but they seemed to make me melt inside. He turned away.

'I will see you later.' I watched as his wings flicked to life and he disappeared along with the fairy lanterns. Leaving me there small and lonely.

I wandered back in darkness, picking off strands of the tall grass as I walked. I couldn't help but smile at the thought of seeing Chandresh again. Although I couldn't tell if he was happy or still sad when I left him. As I exited the grass I walked up to the base of the oak tree and pulled myself up to my second floor window. Once inside it was dark so I lit a candle next to my bed and got changed into my nightclothes.

Slowly I climbed into bed and let the dreams of the fairy forest rush through

my mind and carry me off into a peaceful sleep.

## Chapter 2:

'Do you know when we decided we would have the wedding?' My mother said quietly at the breakfast table.

'You really think I want to know?' Anyway, I was supposed to meet Jess this morning, and the wedding would hopefully be the farthest thing from my mind. I cleared the table and got up as fast as I could.

'It's in 2 weeks.' My mother added. I couldn't help but slam the dish in the basin, breaking it. My mother sighed. 'Must you always do that?' She got up and helped me collect the pieces of the shattered pottery.

'It was your fault.' I muttered. I could see a trace of a smile on my mother's face. She shook her head.

'How about I wash the dishes, Rose?' She said.

'May, Mother. Not Rose.' I said turning away. My mother turned me back.

'You'll always be my little Rose.' She kissed my forehead. No, I was not going to argue. If she wanted me to be her little Rose, then I was her little rose. 'Don't forget your boots.' She said staring pointedly at my bare feet.

'I don't need boots! I'm only going to the town center!' I threw my hands up. My mother hesitated but then nodded.

'Okay. Just this once. But before you come back in, wash your feet off. And please be back by midday. You have chores and we need to finish Josef Seeble's Tapestry.' She waved me off.

'Yes Mother.' I walked out the door, walking down the main road, to get to the town's center.

'Good morning, Mayrose.' I smiled at the person who called out.

'Good morning, Desleait. How is your work doing?' Desleait laughed.

'Good, good, thank you.' He kept walking.

'Good day Mayrose. How is your mother doing? Feeling better? Let her know she has my regards.' The seamstress called out. She was a good friend of my mother. She was always concerned about her.

'She's doing much better, thank you.' I walked past her, now having seen Jess. Jessamine was waiting for me at the edge of the fountains waving me over to her.

'Good morning May.' She smiled giving me a small hug. I returned it as I stepped back I could tell she read the desperation in my face. 'What is wrong?' She asked beginning to walk away from the center and towards the outskirts. I just looked at her. She should know me better. 'Oh.' She said. 'It's the wedding right?'

'What else would be bothering me this much?' Jess shrugged.

'I don't know. You tore one of your favorite dresses, perhaps?' She suggested. I gave her a mild glare. 'Okay, okay, sorry I know you don't really care about dresses as much as I do.'

'It's alright Jess, thanks for trying.' I sighed as we wandered our way down a

street she added:

'I just still don't understand though why May, that you don't like him. He is perhaps the most handsome man in the town. I'm getting married to the Blacksmiths son for God's sake. He might be broad muscled but he is always dirty and isn't nearly as handsome as Thomas is. I say you got lucky.' She smiled elbowing me.

'No Jess, I didn't get lucky, and his number one priority isn't really a good relationship with his wife. He's after me as a person Jess.' I ran my hands over my figure. She awed at me as if finally fitting the pieces together.

'That would make a lot of sense.' She whispered to herself.

'And that would explain why at dinner last night with his father, my mother and I, he made it very clear he couldn't wait to have the wedding soon enough to have me to himself.' I spit out the words. Jess took a deep breath.

'I have never seen him like that, but he does always seem to keep his eyes where they're not supposed to be whenever I see him.' She eyed me. Her eyes slid past me. 'But he's so adorable!' I turned and saw Thomas, buying something at the market. I whirled back, hoping that he didn't see me. But he did, as he started my way I gathered up my skirts in my hands and bid Jess farewell, trying to make a run for the fields.

'Good morning Jessamine. Where is Mayrose going?' I heard him say, already hidden in the fields.

'Oh she, um, she wanted, um, she needed to get something from the fields, that she remembered she put there the other day.' Jessamine stuttered. I almost slapped my forehead. She was a terrible liar. I soon continued though, because I was really after what was beyond them. I burst my way through the cornstalks in a straight line heading for the edge of the forest. As I entered the dimly lit forest I ran further and further towards the center where no other human would ever venture.

I dropped my skirts out of my hand realizing I hadn't the time to change into my armor before I came. I straightened out my deep blue dress and the belt that wrapped around right under my bust. Giving a low whistle I waited for a response. Nothing. As Always. I thought. Giving another whistle I waited as I spied a couple of children half fairies running away from some trees towards the rocks. I sighed waiting and waiting but no one came. Giving one last whistle I heard a quiet response right in my ear. Spinning around I met face to face with Chandresh. Usual entrance. I thought smiling on the inside.

'I told you I would come later.' I grinned. He just looked me up and down then back at my face.

'Is this what you normally wear?' He asked, his eyes giving a twinkle. I blushed.

'Yes.' I patted down my hair on the top of my head and my bun so that it wasn't sticking up and smiled, looking halfway presentable.

'I like it, better than the armor I think.' His lips twitched up in a small smirk, probably taunting me.

'Well the armor is supposed to protect me but I now stand vulnerable.' There was an awkward silence. 'You know, he wants to use me.' My voice was now a whisper. Chandresh shot me a puzzled look. 'He wants to, use, me.' I paused on each word. I

could tell he understood it then he stepped forward a little, with a worried look on his face. 'You know, he'll expect me to be in the house all day every day, you know how hard it will be to sneak out without permission from him? And I don't even want to think of the consequences he will have for me.' I rambled on.

Chandresh stood up taller fixing his posture. 'Don't worry, if you marry him. Don't bother coming back here.' I watched as he struggled to say the words as he looked away from me and towards the kids playing in the distance. 'Chandresh, please no. I want to come back. I can find a way to be able to come here.' I pleaded. He kept looking away from me then spoke.

'I was going to tell you I needed to stay half fairy if I were to become a warrior. And live here in the fairy woods. But in a weeks time I'll become a full fairy.' I clamped my hands over my mouth holding back the tears, but he couldn't see me.

'Why! Because of me?' I got choked up. He turned to face me.

'Yes, because of you.' I watched as a gold tear streamed down his face and onto the ground with a little plop, as I looked back up into his eyes, I could see one less gold fleck pierce the emerald. He wiped at his face and sighed looking back away mumbling something to himself. Luckily Bleun had taught me how to be attentive.

'Full fairies show no compassion.' He recited to himself. 'Once all the flecks have gone, I can become a full fairy.' I cried silently as he didn't face me and as I ran up to him he turned around and embraced me in a hug. I wrapped around the top of his shoulder blades right above his wings and held my head against his chest crying.

'Is that the only way you become a full fairy?' I asked between sobs.

'No.' He whispered into my ear. 'I can take the test if I don't already lose them all. Then I become a fully fairy.' I hugged him tighter not wanting to let go. I had never hugged Thomas. And I never wanted to. He forced me to kiss him a couple times, and being reluctant it just turned into a peck on the lips. Now I wanted to kiss Chandresh, feel what I had felt the night before. It had left me with a small sensation that I could do it. I could defy Thomas and leave him, and still have something to live for. I lifted my head off of his chest and looked up at his face. I followed his eyes as he studied my lips, then he leaned his head in and closing his eyes the world slowed as if it were freezing, and all that stood was Chandresh and I.

He was mesmerizing. I fell into his spell as he filled me with all the feelings I had from the night before although better, and stronger. I held him close to me as his kiss deepened. I pushed up against him and his embrace softened, all the while pulling me closer so there was no space between us. Gently I bit his lower lip just to play. He pulled back, breaking our kiss and smiled. When he moved back in he gently kissed me under my ear then moved down along my neck and collarbone. Softly I took his head in my hands, guiding his lips back to mine.

Between kisses he whispered. 'Stay here May, stay here please.' The world suddenly stopped and his words lingered in the air. I couldn't stay. I wanted to, but I couldn't. I stepped out of his arms.

'I can't.' I whispered.

'Why?' Chandresh whispered harshly. His hands had curled into fists. 'Because of Thomas? I thought you hated him!' His voice rose. I stared at him desperately and shook my head.



'No! You don't understand!' I felt the tears coming on again.

'You're right. I don't.' Chandresh gritted his teeth. 'Explain.'

'My mother! If I don't marry Thomas she'll have nothing, no money. And she'll be heart broken because I won't have a future either.' I tried to explain but it just turned out worse.

'But you have a future with me.' Chandresh cried. 'And you're mother has to understand. She loves you right? If she loved you as much as I do, then she'd understand.' Chandresh continued.

'But I can't do that to her! I love her too.' I reasoned. Chandresh shook his head.

