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On the top of the mountain, Bella found a Dwarf chained to a rock. "Please save me," the Dwarf cried.

"I've come to save my dear William," said Bella.

"If magic brings you to me then you must need my help," said the Dwarf. "My wife, the wicked Water Witch, left me chained here; William must also be in her power. To rescue us you must catch the witch in her silver fishing net."

"I shall save you both," promised Bella. She told the eagle to take her to William and it carried her to the lake of the Water Witch.

Bella made her way to the Water Witch's palace just as William had done and received the same welcome. While the Water Witch went to fetch some wine, Bella noticed her father's knife on the table so she hid it in her jacket.

When the Water Witch returned, Bella admired her silver fishing net. "How, beautiful, may I fish with it?" she asked.

The Water Witch wanted to please her so she agreed. Without suspicion, she handed Bella the net.

At once, Bella swung the net over the Water Witch. There was a terrifying shriek and she turned into a big, ugly, wriggling, fish. At once Bella scooped her up and tipped her into the fish tank.

Then up swam the frog with her father's bell around his neck. Bella lifted him out and gently touched his foot with the knife. To her joy, William appeared. When he explained what had happened, Bella released all the men who'd been turned into fish.

Now that his wife had lost her power, the Dwarf was free and returned to the palace. To thank Bella and William he filled their pockets with gold.

"Now take us home," Bella told her father's staff happily. "We have a wedding to arrange!"



ENCHANTED PLACES

EUROPE
A STORY FROM SCOTLAND



TAM LIN

Few people dared to walk in Carterhaugh wood for fear of an elfin knight called Tam Lin, who would take whatever he wished from those he met.

The Earl who owned the wood lived in a castle nearby. When his daughter, Janet, grew up, he gave her Carterhaugh wood as a gift.

Janet was not afraid of anything. One day she decided to pick flowers and so into the wood she went.

No sooner had she picked a wild rose than handsome Tam Lin stepped out of the trees.

"Who gave you permission to pick that rose?" he asked Janet.

"I need no permission," answered Janet boldly. "This wood belongs to me." Tam Lin looked at her and smiled. "Then you must be Janet," he said, "with whom I played when I was young."

Janet remembered a boy she had known long ago, a boy she had once loved but who had mysteriously disappeared one day. "Where have you been, Tam Lin?" she asked.

"The Fairy Queen stole me away to live with her elves under the hill," he told her. "Now I guard Carterhaugh wood as her knight but I long to escape the fairy world and return home."

"How can you be rescued?" Janet asked him. "Tell me what can be done?" Tam Lin saw that she was still the brave girl he knew long ago, the brave girl he once loved.

"Tomorrow night is Halloween," he told her. "The Queen and her elves will ride out across the land. If you are not afraid to wait alone at the crossroads at midnight you will see a company of knights on black steeds, followed by a company of knights on brown steeds. After them will come the Fairy Queen on a milk-white steed. I shall be riding at her side, with a star upon my crown."

"What must I do to save you?" asked Janet.

"You must pull me from my horse and hold me tight," said Tam Lin, "for the Queen will use

powerful magic to take me from you. If I turn into a red hot sword you must plunge me into the river. Only then will her power be broken."

Janet promised Tam Lin with all her heart that she would be waiting at the crossroads to save him.

That Halloween night, brave Janet made her way by the eerie light of the moon to the crossroads. She hid herself and waited.

Suddenly, she heard bridles ring and hoof beats thunder. Up rode a company of elfin knights on black steeds, followed by another company on brown steeds. After them came the Fairy Queen on a milk-white steed with a knight riding beside her. Janet saw the star upon his crown and without thought of her own safety, leapt forward. She seized the bridle of his horse and pulled him out of his saddle, into her arms.

At once the elves turned upon her. "Tam Lin's taken!" they cried.

The Fairy Queen shrieked and lightning flashed across the sky. Tam Lin turned into a lizard in Janet's arms but she clutched him tight. The lizard turned into a writhing snake but she held him close. The snake turned into a dove that almost flew from her grasp. Then the dove turned into a red hot sword. Janet ran to the river nearby and plunged it in and when the steam cleared, there lay Tam Lin, wearing his elfin robes no more. Janet wrapped him in her cloak.

The Fairy Queen scowled at Tam Lin. "I should have changed your heart for a heart of stone," she cried and with that the whole company galloped away.



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