

Bloody White

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And when she went in she knew Snow White; and she stood still with rage and fear, and could not stir. But iron slippers had already been put upon the fire, and they were brought with tongs, and set before her. Then she was forced to put on the red-hot shoes, and dance until she dropped down dead.

Little Snow White by The Brothers Grimm (1812)

Prequel.

Once upon a time, in a place you may only hope is far away, there was a kingdom. A kingdom filled with happy people and a castle where the righteous king and queen lived. From a distance it looked as a kingdom like any other, yet it was anything but that. The king and queen were already at that time where they wanted to retire, but this was problematic. Why, you may ask? Because of their son Arthur. The prince had not gotten a wife. Tradition was that the position of the king and queen would be taken over by the next generation simultaneously. His parents had tried to get him to marry someone from another kingdom, but that

did not work. So, they tried to find someone from their own kingdom, yet that also went wrong. The problem did not lie by the women, but by him.

You might think he was an ugly person, or despicable, though it was the exact opposite. His looks were unrivalled in the kingdom. His blue eyes were mesmerizing and many women wanted nothing more than to put their hands in his wavy blonde hair. He was loved throughout the kingdom. Anyone who did not know better, would think he was a real prince charming. But he wasn't.

His looks were both a blessing and a curse. From childhood on, he was loved. And how the more handsome he became, the more women fell for his feet. He did not have to do anything for it. When he was only sixteen years old, the king and queen had to change their maids multiple times, since they all ended up in his bed. After a while, they even replaced them all with men. But that did not change his actions. Men and women alike, they all fell for him. And he did not mind making use of that.

Slowly, he grew tired of how easy it was. He wanted a challenge. He sought out any kind of woman. Rich poor, married, with children, he tried them all out. There wasn't a day where people did not scurry through the castle with red ears, hearing him and his conquests in bed.

However, nothing changed. They all wanted him. But his needs grew bigger. That's why he decided to try another approach. He held secret parties where many people went to pleasure him, to extreme heights. When his parents found out, they shut the parties down and tried to find a suitable bride for him. He was twenty years old, while they had already passed their fifties. Normally, the responsibility would slowly be transferred at that time. But their son was not ready. He loved the kingdom and he fought to protect the kingdom. But a king needed to be an example for future generations. And that, he was not. The king and queen thought a wife would change everything for him. Where other kingdoms used marriage as a way to bargain, this was not custom in theirs. Love was the most important thing. Everything was built on love, so they would never force their precious son to marry someone he did not adore.

Whatever they tried, he did not fall in love with anyone. So, they tried one last thing. A ball. Where all allegeable women would come for him and he would have to dance with all of them. And hopefully, that would end up in marriage.

It did not go the way they wanted. The ball got shifted to another moment many times. This had nothing to do with the prince, but with the unrest in the kingdom. An unrest caused by vampires.

For years, everyone knew vampires existed. And they weren't too keen on that. Many people believed in the old stories, the ones where vampires were vile

creatures who could not survive without killing humans and sucking them dry. That's when the hunt started. They were wrong however. Most vampires had been living between the humans for years, only drinking small sips of blood from animals, to heal them after it. They were harmless. Only a few vampires were the same as those stories. And they were the ones the humans saw. That was enough evidence the people needed. They started hunting the vampires, without making a distinction between the bloodthirsty ones and the ones who wanted peace. And with that, the vampire war started.

The war was a mess. Especially since most vampires did not want to fight. They just wanted to keep on being treated like normal people. But it was impossible. The effect was a chain reaction. When a vampire got killed, his family took revenge by killing the person who did it. Then, his family also took revenge. And so it went on and on.

The king and queen had known about the vampires for years, but since they were harmless, they did not want to make a big deal out of it. They regretted their decision. If they had informed the people about the vampires and their harmlessness, this could have been avoided. They did not know how to handle this problem and their son did not care enough to do anything about it. Until something really went wrong.

One day, the king and queen were invited for a treaty between the vampires and the people of the kingdom. They wanted nothing more than to restore the peace, so they went. And even though they brought a lot of back-up with them, they got attacked by the vampires. And they got killed. Arthur found out quickly. No one knew how he was going to react. They all knew he loved his parents, but he was the king now, even without a wife, and he had to respond soon. And that he did. When he heard the news, he immediately called for all the advisors started to create a fitting response. No one had expected him to react like this, since he had never done anything for the kingdom. It was like he had become another person overnight. He came up with an effective way to get rid of the vampires, who were still in the woods after killing the king and queen, without them noticing it before it was too late. The vampires had expected them to bluntly attack them, but Arthur chose a different tactic. He knew they were hiding in the woods, so he ordered his army to surround the woods and bombard the place with firebombs. If there were any vampires who survived and tried to flee, they would get killed by the army. It worked. The vampires had not expected them to use such a low tactic, but revenge was the only thing Arthur could focus on.