'But you can't be happy with him. I though you marry who you love. Who you could be happy with your whole life.' Chandresh said quietly. I smiled sadly at him, suppressing the tears.

'Sometimes you make sacrifices for the people you love.' I replied. Chandresh looked at the ground.

'Marriage means you make a promise to stay with that person for your whole life, through good and bad, right?' I nodded. Chandresh looked me in the eyes.

'Would you marry me?' He whispered.

'In a heartbeat.' I smiled and wrapped my arms around him embracing his kiss with joy.

'So do we have it straightened out now? Let's run through it once more.'

Chandresh sat on the ground at the base of a tree with me as we walked through what I was going to do to stop my marriage with Thomas.

'So I will defy Thomas, he will ask for an apology and I won't give him one. Then he'll call off the wedding and I give mother all my inheritance from my father telling her I'm moving away and that I will come to visit, and that she can do as she pleases.' I finished, but then remembering something I added. 'But I can't live here Chandresh. I'm not half fairy.' He held his finger to my chin lifting my face to his.

'It's alright, we'll just have to make a trip to the dragons.' I froze in fear thinking about the large over sized scaly creatures. People had said they had spotted them before over the villages. They said that dragons could come into the human world and go as they please, unlike the fairies. 'Don't worry my love.' He gave me a gentle kiss on the forehead. I relaxed in his arms and said:

'Then it's all sorted out.' I stood up dusting off the dirt and leaves from my dress. 'I will see you as soon as I can make it.' I smiled giving him a gentle kiss.

'Fair enough. I will have to make some assortments myself.' as I turned to walk I couldn't help to look over my shoulder back at him, but he was gone from my sight. As fast as he had appeared.

Chapter3:

I washed the dishes alongside my mother.  
'They invited us over.' She said again and grabbed the plate before I could destroy it.  
'I'm not going.' I said and picked up another dish to wash, clenching it in my hands. My mother sighed.

'Please, Rose. He-'

'He has no interest in me personally! I am just his toy!' I hissed. 'You saw how he looks at me! You heard what he said last night at dinner!' I longed to tell her what he had threatened. But I wasn't going to. That would only make things harder.

'I'm sorry Rose. I know he can be a little unpleasant,' She started. Unpleasant? That was an understatement. 'But I really think that's just the boy inside him. You're father was similar, always making jokes like that,' Thomas is not joking. 'But we really got to know each other in a few years, and we loved each other. Just stand your ground and him a chance.' She insisted. I sighed.

'Okay, Mother. I'll give him a chance.' Not for all the money in the world.

'Thanks Rose. I'm really proud of you.' My heart painfully contracted. I couldn't let her down. I couldn't go to Chandresh. Not yet. 'Can you wear your red dress? The one with the golden embroidery.' I felt the dread settle in my stomach. The red dress. No. Not that one.

'No.' I said flatly.

'But you look so beautiful in it.' My mother said and smiled at me.

'That's my point.' My mother laughed.

'Please.' She said. Her eyes sparkled with joy. 'I'll help you into it!' I frowned on the inside.

'Yes Mother.'

'Marvelous!' My mother cried as I looked in her mirror. Yes. I did look good. But somehow that made me feel worse. It made my bust look much bigger than it already was and hugged my waist. I was thankful for the skirts at least, because they billowed out from my waist, hiding the shape of my arse and legs. My green eyes and light skin stood out against the red brilliantly, as the red flattered my dark brown hair as well.

'Thank you Mother for helping me. Come let's go.' I grabbed my mother's arm and walked down the hall and out the front door. She picked up the bottom of her thinly layered dark green dress and I followed picking up mine as well so it didn't get dirt on it.

We turned off the main path and headed down an alleyway taking a couple turns we made our way to the town center where the bakery was located. I stared up at the tall building that shared his house on the top two floors above the bakery. I fixed my posture and went inside and upstairs to their dining room. The table was neatly set and Thomas stood and kissed my hand, and pulled out a chair for me. I sat as he started returning to his seat. Impress the family. I remembered Father's rules about engagements that I was supposed to follow. Defy him. Chandresh's words hissed in my ears. I wanted to listen to him, but I didn't.

'Good evening Mayrose.' Thomas greeted me.

'Good evening Thomas. Good evening Mr. Baker.' I smiled his father's way. His father returned the smile and spoke.

'Good evening to you too Mayrose, and Ms. Lydia.' We began eating as Thomas' father served us meat with fresh bread he had baked once he closed up the shop. It was delicious but Thomas stared at me the whole dinner. And not even at my face.

I considered getting him to look away by throwing something at him but instead I just dropped my napkin on the floor and bent down to pick it up. He looked up into my eyes with a watchful gaze and I glared back. Noticing my mother and Mr. Baker talking I looked away from him and turned my attention towards my mother.

'We've decided to do it in the meadows right beyond our house.' My mother explained to me. I nodded in response as Mr. Baker continued. 'We have planned it to be five days after the full moon to give a good amount of time.' I let myself smile. I liked that. It was almost one and a half weeks away. I felt even better as I saw a little disappointment flash through Thomas' eyes. But he covered it quickly.

'I would love to show her the meadows and the house she'll be living in. But only when she is finished eating.' He smiled at me. I clenched my fists before I reluctantly I got up. Refusing an invitation would be dishonorable, as would breaking a dish. He led me outside into the dim night and walked me down the street towards the meadow. I stumbled quickly over a cobblestone but straightened up and ignored my clumsiness. I heard him hold in a laugh and held myself from hurting him.

'Should I help you?'

'No.' I hissed.

'You know, you're much more independent then the other ladies of this village.' He turned his head and faced me.

'Do you like that? Because so far, I don't think you appreciate the choices I'm making for myself!' I mocked. I knew I began to set him off. But he held it in and continued walking trying to take my hand I held it away from him and step further from him. We exited out into the meadows where there was nothing but grass.

'This is where the wedding will be.' He gestured to the meadow. I spoke flatly, 'I already knew that.' He shrugged.

'I thought you would want to see it. You're being quite stubborn.' I straightened up proud at his comment. 'Oh, you like that. Well lets see if you like this.' He led me right to the edge of the meadow where I could see the fresh wooden house stand. It was so beautiful! I gasped covering my mouth but then stopped and held it in. I didn't want to see me like that. He walked up to the back of it and as we stepped in the back door he lit some lanterns to reveal us standing in the dining room kitchen area that all connected to the living room. By the front door as I walked down the hall, was a room on my left with a small bed in the corner. It obviously wasn't our room, but probably where I would have spent most of my nights.

He reached for my hand again and I finally held it to give him a little satisfaction. His hand was large and soft because of all the baking he did but it didn't feel right to be held. Chandresh felt right.

He walked me up the small staircase up into what seemed like the attic room, but it wasn't. It was our bedroom. As he opened the door I saw a wide room with a bed in the middle against the wall on a beautiful frame. There was a small table in the corner of the room and a large wardrobe that took up almost half of one wall across from the bed. On both sides of the room there were two small windows that I stepped up to and peered out into the night.

'So you do like it.' I could hear the smug smile he was most likely wearing. I turned around to face him but avoided his eyes. He was smiling. Just as I thought he was pleased by impressing me.

'Yes. It is very beautiful.' I admitted. It wasn't bad if I admitted that the house he built was a beautiful home that I would of loved living in, just not with him. As he stepped closer, his eyes narrowed, and his smirk got bigger.

'You are beautiful. I love the way you dressed. Tell me, you dressed like that just for me, didn't you. Very considerate,' He purred. I backed up only to find the wall. He stepped closer holding his hands up to gently stroke the curve of my cheek as he leaned in to kiss me. When I moved my head to escape his lips, he gripped my chin in a painfully strong hold and forced me to face back to him.

'Stop.' I whispered fiercely, but he didn't. He leaned in and forcefully kissed me. I closed my eyes at the slight pleasure that snaked its way up my spine in a shiver. No! I screamed inside. Only Chandresh. I pushed at him when his hand tightened it's grip on my chin and the other started to pull my skirts up. He was too strong and closed in even more, kissing me harder. His hand quickly descended on my thigh, dropping my skirts. Again, his touch made the hairs on my neck stand. Enough! I shouted at myself.

I wrenched myself to the side, finally breaking out of his grip. I unsteadily walked to the door of the room, relieved that he didn't follow me. I turned one last time to look at him. He was still smiling, and his blue eyes gleamed. He was merely entertained by my struggle. It was written all over his face.

'Don't ever touch me like that. Leave me and my mother alone.' I threatened breathlessly as I walked back down the stairs and back home.

As I stepped inside the house I didn't find my mother anywhere. I looked around and as I walked down the hall I finally saw her in her bedroom getting changed.

'Hello Mother, when did you leave?' I asked.

'A little while ago right after you left his house. I couldn't stand talking to the man, so I excused myself and came home. How did you like the house?' I shrugged.

