

The Legend of Aramelle

written by

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PERSEPHONE: The Princess may be about to get answers. Can she trust Captain Liam after all?

F/X: WAVES CRASHING, CLOCK TICKING.

ARAMELLE: Right, captain Liam. We're going to turn you back into a human and we're going to ask you questions. I've got more than enough Wool of Bat here to do multiple shape shifting spells, so if you don't answer my questions truthfully, I'll turn you back into a bird and you'll stay that way forever, understood?

F/X: CAPTAIN SQUAWKS

ORSON: Do you know the spell to turn him back into a bird again?

ARAMELLE: Orson! I'm trying to be threatening!

ORSON: Oh! Sorry. My mistake.

ARAMELLE: Are you ready, Captain?

F/X: BIRD SQUAWK.

ARAMELLE: Here goes (BEAT) Fordoneg w-aren.

F/X: CAPTAIN TURNS TO HUMAN FORM.

LIAM: Ah! It's good to be human again! (BEAT) Though you could have let me out the cage first...

ARAMELLE: I'll let you out the cage when I want to let you out the cage! Now listen! Was your intention to take me back to my kingdom for the sacrifice?

LIAM: To take you back, yes. To have you sacrificed, no.

ARAMELLE: The potion man said you have a revenge plan for my father.

LIAM: It's not so much revenge as...Aah! Can you please let me out of here!

ARAMELLE: Give me one good reason why I should.

LIAM: Your mother's still alive!

ARAMELLE: What?

LIAM: Your father told you she died when you were born, but that was a lie! She's alive and I know where!
(MORE)

Let me out!

F/X: ARAMELLE OPENS CAGE, LIAM FALLS OUT.

LIAM: Oh, that's better!

ARAMELLE: What about my mother?

LIAM: What is Liam short for, Aramelle?

ARAMELLE: William?

LIAM: Or?...Gilliam.

ARAMELLE: Gilliam? That was my uncle's name.

LIAM: It is your uncle's name. (BEAT) Your uncle's me!

ARAMELLE: But...you don't look like him.

LIAM: I'm on the run from my own family! You think I wouldn't change my looks! (Sighs) Sit down, Aramelle.

F/X: CHAIR PULLED OUT, ARAMELLE SITS DOWN.

LIAM: You know the Witch Princess, yes? And that you are ⁴.
cousins?

ARAMELLE: Yes.

LIAM: So I and your father are brothers.

ARAMELLE: Yes, what about it?

LIAM: There was a disagreement. About your fate when you were born. Both my wife and your mother thought one thing. Your father thought another. Your mother and my wife are currently in the Cobalt Mountain Prison.

ARAMELLE: But none of this explains why you wanted to steal your own Crown Jewels?

LIAM: I didn't steal them! They're mine! I needed the jewel, the one that's a map. I believe you have it?

F/X: ARAMELLE TAKES JEWEL OUT OF POCKET.

ARAMELLE: The Witch Princess said she didn't know how to make the map work though.

F/X: LIAM CLICKS CORNERS OF JEWEL DOWN.

LIAM: You just have to click the corners down and it projects (BEAT) See.

F/X: WHIRRING OF PROJECTOR.

ORSON: Wow!

ARAMELLE: Why is it so blue?

LIAM: Because the Cobalt Mountains are blue. It's carved out of them.

ARAMELLE: So if you have a map of the mountains...

LIAM: I can rescue your mother and my wife.

ARAMELLE: Oh. But why? What was the disagreement? Why would he tell me she was dead?

LIAM: Easier than saying "I've put your mother in prison" isn't it? (BEAT) The disagreement was about your fate, Aramelle. 'When the cruelest sin has been committed'? Shortly after saying your fate, the soothsayer fainted from the fumes and we were unable to ask her any questions. We asked the astronomers what they thought it meant and for dates.

(MORE)

Some people believe she'd said all there was to say. Others that there was more she was seeing and couldn't communicate before she fainted.

ARAMELLE: The giants told us there was more. That I do something that makes union, but why did she faint halfway through?

LIAM: Depends if you're a sceptic or not.

ARAMELLE: I'm not.

LIAM: Well, those fumes are very powerful, if you're a sceptic you'd say it was because she got high off them. If not, you'd say what she saw was so grand, and world-changing that her body shut down to protect her visions.

ARAMELLE: My prophecy is grand.

LIAM: That's the argument made by your mother. And my wife. She stood by your mother. Tried to raise an army to fight on her side. The army was vanquished. I had to go into hiding. My brother is still looking for me. Has it ever occurred to you Princess, that the prophecy might not be about you?

ARAMELLE: Who else could it be about?

LIAM: When the cruelest sin has been committed by your own foul hand? I've always thought killing my own brother is a pretty cruel sin. And that's what I intend to do.

ARAMELLE: You mean you're meant to kill your brother?

LIAM: It's an interpretation, certainly.

ORSON: I have a question.

LIAM: Yes?

ORSON: If you're her father, why don't you use the Witch Princess's name?

LIAM: To keep her safe. She is a powerful sorcerer, there are many who would harm her. She uses the name Witch Princess because she chose to. Full names are dangerous.