After that, the war slowly died down. There were still vampires, but they were hiding, not wanting to get killed. They had done nothing wrong. Arthur fell

in a slump, not knowing what to do anymore now that he was the king. He mostly relied on the kingdoms advisors. Which resulted in him getting ready for the ball his parents were already preparing before they died. He did not look forward to it, but he had no choice. Tradition was sacred in the kingdom and he was not going to be the one who ruined that. He knew he had to get a wife soon now, out of respect for his parents. On the other hand, he would not be himself if he did not put his possible brides to the test. He obediently went to the ball, danced with all the eligible women, chose a few to his liking and asked them to stay after the ball. At midnight, the ball ended and he excused himself, saying he was tired and needed to seriously think about it. The advisors let out an approving murmur and let him go. As expected, he was not going to his room, he went to his favourite pub in the kingdom. Why was it his favourite, you ask? Well, it was shady, dark and as far away from the castle as possible. The women had no clue what was happening, but they were 'chosen', so they obediently followed him.

He forced them to drink. And drink. And drink some more. Most women tried to keep up with his pace, but they all ended up in untidy positions on the ground, all incredibly drunk, while he wasn't even a bit tipsy. He was disappointed. He had hoped that one of them would be able to hold her liquor. Now he had to choose a woman that could not even handle a few drinks. Well, a few... He sighed and stood up, ready to leave, not caring about the girls anymore. And there she was.

A girl with a white dress that accentuated her hourglass figure and a red hooded cape which could hide a lot of her face, but not the fact that she was absolutely gorgeous. She sat down next to him.

'Are we drinking or what?,' she asked with a silvery voice. Arthur was still looking her up and down, when she pinched his cheek in a teasing way, trying to get his attention. Caught red-handed, his face turned red.

'Uhm...well. Yeah let's drink, we'll see if you are able to keep up with me, not that I'm saying that you can't! But you probably can't, but still, I don't mean to offend you, I'm sorry, I'll just shut up now,' he jabbered, getting redder and redder every second.

She laughed, which he immediately appointed decided that it was his favourite sound in the world. Trying to get back at the high ground, he poured two beers in the cups, with his fuller than hers, to show off a bit. People were starting to surround their table and many of them started murmuring. 'Who is that?' 'I've never seen her before.' 'isn't she...'. They stopped talking when the unknown beauty picked up the cup and drank the whole thing, while Arthur was just half way there. With large eyes he stared at her. Never had he seen anyone who drank as fast or as gracious as she did. She laughed at him, her eyes holding a frolicsome twinkling.

He fell for her, hard. He thought he had found the most perfect wife. Beautiful, mischievous and strong. That were not her only characteristics though...

He stood up, walking towards her, to take off her hood and see even more of her. He had no idea how drunk he was. His focus wasn't the best, which was the reason he could not react fast enough when he tripped with his glass still in his hand. The glass broke and made a cut in his arm. The alcohol made sure he did not feel anything, he could only laugh at himself when he saw a few drops of blood leaving the cut. He diverted his attention back to the mysterious girl, who was looking at him with shock in her eyes. He did not really understand why, until he saw she was breathing heavily, and sharp teeth appeared. His mouth fell open. And while no sound came out, other people screamed as hard as they could and ran away fast. One of his guards drew his sword, ready to attack her. Even though Arthur hated the vampires for what they had done to his parents, he saw the struggle in her eyes and he knew that she was one of the harmless vampires.

The rest did not see the difference and tried to attack her. She contemplated for a second, probably hoping to settle this in a peaceful way, but she knew that was not going to happen, so she ran away. Without even knowing what he was doing, he ran after her. When he came outside, he still saw her running. He knew that vampires could run incredibly fast, so it was obvious that she wanted to be chased. So, he did. Not even realizing it was a trap.