'It was alright. A bit shabby.' I backed out of her room lying to her, and climbed the staircase up to my room. I slipped out of my dress and put on my light linen night gown and crawled my way into bed and slowly fell into a troubling sleep, haunted by memories of Thomas and trying to fight them with memories of Chandresh.

#### Chapter 4:

Six days had passed since the night Thomas had showed me the house, and I

hadn't seen Chandresh once either. I quickly dressed in a pair of my father's old trousers and a white linen shirt tying a black corset around it so it would hold up. I tied up my boots and pulled my knives out of the bottom panel in my wardrobe and strapped them to my thighs through my trouser pockets and one under my sleeve. I grabbed my sword, hooked it on my belt and ran down the stairs softly not to wake mother. I left a fruit in the middle of the table to let her know I was just going out for a while and rushed out the door. I climbed down the back steps and made my way out into the fields.

I walked my way to the very back of the fields towards the edge of the forest and where I had my hay bales set up to practice. I pulled the braid back behind my head and took a deep breath as I watched the sun barely show over the horizon sending a streak of pink light across the grey sky.

I drew my knives from their sheaths, my only sword as well, holding the sword in my left hand and my knives high up in my right hand, and pulled up my right leg, so that it rested against my left. My knee was bent at an angle as I raised my right knife above my head, and pointed my sword that I was holding in my left hand at the throat of an imaginary opponent. I then pulled them both up and threw them through the air at the hay bale.

I ran up and pulled them out quickly retreating and taking my second low stance. I swiped my foot low to the ground and setting my sword and sheath on the ground I turned and with my knives in my hands I forced my weight over myself sending myself into a flip midair. As I landed with the knives held out I sent them flying; driving right into the center of the hay bale. I threw up my arms laughing, so happy that I had completed the move. Practicing my fighting skills always made me feel better. I walked up and retrieved my knives again and walking back I put them away in their bands on my thighs and I held a mid core stance with my right leg twisted at a slight angle behind me and with my hands in fists I faced the hay bale at a distance and as I lowered closer to the ground I could feel the thick hay on the ground prick at my legs.

I turned my right arm with my upper body as I turned to my right dragging my foot on the ground and as I completed the turn I rushed forward at the bale and throwing up my leg in a high kick. I put all my weight into the blow and carried down with the bale as it toppled over in a big poof. After I realized what had just happened I sat there laughing at myself and dusting myself off as I climbed out of the hay, I began to lift the bale back up with all my might to sit back on top of the lower one. With the bale halfway in the air I heard a low whistle escape from the forest. I quickly heaved the bale up back in its place and looked up to see who stood at the edge of the forest. I couldn't spot anyone but I dusted off my hands and put my sword back in my belt.

I walked towards the forest whistling low but I got no response. Chandresh. I laughed in my head. I whistled one last time and heard a low response tickle in my ear as I stepped out of the light and into trees.

'Chandresh.' I whispered. A hand covered my mouth and I turned to meet his lips. Gently pulling away I whispered again, 'Chandresh, you're not supposed to be this close to the human world.'

## Chapter 5:

'And I thought women weren't supposed to wear trousers.' He laughed. 'I saw you practicing out in the fields. I wanted to see you and I heard your laugh loud and clear in my ears. So I came to see.' He nestled his nose against my cheek and I felt the warmth of his breath against my ear.

He leaned in for a kiss but I held him off. I still hadn't really recovered from Thomas' kiss.

'Chandresh.' I whispered.

'Hm?' He said, giving me the small distance between us that I asked for..

'He kissed me,.' I felt Chandresh's grip tighten on my lower back. I loosened my grip on his waist back and stepped back, feeling the resistance he gave to letting me go.

'You let him?' He asked angry.

'No Chandresh! No! He held me there. I tried, but he's too strong. And women aren't supposed to fight, or fight back.' I added.

'You fought me.' He said his eyes narrowing in distrust.

'That's something different all together Chandresh.'

'is it? May you're going to leave that life behind all together in just a week or two's time. It doesn't matter what you do to him.' He seemed to reconsider his words. 'Actually that didn't sound right. I mean you can do anything mean and bad to him. Go drown him in the river for all I care.' I laughed and he caught my gaze holding my eyes. We stood there like that for a minute as I drew him back in closer embrace. I lowered my hands to rest on his lower back being careful not to touch his wings. I felt his hands pull the hem of my shirt from my trousers and his hands rested on my bare skin gently tickling it. I smiled giving him a small kiss on his cheek.

'You have me to look forward to, anything else in the world doesn't matter, it's just us. You will be at peace with me.' He whispered to me, promising me a life of happiness. One I could live if I left my life behind. Not now. I closed my eyes and pictured the inside of the fairy realm that I hadn't been in. How beautiful it would be and how everything would be so perfect. All the half fairies. Was I going to be the only human?

'No you won't be the only human.' He whispered as if he had pulled the words right out of my mind.

'How did you do that?' I asked a little scared.

'Don't worry May; I just assumed that's what you were thinking of. I know you so well, that is all. And No you truly, won't be the only human, there were others. You really think I was the first one to fall in love with a human? They all think I'm crazy in there, if you meet them. But there are others who love humans too. You won't be alone.'

'You already told others?' I asked, 'besides, I wouldn't be alone anyway, Chandresh.' I whispered, feeling the heat of his eyes, fill me heart with warmth and love.

'Yes I told the other fairies, it doesn't matter to them what I choose to do with my life. Most are happy for me because that is what has happened to them.' He stared into my eyes

'You mean?' I thought of Alicia and Joss, and Bethany. Who had all been declared dead by the fairies and dragons, that they just disappeared one night. But they probably weren't dead.

'I fell in love. Most half fairies do. It's just the full Fairies who don't welcome compassion. They think of it as the poison that made humans so despicably weak. Well that's what they say.' Chandresh still held my gaze. 'But I still believe other wise.' I swallowed. Chandresh believed in us. But if I hurt him, if I failed to come to him soon, he would lose faith. And probably never love again. I had to come to him. But I couldn't leave now. Not yet. Hiding my thoughts from him, I smiled. 'I love you because I know you would never hurt me on purpose.' Chandresh whispered again, confirming my thoughts.

'Chandresh, are you sure?' I said quietly.

'You said you would marry me. And even though I do not really understand what you mean, but you're giving up all you have to be with me. I'm sorry.'

'You make it sound like it's harder than it looks. But I would give up everything for you.' He trapped me in his eyes as if I were reined in like a horse. I stared directly into them as if I could see into his being, how real he was being.

'Chandresh.' I whispered the word softly tasting it on my tongue. He leaned in parting my lips as he kissed me. He pushed back up against the tree we were next to and his kisses grew more intense. My hands gripped the back of his purple hair as he pushed closer to me. His hands snuck back in under my shirt as it gave me a shiver of pleasure as he ran his fingers up and down my back gently, tracing my spine. 'Chandresh.' I repeated whispering his name. He wrapped his legs around the outside of mine as he leaned in closer. I felt his hot breath on my lips as he breathed in and out rapidly.

'May,' His voice sounded so hot as he whispered my name giving me another kiss. 'You need to be fast. You need to break off the wedding, I can't wait.' He whispered. I nodded agreeing.

'I will, I promise.'

'The full moon is tomorrow night.' I thought about Chandresh turning human, would he lose his hair color and his bright eyes? Chandresh probably wouldn't even come. I shook off the thought.

I heard a couple of giggles a few trees down and when I peered over Chandresh's shoulder he turned around and we spied three young fairy girls about twelve or thirteen. I blushed and Chandresh yelled at them to go away. And a moment later they disappeared.

'I will see you later.' I whispered to him as I stepped back softly. He leaned in giving me one last kiss as I felt him tuck my shirt back in my trousers. His hands lingered under my trousers for a small second. I pushed closer to him, offering him more but he didn't dare further. He drew away, taking his hands with him.

'Bye, love.' He smiled as he flicked his wings and was gone before my eyes. I shrugged still getting used to it and walked back to the village.

## Chapter 6:

'The fairies come out tonight!' A man yelled as he walked back and forth through the main square. 'Lock your houses! Hide away!' He yelled repeating it over and over.

I ignored him laughing on the inside and continued on my way to the market to pick up some produce for my mother for dinner. I recited what she had wanted me to get.

I picked out three ripe apples, an onion, four carrots, and four potatoes.

'Well good afternoon.' The man standing behind the stall greeted me as I showed him my items in my basket.

'Good afternoon.' I returned. Second-guessing myself I turned and grabbed another apple. The man added up my stuff and I pulled five small coins out of my pouch and handed them to him and took my stuff back towards the house. I took one apple out of basket, wiped it on my apron, and took a bite out of it. I laughed a little as some of the juice spritzed and I wiped my mouth off with my apron. My laced up stay got a little juice on it as I looked down and had to try to wipe it off. I sighed staring at the cobblestones as I walked back towards my house. I opened the front door and stepped into the well-lit room and as I looked around all the windows in the house were open and the curtains drawn. I walked across the squeaking wood floor and into the kitchen. I sat the basket down on the table and my pouch of money walking to the back of the house to look for my mother. I found her out in the back sitting in a wooden chair overlooking the meadows and the forest.

