











# BECOMING



## INTRODUCTION

ONCE UPON A TIME, NOT THAT LONG AGO,  
IN A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY NEAR THE SEA,  
LIVED A YOUNG AND OH SO HANDSOME  
PRINCE WITH DARK CURLY HAIR AND LARGE,  
DEEP BROWN EYES. AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN  
THIS COUNTRY, THE YOUNG PRINCE WAS SENT  
TO A UNIVERSITY TO LEARN WHAT YOUNG  
PRINCES NEED TO LEARN. AND IT SO  
HAPPENED THAT THE YOUNG PRINCE, HAVING  
BEEN TAUGHT TO DANCE AT AN EARLY AGE  
BY HIS TALENTED SISTERS, THE YOUNG PRINCE  
DECIDED TO TAKE A DANCE CLASS.

IT ALSO HAPPENED THAT A YOUNG GIRL  
WITH MOONLIGHT IN HER HAIR HAD  
DECIDED TO TAKE THAT VERY SAME CLASS.  
AND THE YOUNG GIRL NOTICED THE OH SO  
HANDSOME YOUNG PRINCE AND MANAGED  
TO RUN INTO HIM WHILE DOING SOME  
LEAPS IN THE CLASS. IN FACT SHE RAN INTO  
HIM SEVERAL TIMES, ACCIDENTALLY OF  
COURSE. AND THE YOUNG PRINCE LOOKED  
UP AND NOTICED ALSO. AND ONE DAY, A  
FEW WEEKS LATER, THE YOUNG PRINCE  
ASKED THE GIRL WITH MOONLIGHT IN HER  
HAIR TO A DANCE AND THE YOUNG GIRL  
SAID "YES". AND SO BEGINS THIS TALE.





THE YOUNG GIRL DID NOT KNOW HOW TO  
DANCE WITH A PARTNER AS SHE HAD ONLY  
BEEN TRAINED IN MODERN DANCE. AND THE  
YOUNG PRINCE, CAREFULLY AND CLEARLY  
AND GENTLY, TAUGHT THE YOUNG GIRL.

HE TAUGHT HER TO TANGO.

HE TAUGHT HER TO CHA CHA.

HE TAUGHT HER TO SAMBA

AND MAMBO AND RUMBA.



AND THEY LAUGHED WITH EACH OTHER  
AND THEY LISTENED TO EACH OTHER AND  
THE YOUNG GIRL WITH MOONLIGHT IN HER  
HAIR LEARNED TO DANCE WITH THE YOUNG  
AND OH SO HANDSOME PRINCE. AND BY  
THE END OF THAT ENCHANTED EVENING,  
THE YOUNG GIRL AND THE YOUNG PRINCE  
WERE IN LOVE. OVER THE NEXT FEW  
MONTHS THEY TALKED AND THEY PLAYED  
AND THEY KISSED AND THEY EMBRACED.  
AND ONE AFTERNOON IN A EUCALYPTUS  
GROVE WHEN THEY WERE EMBRACING QUITE  
PASSIONATELY, THE YOUNG PRINCE SAID TO  
THE GIRL WITH MOONLIGHT IN HER HAIR,

"OH HOW I LOVE YOU!"

AND THE GIRL WITH MOONLIGHT IN HER  
HAIR, WHO HAD NOT BEEN TRAINED IN THE  
PROPER PROTOCOL OF THESE SITUATIONS  
SAID,

"WELL, IF YOU LOVE ME SO MUCH, WHY  
DON'T YOU MARRY ME?"

AND THE PRINCE, IN THE MIDST OF A MOST  
PASSIONATE EMBRACE, AND WITH FERVOR IN  
HIS VOICE, AS THE MOMENT REQUIRED, THE  
PRINCE REPLIED,

"I INTEND TO!"



TO WHICH THE YOUNG GIRL, WHO HAD NOT  
BEEN TRAINED IN THE PROPER PROTOCOL OF  
THESE SITUATIONS REPLIED, WITH A SMILE,

"WHEN?"

AND SO AFTER THE EMBRACE, THE OH SO  
HANDSOME YOUNG PRINCE AND THE GIRL  
WITH MOONLIGHT IN HER HAIR MADE  
PLANS AND WERE WED. AND SO BEGAN  
THEIR ADVENTURES TOGETHER.