ORSON: You could just use her first name.

LIAM: Potentially, but even that has risks. She is after all a royal. It's not like people don't know her last name.

ARAMELLE: How are you keeping it a secret?

LIAM: I burnt everything with her name on when I left and she cast a forgetting spell over the kingdom. It's relatively easy to lose a name. As I said she chooses Witch Princess, why would I go against that?

ORSON: That's why Aramelle was able to bargain for the jewel by threatening to reveal her name. She wasn't of the kingdom. She hadn't forgotten.

LIAM: Precisely. I knew you knew it from when you were younger, it was just whether or not you thought about revealing it.

ARAMELLE: That's why you wanted me to lead the attack on her land. But, I have another question. Why haven't you tried to rescue your wife already? Why wait for me?

LIAM: Because I am on the run, my face is changed and I purposefully made it so my own daughter wouldn't recognise me to keep her safe. I left without the map of the Cobalt mountains and it was too dangerous for me to return and get it. It took time for me to come up with my plan, and even more time to figure out how to execute it. It is only with the map that I can rescue her.

ORSON: Did you try without the map?

LIAM: The Cobalt mountains are the most inhospitable place there is. The caves change position. Even the guards who work there carry their own maps and this map carved from magic itself, keeps up with the changing landscape. It's the only map that can ensure your survival in the mountains. I wasn't going to rescue her and then get us killed by walking into a troll cave, was I?

ARAMELLE: So. Why did you have the mutiny? We were already stealing the jewels.

LIAM: The old captain...His plan changed. He wanted to kill the Witch Princess. I obviously wasn't going to let that happen. So I killed him, took over. It worked fine until I got stuck as a bird.

ARAMELLE: Why did his plan change?

LIAM: If the Witch Princess dies so do her protection spells. It would have been a lot simpler for us to go in, without the ship being shrouded in darkness, so the old captain decided that was the best policy. I had to mutiny to keep my daughter safe.

ORSON: I've just looked out of the window, Princess and it's nearly sunset we/

ARAMELLE: /Yes, Orson, I know.

LIAM: Know what?

ARAMELLE: The potion man. If we're not back by sunset he's going to inform the guards. My guards - My father's guards of our whereabouts.

LIAM: Ah. (BEAT) I'll come with you.

ARAMELLE: He seemed to know who you were already.

LIAM: Yes. He did the spell for me to change my face, when I first left. Unrecognisable to anyone as King Gilliam.

3 INT. POTION SHOP - SUNSET

3

POTION MAN TALKING INTO CAULDRON - A PHONE CALL.

F/X: RING TONE WITH BUBBLING CAULDRON IN
BACKGROUND - WATERY DIAL TONE.

POTION MAN: Can you hear me, King Gideon? Good, The signal's always a bit dodgy on a cauldron call. I just called to say that they're just collecting Liam now. (BEAT) Yes, I'm sure they trust me enough to come back with him. (BEAT) No, I can stall them. (BEAT) You can send as many guards as you like, your majesty. The princess will be here at sunset. Hopefully so will your brother. All ready for capture. (BEAT) And the money has been sent to me? (BEAT) Perfect, I'll check my accounts now. Goodbye.

F/X: HE HANGS UP.

F/X: DOOR OPENS.

ARAMELLE: Potion man? We're back with your money!

POTION MAN: Cutting it fine aren't you, Princess? I'd call this sunset.

ARAMELLE: Yes and we're here. Not late, just right on time.

LIAM: And I've bought double pay.

POTION MAN: Oh! Good! I was hoping you'd join them.

ARAMELLE: Why?

POTION MAN: I do what's profitable, remember?

F/X: GUARDS SURROUND SHOP.

ORSON: Princess, I've just looked outside and we're surrounded by guards/

ARAMELLE: /Yes, Orson. He's betrayed us.

LIAM: Why have you done this?

F/X: GUARDS ENTER. ARREST ORSON, LIAM AND ARAMELLE.

POTION MAN: King Gideon made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

GUARD: I'm arresting you, Princess, for piracy.

GUARD: I'm arresting you, Orson, for breaking your vows.

GUARD: I'm arresting you King Gilliam, for piracy.

F/X: GUARDS MARCH THEM OUT THE SHOP.

4 INT. DUNGEONS - NIGHT

4

F/X: WATER DRIPPING, RATS SCURRYING

ORSON: (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 keep honey bees,
And use them to, Make golden sweets,
I'll give them out, to those in need.
When I am king, No peasants there'll be.

ARAMELLE: Do stop singing, Orson.

ORSON: Sorry. It helps me think.

ARAMELLE: What singing anti-royalist chants helps you think?

ORSON: It's not anti-royalist, it's (BEAT) oh it is,
isn't it! My mum used to sing that to me!

ARAMELLE: She must be pleased you got a job at the castle.

ORSON: I think I've got a plan, Princess.

ARAMELLE: At least the singing works.

ORSON: We can't do anything until we get out of the cell.

ARAMELLE: Well, obviously.

ORSON: But there's a lot of us in the cell.