'Hello Mother.' I whispered as I knelt down at her side.

'I didn't expect you back so soon Rose.' She looked over at me and smiled.

'I was quick. I got what I needed and left.' I shrugged. I followed her eyes to see what she was looking at but I couldn't pin it. 'What are you looking at Mother?' I asked kindly.

'Nothing my dear. Nothing.' She sighed. I hadn't ever seen her like this. I knew she missed father but she hadn't ever come out and stared at the forest before.

'Mother? What's it you see in the woods?' I asked trying to avoid her eyes now.

'Nothing my dear. I heard you leave the house this morning.' Shocked at what she had just said I listened a little closer. 'I watched you fight for a little bit. I got tired though and went back to bed.' I eyed her and she smiled.

'I have never seen or heard a woman fight like you my darling. Rose you are gifted. You listened to your father. I could tell. You're a lot like your father. Rose my darling, there is something I have been wanting to tell you.' she hesitated. There she mentioned Father! I nodded waiting. 'You're father, he was not who you thought he



was. His eyes my dear. You've seen them.' I thought of the stunning grey eyes that held marvelous sapphire blue flecks. I remembered I used to count when I was a little girl, but there was always too many. My father, his eyes. Mother was rambling on. I gasped and covered my mouth. Mother noticed and turned to face me. 'My darling. He was the sweetest and kindest and most caring and handsome man I had ever fallen in love with. He was what you're thinking Mayrose, Axcthia and Laspnol or William, were his parents. He only knew because he did extensive search. That makes you part my dear, although you inherited more of your father's genes, I can easily tell. My sweet Rose.'

'Thank you Mother for telling me.' I gave her a gentle kiss on her forehead. Letting a small tear run down my face.

'I had you buy the produce because I will be making you an early dinner than heading off to the healers home. I need to get some herbs to help with the pain in my hands Rose. I will only be gone one or two days. I trust that you will look after yourself.' She smiled at me. Inside my heart broke. Ever since father had died she had been getting hand cramps and her bones had been hurting her in her hands and arms. I tried to help the best that I could but occasionally she had to ride out to the healers to receive some treatment for them.

'Alright Mother.' I murmured and kissed her forehead again and once I turned to get up, I noticed a twinkle in the forest. As I squinted I noticed a couple more. She was watching the fairies.

'I'll be back soon enough.' She smiled as she gave me a kiss and I helped her up on her horse. 'Take care, and go to Mr. Baker if you need anything. I will see you soon Rose.' She clicked the horse's reins and took off down the cobblestone the horses hooves clunking against the stone beneath them. I turned and walked back into the house and watched out the back window as the sun sunk beyond the forest and the hills. Walking up to my room I got changed into my nightclothes and went down to lock all the doors one last time.

I lay in bed with the lights out and the darkness surrounded me. I calmed my heartbeat, knowing he wouldn't come for me and slowly fell asleep. I woke to a low whistle in my ear. I sat up in my bed and looked around the dark room. I reached over and lit a candle and immediately all the shadows vanished. Relieved I listened to the whistle again, but it wasn't Chandresh's. I could tell it was another fairy.

Soon I realized it was multiple fairies, they were all communicating with each other. I had never had the ear to listen to them before until Bleun had taught me one day in the forest. I nearly jumped out of bed when I heard a knock on the door down below, I was so scared. I picked up my lantern and another match and made my way down the stairs lighting another lantern by the front door.

'Whose there?' I whispered. There was no response then another knock. I repeated again. 'Whose there?!

'Hello, Miss Weaver? Is it you? Can you please let me in?' I shrugged thinking of whom the voice belonged to, it kind of sounded like Mr. Josef's but I couldn't be

positive. Taking my chances I opened the door and the figure stepped in. Once he stood in the light I could realize it wasn't Mr. Josef at all. This was a tall young man who stood maybe a year older than I with tousled blond hair, and wore trousers and a clean linen shirt.

'May I ask who you are?' As he took another step into the light I saw a hundred small flecks of gold pierce his emerald eyes. I clasped my hands over my mouth.

'And that's how we make our way into peoples homes.' He whispered in the lantern light.

## Chapter 7:

I got up and washed my face and body quickly in the basin of water with a cloth and got dressed in a thin light green dress. Clipping my belt in at the second notch I slid on my pouch of money and my other pouches onto it. I grabbed the last apple off the table and took a bit of it while I tied up my boots and stepped outside. I couldn't decide where I was headed but I walked out and onto the street as I took another bite. I watched a little girl waddle by holding her mothers hand and I smiled as she looked over at me with her big blue eyes.

Walking down the busy morning road I continued to eat my apple as I dodged my way around the carts and horses. As I walked towards the main square I began to hear a ton of people talking, more than a normal morning and as I approached I realized what for.

Hanging from the tree in front of the church was a man. He looked ordinary to me. As I approached I could smell the retched smell of blood and rotting flesh. As I took a couple more steps I bumped into a man next to me.

'Excuse me?' I asked. The cheering man turned around and smiled at me with a grin.

'What's going on?' I asked confused. His grinned widened stretching all the way to his ears.

'Why my dear, We have caught ourselves a fairy man.' I stepped back startled and I quickly examined the body to make sure it wasn't Chandresh. Stepping back relieved I turned to the man.

'May I see him please?' I asked. He shrugged.

'I don't see why not, just don't mess with the body!' He let out a low chuckle. I left the man and went right up to the body. I could feel eyes staring at me as I slowly held my breath and lifted an eyelid of the dead body.

I covered my mouth with my free hand and stepped back away from the body.

'You killed an innocent man!' I screamed tears welling in my eyes. There was no flecks in his eyes, they were just a dull hazel brown with the grey film slowly slipping over his eyes.

'No we haven't! We caught one of the fairies in man form! We found him

sneaking around and peeping in the houses last night.' He called out.

'Fairies have bright mesmerizing eyes, some with flecks, you could tell when you look at one. I've learned and studied on it! You have killed an innocent man I tell you!'

The man took a step back and spoke. 'I, I, uh.' He stuttered.

'What were his last words?!' I cried out.

'He said he didn't do anything.' I could tell the man tasted the words he had just said.

As he finished talking to someone I heard a scream. I covered my ears at first but once I heard the silence and the crying that followed I knew. I rushed down to the woman at the back of the crowd and caught her right before she collapsed on the ground.

'See what you have done!' I screamed at the crowd. The lady held her head in her hands and wept. I helped her stand to her feet and let her rest her head on my shoulder as she finished crying.

'Why!' She cried out. I stroked the back of her head and her stand straight. I could tell her face was kind of dirty and streaked with tears. Her deep brown eyes shone almost black with flecks. Oh Jesus. I almost fainted holding her up. I held myself up and gripped my head for a minute before I could wrap my mind around things.

'Come, come with me, I can help and explain to you.' I took her arm as I watched a few more tears streamed down her face.

'You will pay for this!' I screamed. 'Killing an innocent man! I will get the court!' I declared as I helped her down the road to my house.

I sat her down at my table and poured her a glass of water and handed placed some bread and cheese on the table for her. I knew she was hungry. I watched her gulp her water and take a piece of bread and took a bite. But then she just broke down again crying in her hands again. I grabbed a cloth and let her wipe her eyes.

'Why?' She asked again.

'They thought he was a fairy. He was out at the wrong time.' I spoke. She hunched over as if trying to shield her eyes as she clenched the cloth tight in her hands.

'It is alright, I know what you are.' I whispered. She looked up into my eyes as if to check if I was a fairy or to ask how. The bright black flecks that almost had a sparkle shined in her eyes that had confirmed my beliefs.

'You love one.' She whispered. Blushing I nodded.

'Yes. I do.' I whispered. I watched her as she wiped at another tear. But as I stared at one that rolled down her face I noticed a slight sparkle in it.

'Why aren't your tears black?' I asked her. She wiped another one away.

'When I transformed full human I keep them. No matter what.' She whimpered. I sighed eating a piece of cheese myself.

'You're supposed to get married.' She whispered. Confused I shook my head. 'But there poses a problem.' She added. Again I nodded.

'Yes.' I spoke. 'How can you tell?' I asked.

'All fairies have powers sweetie, I thought you would know. Mine is reading people.' She looked up at my face and smiled. 'You're face is much beautiful for a

humans.' I smiled at her.

'Thank you, I've heard that before.' I thought of Chandresh.

'Awe. It's Chandresh.' Her smile turned into a grin. 'He's a keeper.' She let out a shallow laugh.

'You know him?' I asked.

'Yes, of course. I was a half fairy too not too long ago. Maybe almost a year. But I turned full human.' I watched a tear well in her eye making it gleam.