## CHAPTER II

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS, VERY MUCH IN LOVE, FOUND A SUITABLE CASTLE AND STARTED RAISING A FAMILY WHICH SOON CONSISTED OF TWO BEAUTIFUL YOUNG PRINCES. BUT ALL WAS NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT STATEMENT MIGHT IMPLY! THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS, ALTHOUGH DEEPLY IN LOVE, WERE NOT FROM SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS. THE PRINCE HAD BEEN RAISED TO BE STRONG AND POWERFUL AS IT WAS HIS PLACE IN THE WORLD, AS A MALE, TO RULE.



THE PRINCESS, ALTHOUGH HAVING BEEN  
RAISED BY HER GRANDMOTHER IN THE OLD  
TRADITIONS OF DEPENDENCE AND PASSIVITY,  
HAD BEEN SCHOOLED IN, AND ACCEPTED  
WITH EXCITEMENT, THE NEW, MORE  
INFLUENTIAL ROLE OF WOMEN THAT WAS  
EMERGING IN THE COUNTRY. THIS  
DIFFERENCE LED TO SEVERAL DIFFICULT  
MOMENTS IN THE FIRST YEARS OF THEIR  
MARRIAGE AND EVENTUALLY TO  
CONSULTATIONS WITH WISE AND LEARNED  
WITCHES AND WIZARDS.



AND, AS THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS LISTENED  
TO THESE SEERS THEY LEARNED, AND GREW  
MORE ABLE TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S  
DIFFERENCES.

THE PRINCE CONTINUED IN HIS SCHOOLING  
AND FOUND HE WAS TALENTED, AND  
ENJOYED THE WIZARDRY PROFESSION AND  
TOOK ADVANCED STUDIES LEADING TO HIS  
BECOMING AN APPRENTICE WIZARD.

AND THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS DANCED  
WHENEVER THEY COULD.







THERE WERE SOFT RUMBLINGS AND GROWLS UNDERGROUND IN THE KINGDOM OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS. AND THERE WERE TEARS AND ANGER ABOVE GROUND IN THE KINGDOM. AND AS THE UNDERGROUND ROARS BECAME LOUDER, THE ABOVE GROUND CLASHES AND ACCUSATIONS ALSO BECAME LOUDER AND MORE FREQUENT. AND THE TRIO OF DRAGONS CALLED DISAPPOINTMENT AND DISCONTENT AND DOUBT THAT COULD BE HEARD RAGING IN THE PRINCE'S DUNGEON, BROKE FREE.



AND ALTHOUGH THE PRINCE, WHO WAS  
BRAVE, AND EDUCATED NOW IN THE WAYS  
OF DRAGONS, FOUGHT THEM WITH  
STRENGTH AND BRAVERY, THEY ALSO WERE  
STRONG AND, IN THE END, THEY WON THAT  
BATTLE, AND THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS  
DIVORCED AND WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

BUT ALTHOUGH SEPARATE, THE PRINCE AND  
PRINCESS WERE NOT APART. THE FIRST  
YOUNG PRINCE WAS NOW A BEAUTIFUL  
GROWN PRINCE IN HIS OWN RIGHT, AND  
ESTABLISHING HIS OWN KINGDOM.

BUT THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS BOTH  
CONTINUED TO SUPPORT AND TAKE CARE OF  
THE STILL YOUNG SECOND PRINCE. AND  
THEY CONTINUED TO SEE AND TALK WITH  
EACH OTHER FREQUENTLY. THE PRINCE WAS  
DEVELOPING AS A WIZARD AND HE BEGAN  
TO EARN LOVE AND RESPECT AND  
GRATITUDE FROM THOSE IN THE COUNTRY  
THAT CAME TO HIM FOR ADVICE ON  
DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT THEY  
ENCOUNTERED IN THEIR OWN KINGDOMS.



AND THE PRINCESS, WHO HAD BEEN DEALING  
WITH HER OWN DRAGONS WENT BACK TO  
THE UNIVERSITY AND BECAME A CARETAKER  
OF THE EARTH.

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS APART, BUT STILL  
TOGETHER, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS BEGAN  
TO SEE EACH OTHER WITH NEW  
UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT. AND THE  
PRINCE WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE THOSE THREE  
LOOSE DRAGONS AND RETURN THEM TO HIS  
DUNGEON.

AND WHEN THE DRAGONS WERE TIGHTLY  
AND SECURELY CHAINED AWAY IN HIS  
DUNGEON, THE PRINCE TOOK HIS PRINCESS  
IN HIS MOST SPECIAL CARRIAGE UP TO A  
HIGH HILL THAT OVERLOOKED THE MANY  
KINGDOMS IN THE COUNTRY. AND THE  
STILL OH SO HANDSOME PRINCE LOOKED AT  
HIS PRINCESS AGAIN, WITH LOVE IN HIS  
BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES AND SAID, "WILL  
YOU MARRY ME?" AND THE PRINCESS,  
LOOKING BACK ALSO WITH LOVE IN HER EYES  
SAID, "YES." AND THE YOUNG GIRL WITH  
MOONLIGHT IN HER HAIR, AGAIN SAID,  
"YES".







