

The Grassy Meadow Kingdom

Sophie Twardus

Morning dawned on the Grassy Meadow Kingdom. The citizens of this peaceful idyllic realm greeted the morning's arrival, rising and twirling. A ritual from times immemorial, they opened themselves up to the glory of the sun.

At the heart of the realm was the royal court. It was from there that Lore, Queen of the Rosea Dynasty led the dance. She was of astonishing beauty, mesmerizing any creature that gazed upon her. The queen did more than just rule her kingdom. She was a powerful sorceress, charged with protecting her realm.

The royal court convened on a day like any other. "Mother" said the crown princess Acaena "Declare me the official beekeeper. I want to help our land prosper." "I will consider your request, though this is a decision for the entire council and it will take some time for us to deliberate."

"Humph" replied Acaena before turning away.

"The crown princess is blossoming nicely, so young and already asking for responsibility." remarked Marigold, the queen's most trusted advisor.

"Yes, though I do wonder, how did she ever become so petulant?" Though she did not say it, Lore was quite proud of her daughter.

The ground shook. A creature of titanic size was at the edge of the realm. Immediately Lore unleashed a spell to drive the colossus away but it seemed only to incite the giant. With a single step it bypassed the wall of thorns that bordered the realm. All of the kingdom's defenses were powerless against the colossus. It only took a few moments for the giant to reach the royal court, during which countless citizens were senselessly crushed.

Inside the inner sanctum Lore watched helplessly as the titan's foot descended upon her daughter. She heard her Aceana scream as the giant crushed her. "Save me," she whimpered, "Save me mother".

The colossus then plucked Marigold and proceeded to tear her limb from limb. As the monster continued the torture, it repeated the same two lines over and over again; "He loves me, he loves me not."

Lore yelled "No one would ever love a creature as wretched as you." The giant did not hear her. Having finished mutilating Marigold, it turned its attention to Lore. The queen cast her spell once more. The colossus was blasted with a heavy smell. Unfazed the giant crouched down, "How Pretty" it said, before grabbing her. Its rough hands squeezed her tightly as she was uprooted from her home.

As the monster raises Lore to its mouth she could feel its fetid breath. "I am going to get eaten" she thought. "I am Lore. Queen of the Grassy Meadows. I am not going down without a fight." The giant instead closed its mouth and inhaled. Lore did not let this opportunity pass, lashing out and scratching its fingers. It was all in vain, the colossus tightened its grasp on Lore before taking her away from her land. Dew formed on the queen petals' as she looked over the ruined landscape littered with mangled bodies in what had once been her flourishing kingdom.

Lore was placed inside a glass prison, half filled with water. Bruised and bleeding, struggling to breathe. The once proud sovereign was reduced to a mere trophy, left alone to wither and die as dusk fell upon the Grassy Meadow Kingdom.