'You didn't forget your past?!' I asked confused.

'No, Mayrose. That is just something they say to scare the fairies so they don't want to become human. But once your human you can't warn them about it.' She smiled as a small tear rolled down her face. She made me want to cry. It was so sad she just lost the one she loved and she put on a smile.

'You loved him dearly.' I said. She nodded, letting out another cry.

'We had just arrived in town from the North at the top of the fairy forest. I sent him to look to see if he could find someone to help us find somewhere to sleep.' She wept. I sighed again.

'But they had mistaken him.' I mumbled. 'The wrong place at the wrong time.'

'I totally forgot about the full moon. I do that sometimes, but because my head was wrapped up and I couldn't look up in a wagon. Fore the cloth blocked the way. I stayed in the carriage while he went to look. I fell asleep before I noticed he didn't, come, back.'

'It's ok.' I whispered. I thought of Chandresh, if he had never come back.

'I don't think that would happen, he's very smart May.' I shivered at the feeling of her reading my mind and responding.

'You've got to stop that.' I grabbed my head.

'It's kind of hard just to stop, it doesn't work that way.'

'Alright. I'll have to live with it.' I tried to distract my mind from the thought. I was hoping to see Chandresh later. I couldn't wait. I thought of the woman not having a home.

'Would you like to stay here for now?' I suggested politely. She lifted her head from her hands.

'I don't want to disturb you and your Mother.' She said.

'Mother won't come home until tonight or tomorrow and she will be fine with it, we're the only ones in this house.' I explained. 'You'll be fine, there's a spare room upstairs anyways, its small but it should suffice for now. How long were you planning on staying?' I asked.

'Until I can get a place of my own, but I don't know now with William gone.' Remembering I asked.

'Will you tell me your name?'

'Asceneth. But call me Aeth because Asceneth is my half fairy name.' I ran the name in my mind. Asceneth. It was beautiful.

'It's a beautiful name Asceneth.' I smiled at her.

'So is yours, Mayrose. Such a beautiful flower.' She returned my smile.

'I go to see Chandresh later if you would like to come with me.' I offered without thinking.

'I am not sure. It's not exactly the place I would like to go at this time, but I could do with a visit to young Chandresh.' I helped her stand and I went upstairs and slipped on my trousers under my dress and strapped on my sword and knives. Just in case I needed them for any reason.

'Come let's go.' I wrapped her arm in mine as if I had a friend I had known my whole life like Jess. but I had just met her. And I hardly knew her, but it felt like I did. She walked with me through the fields and giving one last glance behind me we slipped into the forest. She smiled saying:

'Should I call?' I laughed.

'No I will.' I let out a low whistle and let it ring out.

'A beautiful song,' she smiled.

'it's Chandresh's and my call for each other. A little half fairy named Bleun taught me.' I smiled thinking about the little girl.

'I don't think I quite remember a girl named Bleun but she sounds lovely, how old?'

'10.' I thought counting in my mind. Noticing there was no response I glanced around and let out another whistle.

'Can't you ever have any patience?' Chandresh stepped out from behind a tree and walked up grabbing me in a hug and a small kiss. As he lifted his head from my shoulder I could tell he noticed Aeth. 'Asceneth.' He whispered.

'It's me, Chandresh.' She smiled. He looked down at me smiling giving me another kiss. I let go of him and let him give Asceneth a hug. 'It's marvelous to see you Chandresh, you've grown up.'

'It's only been a year Asceneth.' He grinned. 'Asceneth, I see you have met my love, Mayrose.' He smiled reintroducing me.

'Yes I have, she helped me out quite a bit.' She gave me a smile and I returned it.

'What's wrong Asceneth?' He asked with a frown.

'Oh, that's a story. Why don't I explain to you somewhere?' She asked. Confused I just listened.

'Why not in the fairy realm?'

## Chapter 7:

'But Chandresh.' I let go of his hand. 'I can't go in. I can't last more than ten minutes in there. I'm human.' Chandresh looked down into my eyes and smiled.

'Of course you are my love.' He grinned. 'You'll be perfectly fine. As for now, let's say, I cast a spell on you that protects you.' Confused I just gave him a small kiss on the cheek and took his hand as we walked into the fairy realm. Chandresh looked straight ahead and I felt myself stare in wonder at how Chandresh' hair bled color from blond to his purple. But when I turned to face where I was going, I realised that that was only one of many wonders.

'Oh my.' I gasped as we walked in through the tunnel and out into the open. 'Oh my.' I stuttered again. it was beautiful. Beautiful. Great big lively trees reached to the "sky" and held large wooden, what looked like houses. and on the ground there were small smooth paths that ran everywhere. Lush green grass grew where there was no path, and small flowers and mushrooms popped up everywhere in the foliage adding vibrant colors. The tops of the trees were so high up and it seemed as if they created a canopy filtering the light into the realm. I watched as some half fairy children flew around and some walked holding baskets or other things.

'Yes.' Chandresh whispered in my ear. I wrapped my arm around his side as we walked forward.

'It's been a while.' Aeth murmured. 'Quite a while it seems.' Chandresh nodded in agreement.

'Yes it has, my friend.' Friend? 'Asceneth used to be a mentor for us older children.' I nodded my head tightening my arm around Chandresh's lower back.

'So where do you live Chandresh?' I asked.

'You'll see soon enough.' He hummed. I trusted in him as he led us down a couple different paths. Asceneth stood next to me as we stopped in front of a tall beautiful white tree. Chandresh reached for the ladder and began to climb. 'Come on and just climb up.' He reassured me.

I looked up as he climbed higher. I watched as he pulled himself up into a wooden floor. I hiked a little higher and pulling myself up into the floor Chandresh reached out his hands and helped me up.

As I looked around I noticed dark wood walls in a rectangular shape. A beautiful tapestry hung on one of his walls that displayed the whole fairy realm in beautiful colors. He had a small table with four wooden chairs around it that matched the walls. splitting one wall was a door and on the same wall on the other side was a small counter with cabinets and drawers. As I stepped in and took a peak up the two steps and in the door I noticed it was just his bedroom.

'I could have showed you around May, but there isn't much.' As I turned to face me he gave me a little wink and I almost giggled. He helped pull Aeth up and He came and took a seat at the table where he fully spread out his wings so that he could lean on the back of the chair. His wings were beautiful fully spread, I had never seen them fully spread. the beautiful see through purple-blue wings captured my breath.

'I could truly say I don't really miss those things. Except for the flying.' She laughed. I could see a twinkle in his eye as he watched Aeth. Her beautiful deep deep brown hair that shined with deep red shimmered in the lights as she laughed. Chandresh watched her intently, smiling as if her happiness was contagious for him. He relaxed his green eyes shining, the gold flecks sparkling. He watches me like that too. I realized and my breath caught. They looked so happy, gazing at each other, Chandresh as if he had discovered a new joy of living and Aeth as if she had already forgotten the death of her loved one. I thought I would be sick, but there was no where I could go. Then I spotted the door on the other side of the room next to the counter. I could see through the glass for it was glass. I stood up from the table and Chandresh glanced up quickly at me but let me go. I walked over and opened the door stepping out into the mid daylight. The air was moist and smelled so fresh as I

inhaled and exhaled.

I sat on the small chair and looked out of the other tree houses. Did he have feelings for Aeth? Or used to? Sighing I heard Chandresh step out behind me and shut the door. I leaned my head forehead on the railing avoiding him.

'May?' He asked setting a hand on my back. 'What's the matter?' I turned my head and looked up at him from the corner of my eyes.

'Do you have feelings,' I choked up, 'for her?' He shook his head kneeling down next to the chair.

'No May.' He turned my chin to look him in the eyes. 'I mean, well. I used to.' I sighed looking away from him holding back the tears. 'May. I don't like her anymore. She was merely a friend, and acquaintance. I love you. Mayrose Weaver. Do you understand?' He asked making me face him again.

'Yes.' I closed my eyes as he leaned in and kissed me.

'You guys truly love each other.' Aeth said from inside the room. I watched Chandresh wave her off with his hand and opened his eyes slowly staring gently into my eyes. I leaned in and gave him one last kiss and stood up and walked back inside. 'I already told Chandresh about everything May. up until I will be staying in your home.' She held a small cup in her hand with a steaming liquid, as she took a sip she relaxed closing her eyes.

'Could I have some?' I asked pointing to the tea.

'Sure.' He walked over to his wood stove and poured the tea out of the kettle into a cup for me.

'Thank you.' I smiled up at him as he set the cup on the table. I wrapped my hands around the warm cup and holding it up to my mouth I took a small sip. An aroma of berries and rich bittersweet creamy, flavor I couldn't pin.

'What's the other flavor besides the berries?' I asked.

'its made from cocoa beans. When we ground it and mix it, we call it "chocolate." then I melt it with berries and make a warm drink.' He finished. I cherished the drink but before I knew it the drink was gone. I stared down into the empty cup frowning.

