

The Legend of Aramelle

written by

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PERSEPHONE: There are so many questions left. What deed and union had to occur before Aramelle could be queen? Did the first half of her prophecy actually come true in a way? Just how is the ghost of King Gideon doing in his search for his brother? Is that why Liam turned back into a bird? And what exactly did happen to Barry at the flood?

ARAMELLE: Thank you. I think...I think I need to come back and visit when I'm better prepared.

GUARD: Yes. She does that with everyone. It can be very unnerving seeing your whole life play out like that.

ARAMELLE: What do you think my prophecy means?

GUARD: Me?

ARAMELLE Yes. You said your sister was a soothsayer. My soothdayer. That that sort of thing runs in your family. Can you interpret it?

GUARD Well, Princess. If there's one thing I know about prophecies, it's that they can only be interpreted.

ARAMELLE What do you mean?

GUARD A prophecy can be read a hundred different ways. Take that first half for instance: everyone interpreted it as you being sacrificed, leading to gold and silver flowing through your kingdom. Correct?

ARAMELLE Correct.

GUARD Anyone who interpreted it otherwise was ridiculed or imprisoned. You don't go against the king saying money will flow freely, after all. And yet something else did happen. You weren't sacrificed and my last letter from my mother informed me the mountains of your kingdom are still lightly smouldering and the castle grounds are a lake. A different interpretation occurred.

ARAMELLE I do hope that fire goes out soon.

GUARD Maybe it will, or maybe it lasts forever.  
(MORE)

As it turned out the foulest sin was not your father sacrificing you, but the casualties that came out of your decision to leave. It could have gone either way and we'd still have believed it came true! It's all to do with the interpretation.

ARAMELLE So whether I got sacrificed or not it was still true?

GUARD Exactly. Now, take that second half...that second half's up to you, Princess. It's your prophecy after all. When the deed is over and done, Death will take another one? That could be your father, roaming around as a ghost with unfinished business. My mother wrote that he largely seems to be haunting the village at the moment. It could be someone you've never even met. The brave spirit? The country defending you? The heart you've won? It's all yours to interpret. And I say you've had enough of people interpreting your own fate for you. Do it yourself, Princess. See the world.

ARAMELLE Thank you  
(Pause)  
I think I know what it means by spirit.

GUARD Oh yes?

ARAMELLE The Isle of the Sirens.

GUARD They are not human, that's for sure.

ARAMELLE But I don't know how to avoid their song.

GUARD Well, we're at the entrance, Princess. Do you want to be escorted down the mountain? These caves change you know.

ARAMELLE Thank you, but there's no need.

F/X: ARAMELLE FISHES IN HER POCKET, TAKES OUT THE JEWEL MAP.

F/X: SHE CLICKS THE CORNER DOWN AND THE MAP PROJECTS. WHIRRS.

GUARD Wow! Where'd you get that?

ARAMELLE It's a long story.

GUARD Does that show the whole mountain?

ARAMELLE Yep. And it keeps up with the changing landscape. Look here, that cave's moving position.

GUARD Well I never. I just scribble on a bit of paper when I get leave to go home.

ARAMELLE Would you like this?

GUARD That? But it's...it must be expensive.

ARAMELLE Yes, but I only needed it to visit my mother. You could probably make better use of it. I know a lot of guards get lost forever up here.

GUARD (PAUSE)

Thank you, but if I took it, I'd worry you'd never return. And I think you should. When you're ready to speak to your mother again.

ARAMELLE Alright. Goodbye.

GUARD: Wait! If you are truly going to the Isle of the Sirens, then I can help.

ARAMELLE: You can?

GUARD: Sirens read your mind in order to know what song to sing to you. To avoid them you simply...

3 SCENE. EXT. RIVER - SUNSET

3

F/X: BARRY IS DRIFTING ALONG ON A BRANCH DOWN THE RIVER.\_\_\_\_\_

BARRY: (Singing) When I am king, I'll sail the seas,  
 No crown of gold, will I need,  
 I'll break it up, I'll pass it round,  
 To all of those, with mouths to feed.  
 When I am king, I'll sail the seas,  
 I'll hold onto some branches.  
 I won't break it up. Won't pass it round.  
 The driftwood's mine. And I'm drifting out.  
 (Stops singing - sighs) I really should try and  
 get off this river at some point.

F/X: GRIM ARRIVES.

DEATH: Perhaps I can be of assistance?

BARRY: (Screams) How are you walking on water?

DEATH: I think that's the least of your worries. Did you know there's a waterfall coming up?

4 EXT. PIRATE SHIP - DAY

4

F/X: WAVES CRASHING, BIRDS SQUAWKING.

ARAMELLE: Crew! We set sail for the South!

(MORE)

We are leaving this country behind and we will  
find treasure in the world!

F/X: CREW CHEER.

ARAMELLE: Clear the top sail! Change the course! We sail  
through the night!

F/X: CREW EXECUTE ORDERS

F/X: BIRD SQUAWKS

CLIVE: Um, Captain?

F/X: BIRD SQUAWKS.

ARAMELLE: I think he meant me, Liam.

F/X: APOLOGETIC SQUAWK.

ARAMELLE: Yes, Clive?

CLIVE: The course we are on...

ARAMELLE: I know where we're going.

CLIVE: We are going past The Isle of the Sirens.

ARAMELLE: Not past. To.

CLIVE: To?

ARAMELLE: Yes, that's right.

CLIVE: Um...Yes...It's just...well all the crew will die.

ARAMELLE: No they won't.

CLIVE: Everyone dies on the Isle of the Sirens.