When he finally caught up to her, he was in the forest, surrounded by female vampires. He did not know what to think. Was he wrong when he thought she was one of the good ones? He tried to grab one of his weapons, but she laid her hand on his. He looked in her eyes and could see the fear and determination. He wanted nothing more than to kiss her and take her, right then and there, not caring at all they would be watched. She could probably see the lust in his eyes, since the look of fear changed in amusement and interest. Someone coughed. Turning red, he looked at the vampires surrounding him. They were waiting for the girl to say something.

'Hello Arthur, my name is Alice. I am sorry I've led you here against your will. But the situation called for it. We need your help. We all know you were the one killing the other vampires. Many of these women surrounding you were their wives, sisters and mothers. And even though they resent you for doing what you did, they do understand. They took your parents, the king and queen. We all loved them, they were nice for us, even when they knew about our nature.'

Arthur saw the looks of defeat, sadness and fear in their eyes. Even though he did not regret his decision, he still felt terrible for them. He had not thought about them having family.

Alice started speaking again.

‘At this point, we have two choices. Or we fight back again, and it will end in tragedy, or we make a truce. We all hate fighting. We have lived drinking the blood of animals, to take care of them after and we like to get back to that. And we know we must sacrifice something for that, since we are the ones that are seemed dangerous.’

Alice looked around for confirmation, probably to get the consent of everyone there.

‘In exchange of peace, of us going back to our old lives, we will sacrifice our teeth. All vampires will have to get their teeth removed. If they do that, they will be left alone. If they don’t, you have the right to take care of them.’

Arthur did not know what to say. This would be the perfect solution and he knew his people would agree to that, but the inhumanity of it was repulsive.

Alice saw the struggle in his eyes and she smiled softly.

‘The fact that this is so hard for you, shows your compassion. Though we do not need it. We just want to live peacefully with the humans again. And if this is what it takes, we accept that.’

Arthur looked at the vampires surrounding him, and he saw their determination. He nodded.

And so it happened. The next day Arthur presented the idea to his counsels and it was immediately accepted. The vampires had to get their teeth removed in public and even though it was terrible to look at, it was just what the people of the kingdom needed.

And so, peace finally returned to the kingdom. Arthur’s heart was in conflict on the other hand. He had fallen head over heels for the vampire’s leader, Alice. He tried to distract himself by sleeping with different women, but he felt nothing. He could not even enjoy himself anymore. The people of the kingdom saw him turning into an unhappy person. That was not what they wanted, they wanted their fierce king back. Everyone knew about the night where Alice and Arthur had met and it was not hard to put one and one together. Their king was in love.

The people had learned that love was the strongest thing in the world. So, even though the vampire war was still fresh in everyone’s mind, their kings’ happiness was of the highest priorities at that point.

And that was why the people held a celebration for their king, since that was the best way to get them together. He did not know any of the specifics, only that he had to be in the throne room at the start of dusk. He had always been a night person, so he did not mind, but he did not understand why the people of the kingdom chose for that.

When it was time, he walked inside the throne room. The first thing he noticed was the lack of people. It was totally quiet. Except for one person. Alice. She was sitting in the throne, wearing the most gorgeous red dress he had ever seen. It covered her whole body, but it was so tight that it almost functioned as a second skin. He did not know that such a dress could be so arousing. He looked at her face and could see that she approved of his hungry stare.

‘Don’t you have to punish me?’ she asked with a wink.

Officially he had to, since it was not acceptable if someone else than the king sat in there. And he had just the perfect punishment.

He sat on one knee right in front of her.

‘Your punishment is being mine for the rest of your life. Do you accept?’

She laughed.

‘I knew you were perfect for me from the moment I saw you. I can’t wait to torment you for the rest of your life. You sure you can keep up with me?’ She licked her lips and put her foot on his knee. He could see that she was not wearing any underwear under her dress.

Without blinking, he stood up and lifted her. He turned their bodies and sat down on the throne, with her on top of him. He followed the lines of her body with his hand. She shivered.

‘Oh, I believe I can,’ he whispered in her ear.

‘Hmmm, well then, I can’t wait to be punished then,’ she purred.

He laughed and kissed her. He would thank his people in the morning. Now, it was time for punishment. He lifted her up, walking towards his bedroom, where they would not come out off for more than a day.

After that, everything went fast. The wedding was not even a week later and vampire and human celebrated their union together. Everything seemed perfect for years and years to come. And when they thought they could not get happier, a miracle happened. Alice was pregnant. Even though they were a bit anxious, since there had never been a half human, half vampire child, they could not wait for her to be born.

And here the real story starts. The story of Snow White.