'That was amazing.' I spoke keeping my eyes in the cup.

'You think?' Chandresh took the cup off the table out of my hands and set it in the basin of water on the counter.

Aeth spoke up. 'It's time to go May.' I looked out the window at the daylight.

' But it's not close to dark yet.' I pointed out the window.

'Yes, the fairy world is always behind time though. Right now in the human world its just now sun down. That's why we have to go.'

'But it only feels like we've been here for an hour or so.'

'The realm has that effect on humans.' She stood up from the table and gave Chandresh a small hug goodbye.

'Goodbye Chandresh, I will see you later.' I stood up and hugged him around his next. He bent his head and gave me a kiss on my forehead.'

'I will see you later my love.' I climbed down after Aeth and she led me out of the fairy world back home.

## Chapter 8:

'Good morning my dear Mayrose.' Thomas kissed my outstretched hand as he greeted me.

'Hello Thomas.' I spoke angered.

'May I ask how you have been?' Defy him. It does not matter.

'As I please you need not ask me those questions. You're just smothering me up. I am as I please and I do as I please. You don't need to know unless I say so.' I stomped the ground a little and glared.

'Excuse me? You shall not talk to your future husband in such a way. You will listen and obey me. You will be my wife. I have tolerated this behavior for far too long! Now there will be some changes.' His voice deepened as his anger pounded at his throat.

'You do not own me. And you will never, own me. We would be bound together, equally. And you don't want me for who I am. You know that. We all know that Thomas Baker. That you just want my children.' He reached in to slap me but I ducked his hand and backed up a few paces. Thomas snarled at me and reached to slap me again. I used those reflexes I gained by training, and dodged again. Before he could try to slap me again, I threw out my fist. It melded with his face creating a satisfying thunk sound. I watched as he stood there in agony, but tried to hide it. I bit my lower lip to hold myself from laughing and turned to walk away.

'You won't just walk away from me!' He yelled drawing some attention from a few bystanders. 'You will not defy me!' He shouted.

'I just did!' I yelled back and kept on walking.

'I defied him.' I said taking a seat next to Asceneth in the back of the house. She looked up from her book she had bought from a merchant on her way here. She was studying reading harder so she could understand more of the human life.

'You defied who?' She asked puzzled.

'Thomas. Thomas Baker.' I said proudly.

'Oh, your betrothed. I have to say that is a tough thing to do Mayrose.' She glanced back down at her book sticking her thumb in the page where she was at.

'Actually Asceneth, it wasn't. I feel like I might have done it, even without meaning to, even if I were to marry him. It's just in me. And besides.' I shooed off a fly. 'He's an awful man. No woman deserves a man such as himself.' I suddenly sat up straighter. 'I should go tell Chandresh!' I cried. Now Asceneth slowly put her book down, still marking her page.

'Sure. But I know Chandresh. He will expect you to gather all your belongings and leave to live with him, immediately. Not because he wants to control you, but because he loves you so much, he can't bear the thought of being apart from you



when you could actually be together. Do you understand?' She looked deep into my eyes, her own filled with wisdom. 'I'm just trying to help you realize if you are done with Thomas for good, or not.'

'Chandresh would understand that I need to wait for my mother to come back so I could go to him.' I said. 'As for Thomas, I wouldn't need to worry about him anymore I say he's probably going to start something within the next day that would make no man want to marry me human.'

'Yes. Fair enough.' I heard a light knock coming from somewhere. Then again.

'Do you hear that?' I asked.

'Yes I do indeed. It's the front door.' I walked back into the house to open the front door. It was the healer. I felt my brow furrow in confusion.

'Anastasia Tanequer? What brought you here? Isn't my mother with you?' I asked, now feeling a slow dread fill my stomach, making my heart clench.

'No my darling.' Her voice a low whisper. She put a comforting hand on my shoulder. My eyes widened and I froze in place for a second.

'What happened? Is Mother alright?' I cried, my worry growing with each unknowing second. Anastasia's lips pressed together, as if she was debating whether to tell me something. Something awful. Finally she sighed and looked back into my eyes.

'Your Mother passed away my dear.' I let out a strangled scream of despair at her words. Clenching my stomach I fell to my knees on the floor and let out a huge cry. I pinched my arm as I cried as if to wake me from a nightmare but I stayed there crying at the news of my mother's death. 'I'm sorry. I'm so sorry May. She was terribly sick.' I let out another loud scream crying.

'No!' I gurgled in my throat. 'No!' I let out another loud cry as she fell to the floor the wrap me in a hug handing me a cloth as I had done Aeth just the morning before.

'I'm so sorry Mayrose.' Asceneth collapsed to the floor along side me with a silver tear streaming down her face. I could barely make out their figures through the water in my eyes at one point and I just buried my face in my apron weeping.

'Mayrose. It will all be alright. But life moves on.' Aeth whispered in my ear trying to calm me down.

'I. Know.' I said between sobs. I wiped the snot from my nose and sat up. Chandresh flashed in my mind. I longed for his warm embrace as Aeth helped me stand and sit at the table.

'Mayrose, relax and breathe.' Asceneth looked into my eyes as if to tell me to think of Chandresh. I took in a deep breath and exhaled wiping my face.

'Alright.' I hugged myself tightly wrapping my arms around my stomach to stop the aching pain.

I wanted Chandresh. I needed him.

I left Asceneth after Anastasia had left and got on my dark brown mare and out into the forest. The trees rushed past me in a green blur as I rushed my way to the rocks. I wiped another tear from my face holding a tight grip on the reins in my

left hand. I adjusted myself in my saddle and rode on. I listened as the leaves on the forest floor crunched quickly under the horse's hooves and soon I felt as if i were swiftly running through the air.

I came to a fast stop as I almost passed the rocks and rode back and sitting there for a minute. I stroked the mane of my horse then lead low and whistled sadly. I smoothed out my skirts over the horse. There he appeared before my eyes.

Immediately i could tell he sensed something. 'What's wrong love?' He asked. I threw my leg over the side of the horse and jumped down with a thud.

'She's gone Chandresh. She never came back.' I felt the tears hot, stinging my eyes as he put the pieces together. 'My mother Chandresh. She's dead!' I burst out crying on the last word and he took me into his arms holding me close against his chest. 'The healer couldn't help her.' I sobbed. Chandresh stroked the back of my head pulling me closer. I rested my head on his neck as I cried. 'I'm sorry Chandresh,' I let out a hollow laugh through my tears. 'I'm getting my tears all over you.' I pulled down the sleeve of my dress and wiped off his chest.

'It doesn't matter, its only water.' He said using a calm voice. 'I wanted to take you somewhere, but now I am not sure if today is the right day.' He added.

'Where?' I asked looking up into his face, my eyes filled with water.

'You will see, I will take you on a better day. Come soon when you feel like it and I will take you. Wear your trousers though best.' he smiled down into my eyes and gave me a small kiss on my nose.

'Alright Chandresh.' I let out a loud sigh, embracing him again.

'I must go now.' I whispered. He nodded letting me go.

'Come back soon Mayrose.' He grinned up at me as I climbed up into my saddle and took the reins.

'I will.' I smiled slightly turning the reins lightly to head home.

I was off again with such great speed the trees flew by me as if they were moving. I wasn't paying attention to my surroundings though. I was focused on making it home. home. If I was half fairy I would of lost all my flecks by now, having cried so much.

## Chapter 9

I stared at myself. My eyes were glazed over from tears that still ran down my face. My mother's funeral was today, and the only thing I could think of was that she wasn't going to be downstairs begging me to give Thomas a chance, or showing me how to make a tapestry. She was always weaving something, and knowing that when I got to the bottom of the stairs, I would not see her up and running around, was enough to make more tears come. I wore my finest black dress, darker then the night itself, that flowed around my legs in an elegant motion, mirroring the movement of my legs. My dress, was as always, tighter around my upper body, emphasizing the great figure that I already had. I narrowed my eyes. It was my

mother who had always told me I was beautiful and had a perfect figure. I never believed it. But now I realised it. I really was beautiful. Mother would have been so happy for me. That I finally believed in myself. Would have.

Enraged and frustrated, I let out a scream and grabbed my comb from my bedside table. Without hesitating I flung it at my mirror image. The glass cracked and fell to the floor in chunks. I fell to my knees head in my hands already sobbing again. I sobbed for a few seconds, reducing it to whimpers and tears as I realised that I was going to miss my own mother's funeral, if I didn't compose myself and get going. I got up again, and slowly corrected my posture, trying to look my best. I walked down to the front door, where I knew Aeth was waiting for me. She sadly smiled at me.

'Do you think you're prepared and ready?' She spoke softly. I nodded not trusting my voice. Aeth sighed. 'I know it's hard and I've already told you before that you would have to move on. What did you do when your father died?' I knew she was only trying to help but it only brought more tears to my eyes. I help them back with a great effort.