## CHAPTER IV

AND SO THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS MARRIED  
AND STARTED THEIR SECOND ADVENTURE  
TOGETHER BY TAKING A JOURNEY TO THE  
DISTANT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THEY  
VISITED THE DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS AND  
THE SEASHORE AND VALLEYS AND FOOTHILLS  
AND TOWNS OF THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY  
THAT THEY BOTH LOVED. AND ON ONE OF  
THEIR JOURNEYS AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE,  
THE PRINCESS NOTICED A SIGN, "FOR SALE BY  
OWNER" AND A PHONE NUMBER.

THE PRINCESS TURNED TO THE PRINCE AND SAID, "LET'S CALL AND SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND THAT IS FOR SALE!" AND SO THEY DID. AND THE PRINCESS AND PRINCE SAT ON A ROCK AND LOOKED OUT AT THE LAND THAT COULD BE THEIR KINGDOM. AND THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS LOOKED OUT AT THAT LAND, AND THEN LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, AND THEY SMILED.



AND SO THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS  
EMPLOYED A MOST TALENTED WIZARD TO  
BUILD THEIR CASTLE ON THAT HILL. AND AS  
THE SECOND YOUNG PRINCE WAS NOW ALSO  
A BEAUTIFUL GROWN PRINCE, THE PRINCE  
AND PRINCESS SETTLED DOWN TO A LIFE  
TOGETHER ON THEIR HILL. THE PRINCE HAD  
BY NOW BECOME AN ELDER AND VERY WISE  
WIZARD, AND WOULD JOURNEY TO SCHOOLS  
TO TEACH OTHER YOUNG WIZARDS THE  
KNOWLEDGE HE HAD ACQUIRED THROUGH  
HIS OWN EXPERIENCES AND EDUCATION.  
AND HE CONTINUED TO HELP THOSE IN THE  
COUNTRY THAT CAME TO HIM FOR ADVICE.

THE PRINCESS USED HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
LAND TO DESIGN LANDSCAPES AND TO MAKE  
THEIR OWN KINGDOM BEAUTIFUL. AND THE  
PRINCE AND PRINCESS DANCED WHENEVER  
THEY COULD.





## CHAPTER V

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESSES GREW CLOSER  
AND CLOSER AS THE YEARS WENT BY, AND  
EVERY EVENING TOGETHER, AT SUNSET, THEY  
WOULD LOOK OUT OF THE HIGHEST TURRET  
IN THEIR CASTLE AND WATCH:

THE SNOW, FALLING SOFT AND QUIET  
THE STORMS, WITH FIERCE WINDS THAT  
MADE THE PRINCESS CLUTCH THE PRINCE  
TIGHTLY AS THE CASTLE SHOOK  
AND THE RAINBOWS, SPANNING THE SKY  
IN THE EAST AFTER THE STORM

THEY WOULD LOOK OUT AND WATCH:

THE BEAUTIFUL CLOUDED SUNSETS, OF

SPRING AND FALL

AND THE WARM, CRICKET-FILLED

SUMMER NIGHTS.

AND AS THE PRINCE AND PRINCESSES GREW

CLOSER AND CLOSER TOGETHER, THE YEARS

WENT BY, AND THE DAYS AND MONTHS AND

YEARS BLENDED TOGETHER. AND THE PRINCE

AND PRINCESS DANCED WHENEVER THEY

COULD.



AND EVERY EVENING TOGETHER, AT SUNSET,  
THEY WOULD LOOK OUT OF THE HIGHEST  
TURRET IN THEIR CASTLE AND HEAR THE  
ABSOLUTE QUIET OF EVENING WHEN BIRDS  
HAVE STOPPED THEIR SONG AND FROGS HAVE  
NOT YET STARTED. AND THEY WOULD SEE  
THE FIRST STARS, AND THEN THE  
MAGNIFICENT MILKY WAY POURING ITSELF  
ACROSS THE SKY.

