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The Evil Queen

Sonia Rao
Nova Southeastern University

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The Evil Queen

Author Bio

Sonia Rao is a Biology major with minors in Human Nutrition, Pre-Health, and Honors Transdisciplinary. Growing up, art has always been an interest for her. As a result she founded and led an art organization at NSU called Artistry. She believes that art can help bring individuals closer to one another. This can be done through various mediums such as literature and photography. Sonia is pursuing her goals of becoming a physician and hopes that her passion for art will help her connect with individuals in the future.

The Evil Queen

SONIA RAO

The evil queen was not always evil nor a queen. When Grimhilde was a young adult, she was simply a courtier's daughter. She played with her friends, rode her family's horses, and fell in love with a boy from the court. She was no older than 16 and he 18. In her eyes, he could do no wrong. The tall and proud manner in which he stood, the flow of his golden hair, or the grin that grew wide as his eyes locked with hers all made her fall deeply in love. She was a beautiful fair maiden – the fairest in the land, one may dare to say. Her beauty was recognizable from miles away, and the young man too fell in love with her.

The young couple began to meet in the court garden during the late hours of the night when only the stars and the moon were witnesses to this budding love blossom. However, Grimhilde's beauty was so prominent that it got hold of the king's attention as well. When she turned eighteen, the king offered a marriage proposal to Grimhilde's father.

Honored by this offer, her father bowed to the king and swiftly departed the court to inform Grimhilde of her upcoming nuptials. However, when he approached her chambers he heard the laugh of not only his daughter, but that of a man as well. Enraged, he kicked the door open and witnessed both the young man and his daughter half-dressed sitting on the bed. He was incensed and picked up a poker from the hearth and began to beat the young man until he successfully chased him out. Unsure what to do, Grimhilde began pleading with her father not to be upset as the young man and her were secretly betrothed to one another but she did not know how to tell her father. She wept and pleaded for her father to put the fire poker down and to listen to reason. However, Grimhilde's pleas fell upon deaf ears. Her father threw the fireplace poker down and stormed out of his daughter's chambers leaving Grimhilde sobbing to herself.

Her father grabbed one of their family's horses and began riding into the woods. While riding, all these thoughts arose in his mind. His daughter has a betrothed already. This will tarnish her reputation. Marrying the king will bring great power and prestige to the family. But his daughter is clearly in love, but this boy is beneath her so it cannot be an option. Grimhilde's father eventually came across a lovely yet neglected cottage in the woods. Intrigued, he dismounted from his horse and approached the wooden door entrapped within vines. He knocked on the door and an old witch slowly creaked it open. The witch appeared old, haggard

and frail, warm yet cold, stern yet welcoming. Grimhilde's father felt a sense of comfort with the old woman, and as his mind raced he needed one to speak to. He explained his situation to the witch and offered to pay her in gold for a solution. Intrigued by his problem and offer of gold, the witch created a concoction to have the young man and only the young man consume.

Grimhilde's father accepted the potion with haste as he wanted to rid his family of the problem at hand. He then rode back to the castle on his horse directly to the kitchen. He ordered the cook to make a concoction that must be sent directly to the young man and no one else. Obliging to the request, the cook made a cup of tea, and a handmaiden delivered it to the young man. Once the young man drank the cup of tea, an immense pain overcame him. He began to scream, a scream so loud it could be heard reverberating throughout the castle. Grimhilde's father, anticipating that something would befall the young man, stormed into the young man's chamber, soon followed by Grimhilde herself. They both looked around but curiously were not able to find him anywhere. They looked and looked until Grimhilde peered into an oval mirror placed on the wall and saw her beloved trapped within with no way out.



Author Statement

"Over the summer of 2022, I was fortunate to travel to London as a part of a study abroad experience at the University College of London. There, I took a 'Fairy Tales and their Retellings' course which allowed me to adventure into a creative and artistic outlook on the stories I grew up reading. Inspired by this, I chose to create a backstory narrative on one of the most well-known fairy tale characters, the Evil Queen."