'I cried at his funeral, and afterwards never cried about him again. I reminded myself of the happy memories we had together.' I choked. Asceneth smiled at me again.

'Then that's what you're going to have to do now.' She whispered. I nodded and drew myself up. I knew I was going to cry at the funeral, but I hoped that I would not go in crying. My tears dried on the way to the grave yard, just behind our little village's Church. I even found myself laughing at the small jokes Aeth made, just to try and cheer me up. It helped a little. But my mood suddenly plummeted. Because I saw him.

'Good day, is it not, Mayrose?' Thomas sneered smiling at me. It felt like a punch to the gut. He was such a bastard, he was insulting my mother just to hurt me. I felt myself gasp. My vision started to swim again. I immediately wiped my tears away. I would not cry in front of him. Not because of something he said.

'I know your mother would be ashamed of the way you're acting. And don't tell me she wouldn't be.' I suppressed a cry to a whimper. My mother would not be ashamed of me, yelling at a person who didn't even act human, whom I was betrothed to. I started to tremble with the sobs being contained inside me. She wouldn't be... would she? Would yelling at and defying Thomas more than I already had be the final step out of line? Aeth wrapped her arms around me while I fought tears. Thomas' eyes flashed to Aeth's.

'Excuse us sir, but your betrothed isn't feeling very well today, as you may have heard, as you are at her mother's funeral, Mayrose's mother has just passed away.' Aeth said gently. I sent a silent prayer of thanks to the Lord, that I had her. 'Please let her mourn her mother in peace.' Thomas forced a sad smile.

'Of course, I wouldn't dream of saddening her even more.' He walked away, towards the grave that everyone was crowding around. The grave that had been dug for my mother. As I started to choke on tears again, Asceneth hugged me tighter.

'It's okay. You are strong. Stay that way.' I closed my eyes and tried to take a calming breath. But it was hard to calm myself. Everything was happening so fast. And now the one thing I thought I would have for a much longer time, was gone.

Aeth and I were the last ones to walk up to the empty grave. The tears didn't come then. They came when Mother was carried in. I managed to keep quiet, but as she was lowered into the grave, I couldn't hold back. Looking at her, in the grave, knowing I would never hear her voice again, brought all of my realisation too me. I sobbed and shook. I couldn't stop. Even when I thought I had accepted it, I kept crying. Everyone around me was silent out of respect. They slowly filed out of the graveyard and left me alone kneeling in my dress in the dirt. I never cried so much in my life.

The tears seemed to come from deep within me, materialising out of my emotions. I was frustrated, angry and sad. Aeth stood beside me. Thomas had even said he was sorry for the passing of my mother. He didn't say it with words. He hugged me for the first time. And for the first time I let him. I just continued to silently cry on his shoulder. When he stepped back, he kissed my hand in a goodbye and left with his father. I had no time to think about what just happened. I didn't want to. This time in my life was all for Mother. I stood at her grave even as Aeth left, watching the men cover her body with dirt, filling the grave. I never stopped crying. Even just for an instant.

I threw my knives into the hay bale, imagining it to be all of my problems. The knives embedded themselves deep in the center of the hay bale which I imagined to be Thomas' heart. Then I imagined the next blow to be to my face. If I'd have been different, if I would have just accepted Thomas as my husband, then this would have all been different. Maybe my mother wouldn't have died so soon either. When I think about it, if I wouldn't have met Chandresh then this would all be a lot easier. But I met him, and I knew I couldn't live without him. I let out a scream and threw as hard as I could. My knife sailed through the hay bale. I stood there panting, arms ready at my sides.

'You're a disgrace.' Someone hissed. I spun around. Thomas, his arms crossed, a look of disgust on his face, stood only a few feet away from me. 'Wearing men's clothing. Despicable.' My hands clenched at my sides, my nails digging into my palm. I just about had it with him.

'I wear this when I'm training because I prefer to be able to move, and I prefer not to get my dresses dirty.' I seethed. Thomas let out a hollow laugh.

'Training? You are not a soldier! Nor are you a man! You are merely a weavers daughter, and that's all you will ever be!' He spat. He came closer to me. 'You want to be a man yet you want to be a girl!' Thomas said narrowing his eyes. I mirrored him and felt my own eyes narrow.

'I do not want to be a man. I am happy as an independent woman.' I said. 'Leave me alone Thomas. I will never submit to you. I will never submit to any man!' Thomas snarled.

'Then you are destined to live as a beggar.' He growled. I felt my anger rise and stepped forward to him drawing myself up.

'I'd rather live as a beggar than be your wife!' I shouted at him. Thomas' eyes flashed.

'You are going to take that back! I know what you want,' He came closer the

last few feet to meet me. 'Don't think I didn't know what you felt when I kissed you.' He growled. 'You like it when I force you.' He whispered grabbing my forearms. I jerked away from him, but his grip only tightened. This time he wasn't going to let go.

'You're disgusting! I can't think of anything worse than being with you!' Thomas suddenly smiled.

'Well then you're going to have to choose. Me, or begging.' He said and pulled me closer.

'Maybe I'll just choose Chan-- another man!' I snapped. I tried to calm down, knowing how close I just was to saying "Chandresh" which would not help me or Chandresh. The smile Thomas' was wearing turned sadistic.

'No other man in this village will take you!' He whispered. I stared at him.

'Why wouldn't they? I am alone and with no family, they can claim me because I won't say no.' I said the last three words slowly just to spite him.

'Because they believe that you slept with a fairy.' The words made me gasp as if he had just slapped me. 'They think they're getting something that was already used.' Thomas smile widened as he saw the shock, anger, indignity and hurt flash through my eyes. Eventually anger took over.

'Don't you dare talk to me that way!' I tried to slap him. Thomas was quicker and grabbed my wrist. He twisted it back. I screamed, the short explosion of pain in my wrist, too much for me. Thomas laughed. I drew up my leg and kicked him in his groin releasing my arm. I rubbed my wrist a little then as he came back up to grab me I extended my leg again, this time in the gut. Then I threw a punch at his jaw and I heard a crack. I clenched my teeth at the sound and grabbed his arm pulling it back. He let out a sharp pain as I had before and I released.

'You, believe a woman can't fight back!' I whispered, my eyes glaring into his as he looked up in pain. 'But you're wrong.' I paused a moment. 'Because I just did.' He stood wobbling trying to hold his groin, then his stomach and arm but he couldn't make up his mind. He went to jump on me but I didn't have my knives. They were still in the hay bale. Thomas pushed me to the ground. I twisted, so that I could use my hands to break the fall.

'Next time, you'll learn to fall on your back instead.' Tomas laughed. I jumped to my feet and as he leaned in to me I elbowed him in the back and he fell forward paralyzed. For the moment.

'You want to force me?' I looked down on him. Thomas nodded wobbling to his feet.

'Whatever it takes.' He whispered. His eyes glinted. He wasn't giving up yet. Devil.

'Then you have to catch me first.' I cried out. He didn't really get the chance to take after me as he gripped his stomach. I dashed to the forest, knowing that if I went to get my weapons I would have enough time to pull them out of the hay before Thomas was on me again. This was my last chance. I ran as fast as I could, thankful for the trousers that allowed me to run. I whistled. No response. My panting grew louder and my breathing more laboured. I couldn't keep at this pace and for much further. But if I slowed down, Thomas would be there. He was only a few arm lengths away from me now. I couldn't find the breath to whistle again. I

ripped my knives out of the hay bales and ran on into the edge of the forest. I heard his feet stop for a moment as if he hesitated coming in the forest. But I needed to whistle for Chandresh. I had to stop. So I took the risk. I abruptly stopped and hid behind a tree. Taking my last big breath I whistled. A hand grabbed at my arm again, this time leaving three long scratch marks bleeding. I let out a sharp cry and grabbed for my arm. As I pulled away blood covered my fingers and Thomas jumped at me.

I dodged out of his way doing a roll jumping up as he stumbled a little. 'You're sneaky. We're not done yet.' He reached for my torso and I stepped out of the way and ran.

'You've got one thing wrong about me!' I called behind me as I ran. I dashed behind a tree. He looked around furious. I heard a faint whistle in my ear right when I needed it. A branch above me shook a little and I closed my eyes. I took a deep breath and I stepped out. 'I know these woods better than any other human.' Thomas froze and stared at the figure behind me. I grinned at him. My grin just widened when the heat of a chest pressed on my back and I saw a sword come over my shoulder, the point of it resting on the hollow of Thomas' throat.

'Yo, you, you.' He pointed at me.

'Yes Thomas?' I turned and kissed Chandresh on the lips. Chandresh's free arm wrapped around my waist pulling me closer to him. I smiled opening my eyes meeting his.

'This is Thomas, Chandresh. Thomas, this is Chandresh.' I introduced them to each other. Thomas fumbled trying to walk backwards. 'Not so fast Thomas.' I walked towards him smiling feeling my heart fly.