LIAM: Yes, it is rather cramped isn't it.

ORSON: Now, they're probably going to do a show trial with us, one at a time, then sacrifice you last, Princess. I do think they intend to kill us all.

ARAMELLE: And yet, Death's not here.

ORSON: What?

ARAMELLE: Death, as I'm sure you've noticed, appears when I am in mortal peril. And yet, here I am about to be sacrificed and they haven't come.

ORSON: No...Interesting.

ARAMELLE: So I don't think my life's in danger.

ORSON: No...But if your life isn't in danger. What's going to happen with the sacrifice?

F/X: BARRY ENTERS

BARRY: Right! I'm your guard until your demise. I am going to stand here and watch you. You're all going to stay in that cell and not escape.

ARAMELLE: You could let us escape, Barry. I mean, you don't want me to spend my last night in a dungeon, do you? I could go out, enjoy my last night and I promise I'll come back in the morning!

BARRY: You're not getting out. Not out of my sight, even. Not again.

ORSON: You could let me go. I'm not getting sacrificed, after all.

BARRY: I'm not letting you go either! You're the reason she escaped, Orson. You're due a trial.

ARAMELLE: To be fair, I would have escaped without Orson. I sort of landed on top of him and had to improvise.

ORSON: You wouldn't have gotten far without me though.

ARAMELLE: How do you know?

ORSON: You didn't have a plan past get out of the castle.
If you had been on your own, you'd have just
wandered the grasslands forever.

LIAM: That would have put a dampener on my plans.

ARAMELLE: You didn't have a plan until you saw me.

LIAM: I had a plan! I just changed it when I saw you.
I've been planning this return for years.

ARAMELLE: You planned to end up in the dungeon?

LIAM: Well, no, that part went a bit wrong.

PRISONER: If you're not letting them go. You could let me
go, you know. I mean this will set my trial back a
few days. I could go home. Say goodbye to my wife
properly.

BARRY: No-one is leaving their cell. No Princesses, no
captains, no thieves. Everyone is staying in their
cell until she is sacrificed. And I'm standing
guard.

ARAMELLE: If he's only a thief, how come he gets his own
cell? While we're all crammed into one?

BARRY: Because he was arrested separately.

LIAM: At the very least I thought my brother might come and see me.

ARAMELLE: Or my father see me.

LIAM: I do have a few things I want to say to him. You couldn't escort me to him, could you? You could flank me with guards and put me in handcuffs.

BARRY: No-one is leaving their cell! How many times!

ORSON: So your plan is to stay awake all night guarding us until the morning?

BARRY: That's my orders.

ORSON: Surely another guard is coming to relieve you at some point.

BARRY: No, you see we're a bit short staffed at the moment. Ever since one of our guards broke their vows to help the princess escape.

ORSON: Ah. Right. Well, if you let me out the cell I can join the watch with you.

BARRY: You're the one on trial! You can't join the watch with me! I'm not an idiot!

ARAMELLE: Could you at least go and get something for me? Something I left on the ship?

BARRY: What?

LIAM: Is the ship even here?

BARRY: We captured the ship along with you. It's in the harbour now. The crew are in the ship's prison.

ARAMELLE: It's just a drum. I've got a drum on the ship. A really sentimental drum. If I am to die, I want to play the drum one last time.

BARRY: You never used to play the drum.

ORSON: (BEAT) Ah! Yes! Go and get the drum! Please!

BARRY: I can't leave you alone! You'll escape!

ARAMELLE: No, we won't. We'll all stand right back against the wall, even tie ourselves up with a bit of rope if you like. I just really want the drum.

BARRY: Are you trying to trick me?

ARAMELLE: How can I possibly escape by having a drum? Look I think it will even fit through the bars. You don't even have to unlock the door.

BARRY: Alright. If I come back and you're not here, I'm going to slaughter you all myself!

F/X: BARRY LEAVES.

ARAMELLE: So, what did you do?

PRISONER: Stole some apples.

ARAMELLE: Ah.

PRISONER: So are we escaping now he's gone?

ARAMELLE: No. We said we weren't. To do so now would be dishonest.

PRISONER: So you really do just have a sentimental attachment to a drum?

LIAM: Yeah, why do you want the drum? I've never seen 20.
you play it.

ORSON: Of course! You weren't with us when we got given
it.

ARAMELLE: A drum given to me by a giant, that can be used to
summon the newly re-formed giants army? Why ever
would I have a sentimental attachment to that?

PRISONER: Oh!

ARAMELLE: So long as I bang the drum, they'll have us out of
this dungeon in no time. All they need to do is,
well, they're giants, they can rip the castle wall
off. Quiet now, I can hear Barry coming back.

F/X: FOOTSTEPS AND UN-RHYTHMIC BANGING OF DRUM ON
THE STAIRS.

BARRY: Here you go. One drum.

F/X: ARAMELLE TAKES DRUM.

BARRY: Are you going to play it?

ARAMELLE: No. Not yet.

BARRY: Well, then why'd I get it?

ARAMELLE: I want it to be the last thing I do...

ORSON: You do?.

END.