ARAMELLE: Ah. But you've got something no other crew has had before.

CLIVE: What is that, Captain?

ARAMELLE: Me.

F/X: ORSON ARRIVES

ARAMELLE: Ah! You're more frightening than Death when you do that!

ORSON: Sorry. I'm still practicing. It's really hard.

ARAMELLE: Where do you even go? To the underworld?

ORSON: No! If I go there I can't come back. Not again. I go in the wind.

CLIVE: Captain Princess, please explain your plan for the sirens. The men are scared.

ARAMELLE: I can't explain my plan or it won't work. It works on ignorance.

CLIVE: With respect, captain. Would you mind at least telling me the plan? (BEAT) Only you know, what with Liam...

F/X: BIRD SQUAWKS.

CLIVE: And everything that happened because he didn't tell us his plan. I'm just wondering if it will be safer in the long run.

ARAMELLE: My plan is the same as it has always been. Stay alive for as long as possible. No matter what prophecy or Death tells me. I spoke with a very wise guard on the mountain, who told me to interpret things for myself. I know there's treasure on the Isle of the Sirens. I read it in a book. I've read many books and I've seen nothing.  
(MORE)

I intend to remedy that and get you treasure in  
the process!

F/X: CREW CHEER.

ARAMELLE My plan, Clive is to not let them read our minds. If they cannot read our minds, they cannot sing to us. I have reason to believe they are the spirit that is mentioned in my prophecy and everyone knows there's treasure on that island. I will go to their land with Orson by my side. Hidden, Orson by my side. He can hide in the wind, like you just saw. They won't know he's there, but if any siren starts singing, he can whisk me away from harm.

CLIVE: And what if Orson gets captivated by the song?

ARAMELLE: Orson's a ghost. Why would the sirens waste time on him? You can't eat a ghost.

CLIVE: What is the reason you believe they are the spirit of your prophecy?

ARAMELLE Well they aren't human are they.

CLIVE Fair enough.

ARAMELLE Drop anchor. It's time to go ashore.

F/X: SIREN SONG.

PERSEPHONE: Another thing it might be worth noting, is that I was the one to collect the Soothsayer's soul too. I haven't heard word from her since. (BEAT) The ghost of King Gideon meanwhile had begun his search.

5    **INT. POTION SHOP - NIGHT**

5

F/X: POTIONS BUBBLING, POTION MAN MIXING CAULDRON, HUMMING.

F/X: KING GIDEON APPEARS

POTION MAN:       AAH!

F/X: HE DROPS HIS SPOON IN THE CAULDRON.

POTION MAN:       You made me drop my spoon.

THEY PEER IN.

KING GIDEON:       Sorry. Rather new to this method of travel.

POTION MAN:       You're the king's brother aren't you? We've talked through the cauldron?

KING GIDEON:       Yes. I am also a king. Of the next-door kingdom.

POTION MAN: Nice to finally meet you in person!

HE GOES TO SHAKE HIS HAND. CAN'T.

KING GIDEON: Ah. Yes. Sorry. You won't be able to shake my hand, due to my current state of...not entirely being a person.

POTION MAN: Yes. Sorry to hear about that.

KING GIDEON: Didn't you have a hand in it?

POTION MAN: (Clears throat) What brings you to my shop, my lord?

KING GIDEON: Well. You know my brother, and you were the one who did the original spell on him to change his face, weren't you?

POTION MAN: I may have been. Depends who's asking.

KING GIDEON: Me. A king. I'm asking. When you put the spell on him, did you by any chance leave a tracker?

POTION MAN: (Silence)

KING GIDEON: That's what I thought. Profitable business man like you, wouldn't dare do a spell without having a tracker. What if he hadn't paid?

POTION MAN: (Silence)

KING GIDEON: Well. Anyway. I have unfinished business with my brother. Can you help me track him? There's gold in it for you?

POTION MAN: Take a look in this cauldron.

KING GIDEON: With pleasure!

6      **EXT. PIRATE SHIP - NIGHT**

6

F/X: WAVES CRASHING, BIRDS SQUAWKING.

F/X: FAINT SIREN SONG (AFFECTS NO-ONE YET).

ORSON: There! Can you see that?

ARAMELLE: See what, Orson?

ORSON: There's a person on that island! I'm telling you!  
Why can't you see them?

ARAMELLE: I can't but maybe someone else can. Prison/ Wait.  
I can't keep calling him prisoner. What's his name?

ORSON: The apple stealer?

ARAMELLE: Don't call him that either Orson, he might find it offensive, but yes. The apple-stealer. Who joined us after the flood. What's his name?

ORSON: Robin.

ARAMELLE: Very well. Robin!

ROBIN: Yes?

ARAMELLE: Orson says there's a person on that island. We don't want to get too close if there is, but can you see them? Me and Clive can't.

ROBIN PEERS.

ROBIN: No, no I can't. Captain Princess.

ARAMELLE: See, it is just you!

ORSON: Why?

ARAMELLE: I don't know, but I'm going.

F/X: ARAMELLE STARTS WADING TOWARDS ISLAND

F/X: SIREN SONG GETS LOUDER.

ORSON Wait! Aramelle wait! I don't think it's safe!

Wait!

7      **EPILOGUE**

7

PERSEPHONE: And that was the story of how Princess Aramelle didn't get sacrificed. Armed with a captain's hat, a loyal pirate's crew and the rootless entity of her former guard - out into the world she went to discover the secrets that had been kept from her. Will she find the answers? Will Orson find his roots? Will Aramelle's father tell his side of the story? (PAUSE) Well, that's a story for another day. But prophecies do have an awful habit of coming true.

END.