'He's gon-' I cut him off holding my finger to his lips.

'So you thought.' I watched as Chandresh advanced on Thomas and swiftly and seemingly effortlessly knocked him out by stabbing the handle of the sword onto the base of his neck, right next to his shoulder. Thomas crumpled to the ground.

'Chandresh!' I cried throwing myself into his arms. He embraced me tighter as I rested my head on his shoulder crying. 'You came.' I whispered. I felt him nod.

'Why wouldn't I? Not much off of the plan.' He admitted. 'Good job May.' He whispered his warm breath in my ear.

'Thank you.' I wiped the tears out of my eyes and stepped out of his hold. 'Can you make it so that when he awakes, he knows nothing of this. He doesn't want me and that I moved away?' I asked between breaths.

'That is the thing my love. I know Aeth has told you about it before, but never mine. I have abilities May. Not only to make people forget things but something else too.' I eyed him suspiciously.

'What is it Chandresh?'

'May, I have another ability. On top of the memory thing.' He scratched the back of his head. 'I can sense things.' He gave me an odd stare. 'Like I can sense you are really confused right now.' He tried to smile but I just shot him a confused look and he stopped. 'May, I can sense things. My surroundings. If I'm in combat I can sense things before they happen so I'm prepared only moments before though. And I can tell when things are nearby or what is around me as if I were blind. Do you see where I am coming from?' I nodded still a little confused. *He has abilities?* I thought.

'Chandresh.' I paused trying to gather my thoughts. 'I think I understand what you are saying.' I stuttered. 'I mean I know what you are saying. Because Aeth told me about faes having abilities, and fairies having amazing abilities.'

'And your not fazed by it?'

'No,' I shrugged thinking about it longer. 'No, I'm not Chandresh. It doesn't matter to me. That's great that you have them. To help you with what you want to do most. But it doesn't matter to me.' I took a step towards him.

'Alright then Mayrose.' He seemed to shake it off as if it hadn't even happened.

'Can we get this taken care of?' I gestured to the limp body lying on the ground.

'Anything for you my love.'

Chandresh had put him out long enough to last three days at the most. And when he would awake, he wouldn't remember a thing about me. It was for the best.

We made the trek up the rocky slope through the trees up to a large cave opening in the side of the hill completely sealed by trees. I took a deep breath as Chandresh flew me up the rest of the way to the platform. I felt so light and high even though it was only a short distance to the ground.

He set me down gently and we both stared deep into the black hole in the hill. I took a deep breath as he entwined his fingers with mine and walked forward pulling me with him.

I held my hand along the wall as we walked deeper into the cave switching tunnels. Soon I saw a faint light at the end of a large tunnel and as we approached it in the opened light flooded my eyes as I stared at the large fire in the center of the cavern and a large deep blue dragon staring at us on the other side. I stared at the massive creature that was curled into a sleeping position on the hard ground. His large scales covered his body linking closely together like chain mail covering his body. His large tail wrapped around his body and his head gently rose out of the heap as he stared at us. I froze in place as Chandresh took a step forward.

'Hello my boy.' The dragon spoke in a deep smooth tone that shook my insides as I stepped behind Chandresh staring at his wings instead of the dragon.

'Hello My Lord.' Chandresh bowed leaving me standing still staring at the dragon again.

'Who have you brought with you Chandresh?' The dragon spoke deeply. Chandresh grabbed my hand and pulled me to stand next to him.

'Mayrose my Lord. We have come with a request.' The dragon lowered his head and blew a little burst of flame on the fire making it roar louder. Once it died down he spoke.

'What is it Chandresh my boy?' Chandresh fixed his posture standing taller.

'I need to be granted humanity, and Mayrose, fairy. So I can venture into the human realm unharmed so I can shift human, and so she can shift or live half fairy with me in the fairy forest.' The dragon heaved a deep breath from his stomach and spoke.

'I see. Many come with that question Chandresh. You are not the first.' I wanted to run and hide but instead I took a deep breath mimicking what the dragon had done and stood next to Chandresh holding his hand.

'Please My Lord.' I began. 'It is an awful thing to ask for a request or favor of someone and you must be a very busy dragon. But it is the best way for us to live together to be granted both realms to live in. It can keep balance between the two.' The dragon closed its large blue eye lid and reopened them.

'There has never been once that a fairy or a human has asked to be half and half to live in both realms. There has only ever been granted full human or half fairy, fairy.' I blinked trying to wash away my tears. Chandresh only squeezed my hand harder.

'I could see this making an impact in the future. So in this case. I will agree to your favors.' I contained my joy as Chandresh wrapped me in a hug giving me a kiss.

'Thank you My Lord.' Both Chandresh and I spoke.

'Call me Nenyrryn.'

I felt the sensation flow through me as we walked out towards the mouth of the cave. Chandresh embraced me in his arms one last time pulling me in close.

'Are you happy now, May?' He asked gently touching my nose with his.

'Very.' I wrapped my arms close around his neck as he pulled me in a deep kiss.

## Chapter 10:

Chandresh transformed into the man I had seen the night of the full moon right before my eyes as we grew close to the edge of the forest. His tousled blond hair hung in loose ringlets on his head and his emerald eyes still shone with gold flecks, just a bit duller than they were in his other form. He wore a pair of clean trousers and a linen shirt that hung loosely on his arms.

'Shall we go?' He asked taking my hand.

'Would you like to see my world?' I asked in reply. I took his hands and we walked into the bright sun.

I was so eager to show him my world that I lived in. I rushed him across the fields and to the house where Aeth awaited us inside.

'Oh my.' She clamped her hands over her mouth at the sight of Chandresh.

'We went to the dragon.' I said eagerly smiling. She jumped up from her seat where she had been on the porch reading her book and ran to give us hugs.

'Oh. Congratulations Mayrose and Chandresh!' She cried. She gripped me tighter cutting off my air and I had to pry myself from her arms as Chandresh laughed.

'Oh sorry. I'm just so happy for you. It was definitely an experience for me.'

'Well now is our chance for a new start.' Chandresh grabbed my side and pulled me next to him. I watched as Aeth gave a look of longing. Longing for her deceased husband. 'You know Aeth. I have been thinking.' I paused a moment as she turned her attention to me. 'Aeth. If you want, you can keep the house.' Aeth eyes flashed for a moment then dulled.

'I could never do that to you Mayrose.'



'That Aeth or you can come with us back to the fairy forest, to the fairy realm since you can live there too.' She thought over the two options as we stood there patiently. 'You can have time to think of it Aeth. I have to pack anyways.' She nodded. 'Thank you Mayrose for being my friend.' Her eyes twinkled a little as she forced a small smile on her face.

'It is my pleasure Aeth.' I took Chandresh's hand and we walked back to the house. Chandresh took my hand gently as I led him down the hall and up the stairs towards my rooms. I opened the window gently letting the light settle softly in the corners of the rooms. I opened my wardrobe and pulled out my dresses placing them in the bags on my bed. I bent down pulling out my armor and swords and placed them on the bed. Staring at them Chandresh gently wrapped his arms around my waist standing behind me with his chin on my head.

'You don't have to bring it if you don't want.' He whispered. I sighed letting a tear fill the corner of my eye.

'No I must.' I folded it neatly into the bag and pulling open my dresser drawer I took out my few jewels and my comb and laid them neatly in on top of my armor. 'That's it.' I turned to look back into the room as I stood in the doorway. the small bed lay empty and my wardrobe and drawers drawn open with nothing in them. I held the cold knob on the door and shut it behind me as I stepped into the hall as Chandresh guided me down the stairs.

'Goodbye Aeth.' I smiled as my eyes grew blurry with tears. She grabbed me in a hug and didn't let go.

'Thank you May.' She cried. 'I will see you soon again.' Chandresh stepped forward and waited for me patiently. I wiped away my tears as I stepped back and went into Chandresh's waiting arms. He gave me a tight hug and picked up my bag in one hand and my hand in his other.

'Tell everyone I moved.' I murmured as we stepped out back.

'I will. Trust me May.' I turned back to face the field and as I looked out the field, I scanned around to make sure no one was watching as we walked out into the field. The long grass brushed my legs as I leaned over and picked a wild poppy. I twirled it in my free hand as we gradually moved towards the forest. We stood in front to the entrance to the fairy realm. Chandresh turned to face me, setting the bag on the ground he took my two hands in his.

'Mayrose.' He began. 'Are you willing to marry me?' My heart pounded in my chest as I felt myself blush. I wanted to scream yes but I just nodded. 'And Are you willing to go live with me in my crazy world? And we will be able to come here time to time.' I nodded again taking in a deep breath. 'Very well my love.' He took me in his arms and kissed me, overwhelming my body with warmth and passion. I intertwined my fingers with his as we walked through the entrance to his world. Through the gates to my new life. But I remembered Thomas' words in my head. We weren't done yet.

The End