EVERY NIGHT THEY WATCHED AND LISTENED.  
AND EVERY NIGHT, EVERY NIGHT THEY WERE  
TOGETHER, THE PRINCE WOULD RAISE A  
GLASS. HE WOULD RAISE A GLASS AND  
TOAST:

TO SUMMER

TO WINTER

TO CRICKETS

TO GETTING THINGS DONE

TO BEAUTY

TO LOVE

TO DINNER

TO YOU, MY LOVE

TO US

AND THE PRINCESS WOULD RAISE HER GLASS  
ALSO, AND THEY WOULD TOAST, TO THE  
WONDER AND THE MIRACLE THAT THEY HAD  
FOUND EACH OTHER.



AND EVERY NIGHT THEY WOULD WRAP  
THEIR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER'S BODIES  
AND HOLD EACH OTHER CLOSE. AND  
SOMETIMES THE PRINCESS WOULD CURL  
AROUND THE PRINCE AND SOMETIMES THE  
PRINCE WOULD LAY BEHIND THE PRINCESS.  
AND THEY WOULD HOLD EACH OTHER  
TIGHTLY AND KNOW HAPPINESS.





## CHAPTER VI

DAYS AND MONTHS AND YEARS BLENDED TOGETHER AS THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS BECAME OLDER AND SLOWER. AND THE PRINCESS GREW HER GARDEN AND MADE MEALS FROM WHAT SHE GREW FOR HER PRINCE TO EAT. AND THE PRINCE HELPED WHEN HE COULD, AND PLAYED HIS GUITAR AND SANG IN HIS MOST BEAUTIFUL VOICE TO KEEP HER COMPANY. AND THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS DANCED WHEN THEY COULD.



THE PRINCE WOULD OFTEN TAKE HIS  
CARRIAGE OUT TO OTHER KINGDOMS, AND  
TO GET SUPPLIES FOR THE CASTLE, AND HE  
WOULD VISIT WITH THE SHOPKEEPERS AS HE  
ENJOYED TALKING TO THEM VERY MUCH.  
THE PRINCE ALSO ENJOYED TALKING WITH  
HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND HIS NOW  
GROWN PRINCES AND WOULD CONTINUE TO  
HELP THOSE IN THE COUNTRY THAT CAME  
TO HIM FOR ADVICE. SO THE DAYS AND  
MONTHS AND YEARS BLENDED TOGETHER  
AND THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS BECAME  
OLDER, AND SLOWER, AND VERY, VERY CLOSE  
TO EACH OTHER.

ONE DAY, A PRETTY DAY IN EARLY SPRING,  
SUNNY BUT CRISP, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS  
HAD FINISHED DANCING IN THEIR BARN AND  
THE PRINCESS WAS WORKING IN ONE OF HER  
WILDFLOWER PATCHES. THE PRINCE WAS  
GETTING READY TO GET SOME SUPPLIES AND  
VISIT THE SHOPKEEPERS NEARBY. IT WAS A  
PRETTY DAY IN EARLY SPRING, CRISP, AND  
FULL OF PROMISE. BOTH THE PRINCE AND  
PRINCESS WERE IN A GOOD MOOD AND THE  
PRINCESS SAID TO THE PRINCE AS HE WAS  
LEAVING, "BE SURE TO BE BACK BEFORE  
SUNSET. I'M MAKING DINNER."



AND SHE ENDED, AS SHE OFTEN DID, WITH THE ADMONITION, "BE CAREFUL AND DON'T GET IN TROUBLE," AS IT WAS SAID THAT THERE WERE DRAGONS LURKING ABOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE. AND THE PRINCE SMILED AND NODDED AS HE LEFT. THE PRINCESS WENT BACK TO HER WILDFLOWER BED AND WAS PLEASED AS SHE WORKED IN IT AS IT HELD PROMISE TO BE QUITE SPECTACULAR LATER IN SPRING.

BUT THE PRINCE DID NOT RETURN. HE DID NOT RETURN.

DEEP IN THE DUNGEON OF THE PRINCE'S  
KINGDOM THERE HAD BEEN A RESTLESSNESS.  
SOME OF THE DRAGONS THAT HAD BEEN  
SLEEPING, CHAINED TIGHTLY, WERE WAKING,  
AND WERE HUNGRY. AND AS THE PRINCE  
RETURNED TO HIS CARRIAGE AFTER A  
PLEASANT CHAT WITH A SHOPKEEPER THEY  
BROKE FREE. THE PRINCE FOUGHT THESE  
DRAGONS BRAVELY, BUT HE WAS OLDER  
NOW, AND SLOWER, AND HE DID NOT WIN.  
AND THE PRINCE DID NOT RETURN. HE DID  
NOT RETURN TO HIS PRINCESS WHO LOVED  
HIM SO MUCH. HE DID NOT RETURN.





THERE WAS WAILING THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOMS IN THE COUNTRY FROM THOSE WHO KNEW THE PRINCE. AND THE PRINCESS FLED TO HER CASTLE AND WAS INCONSOLABLE. THE PRINCE WAS BURIED ON A HILL CLOSE TO THE OCEAN NEAR WHERE HE AND HIS GIRL WITH MOONLIGHT IN HER HAIR FIRST MET. AND BLUEBIRDS FLEW OVER HIS GRAVE. BUT THE PRINCESS WAS STILL INCONSOLABLE. THE PRINCE'S CHILDREN, NOW GROWN INTO BEAUTIFUL WISE PRINCES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT SAID,



"WE MUST HAVE A CELEBRATION OF OUR FATHER'S LIFE. IT WILL HELP ALL WHO MOURN HIS LOSS AND IT WILL HELP US ALSO."

AND THEY CALLED ALL WHO WISHED TO COME TO CELEBRATE THE PRINCE'S LIFE AT HIS CASTLE ON THE HILL. BUT THE PRINCESS WAS STILL INCONSOLABLE. SHE RAGED AND WEPT, AND SHE CRIED,

"NO! THIS CANNOT NOT HAPPEN. THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN!"

AND THE PRINCESS WAS INCONSOLABLE AND WEPT IN HER CASTLE.

AND AS SHE WEPT SHE THOUGHT OF HER LIFE  
WITH HER OH SO HANDSOME PRINCE WITH  
HIS LARGE, DEEP BROWN EYES, AND AS SHE  
THOUGHT SHE BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND, AND  
TO SEE WHAT WAS NOW HAPPENING. AND SO  
WHEN THE PRINCES AND PRINCESSES OF THE  
MANY OTHER KINGDOMS IN THE COUNTRY  
WERE ASSEMBLED, SHE CAME OUT OF HER  
CASTLE, AND THE GIRL WITH MOONLIGHT IN  
HER HAIR SAID:

"THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR COMING  
TODAY TO CELEBRATE MY WONDERFUL,  
WONDERFUL PRINCE. HE WAS MY PARTNER,  
MY FRIEND, MY LOVER, MY EVERYTHING, AND  
I MISS HIM SO MUCH I CAN BARELY STAND  
IT. BUT, I KNOW MY PRINCE IS NOT GONE. I  
KNOW HE IS STILL HERE. HE IS CHANGING,  
BECOMING OTHER BEAUTIFUL THINGS.  
MY PRINCE IS BECOMING LACY THREADS OF  
WHITE FUNGUS WHICH WILL NOURISH THE  
WILDFLOWERS AND TREES WE LOVE SO MUCH.  
HE IS BECOMING LICHEN, RICH RED, GRAY,  
AND GREEN THAT WILL DECORATE THE ROCKS  
WE LOVE SO MUCH.



MY PRINCE IS BECOMING A BIT OF EARTH, A  
MOTE OF DUST CONDENSED AROUND A  
RAINDROP, A BLUE OR YELLOW POLLEN  
GRAIN, A BUTTERFLY WING.

MY PRINCE IS NOT DEAD, HE IS JUST  
CHANGING.

SO WHEN YOU SEE A FIELD OF ORANGE  
POPPIES WAVING IN THE WIND YOU CAN SEE  
MY PRINCE AND WHEN YOU HEAR A BEE  
BUZZING CONTENTEDLY IN AN APPLE  
BLOSSOM, YOU CAN HEAR MY PRINCE  
AND WHEN YOU TOUCH THE SOFT FUR OF A  
KITTEN, YOU CAN TOUCH MY PRINCE

AND WHEN YOU SMELL THE FIRST VIOLET OF  
SPRING YOU CAN SMELL MY PRINCE AND  
WHEN YOU TASTE A CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE  
ON A COLD WINTER DAY YOU CAN TASTE MY  
PRINCE.

MY OH SO HANDSOME PRINCE LIVES IN  
EVERYTHING WE LOVE, AND THAT WE, ONE  
DAY, WILL ALSO BE. MY PRINCE IS BECOMING  
ALL THAT IS BEAUTIFUL TO US IN THIS ONLY  
WORLD IN WHICH WE WILL EVER LIVE.

MY PRINCE IS NOT DEAD BUT BECOMING.

AND I WILL CELEBRATE THAT AND TOAST TO  
MY PRINCE ONCE MORE:

TO SPRING AND SUMMER

TO FALL AND WINTER

TO BEAUTY

TO LOVE

TO US

TO YOU, MY LOVE.





AND, AS NAT OFTEN SAID:

AND THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE,  
THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE."









