

The Goblin King

by Shriya Inuzuka

The northern part of Faeryland is called Adania and is ruled by Queen Tatiana. Her rule over the land of goblins is somewhat cursory, as each sub-division is sovereign unto itself, although the ruling lord or lady was still subject to the High Queen of Adania. The Lord of Goblinland was Lord Karnac even though he considered himself King of the Goblins. He was a powerful magician. There were rumors that he was a necromancer which meant he used the black arts to conjure the dead. Lord Karnac was considered a most powerful mage and practiced his sorcery in the under-croft of his castle Hobgoblin Hall. It was said that he had a pact with the Devil and could raise a magical army of the dead to aid him whenever needed, and when he was done with them the army would dissolve back into the earth.

Lord Karnac was also a master at glamor magic. Unwilling to face his true image as a goblin, he had created a spell of glamor to hide what he truly was, a hideous goblin. His glamor magic allowed him to interact with others without putting them off by his true and disgusting appearance. When he presented himself under the guise of glamor, he wore his hair long and black and when he pulled it back it gave his features a sharp, ruthless handsomeness. His chest, when bare, was muscular and broad, marred only by several battle scars across his left breast. He wore a sword at his side and many times opted to wear a blue and green tartan kilt feeling as if this made him appear more respectable.

His reign as King of the Goblins had been a long one since there was no goblin who was able to best him in battle nor could they compete with the magic of his dark faery arts. Malignia had come to him with a proposition many years ago to steal the infant son of the human family that was responsible for clear cutting the enchanted oak forest that ultimately destroyed her older sister Gaiana.

He knew it took quite a bit for Malignia to approach him. It was well known that faeries were loathed to interact with orcs or goblins especially if the faery was of noble blood as Malignia was. Granted, she had abdicated her position, as princess Majestic on the Seelie court, after her sister Tatiana banished her upon learning of her association with the Bone Witch. Even though, Malignia was now aligned with the Un-seelie court she still was of noble blood and had a great distain of goblins and orcs. This is where his glamor magic was extremely helpful.

Royal faeries were known for their delicate beauty and esthetic taste. The sight of a goblin was thought to be too disturbing and so they were socially shunned even at the yearly gathering of all the Fae. It was still being debated whether orcs and goblins were faeries. As far as the royal court was concerned, they viewed them as a sub-specie, not capable of higher thought. In fact, they considered them quite stupid even though they were cunning and sly which meant you had to watch your back when around them.

When Malignia first approached Lord Karnac with her plans of stealing the human baby, he was surprised and rather skeptical as he knew she was aware of the goblin war that he had waged against her father some one hundred years back. It had been Lord Karnac's wounded pride that had instigated the war after Princess Gaiana rejected him as a suitor. Glamor magic had made him appear handsome at first, but it did not take Gaiana long to unmask his deception. When she spurned him, his anger rose to such a degree he swore revenge. It was not the loss of her love that infuriated him for his emotions did not go beyond lust. It was the future position of king that he was after. He knew that someday Gaiana would be Queen of Adania, and he intended to rule at her side. Once his duplicity was revealed, however, his plans were dashed and that is when he declared war against the Seelie Court.

As far as Lord Karnac was concerned, orcs and goblins had gotten a bad rap from the Seelie Court. He believed the spurning of goblins was not only due to their hideous appearance but was also driven by jealousy of the great amount of wealth they had acquired through mining, along with the dwarves. In essence, goblins were the bankers of Faeryland and as such were looked upon as miserly and power hungry. Karnac did not consider that their overall bad temper and calculating approach to everyone and everything might be the real reason that they were spurned and overall, not trusted.

The campaign he waged against the King of Adania was not well thought out and, in fact, was the result of ego gratification. His knee jerk reaction to Gaiana's rejection of him made his approach hot headed and poorly thought out. He did not take into consideration the sheer numbers of warrior elves and pixies that the king had at his disposal. The warrior elves carried dragon line flags indicating that they were earth elves. They were not only excellent trackers but quite sturdy in stature unlike other elven clans that tended to be tall and willowy. Even though the earth elves had more girth and were more of a match for the goblins, it was the pixies that did them in. There were hundreds of the pesky creatures clinging to each goblin. Poking and prodding their sharp little thistles into eyes, ears and nose. The hideous goblins were overwhelmed with them and ran off shrieking trying to run from their tormentors. After this last humiliation, Lord Karnac was forced to retreat.

He had been waiting, ever since, for the opportunity to get revenge. That opportunity came in a most surprising way. Who would have guessed one of the royals would seek his help for their own gain? He believed in the old saying, "Keep your Fae friends close but keep your Fae enemies closer." He knew Malignia was no friend and, in fact, was historically his enemy. However, her offer was quite tempting. If he aligned with her to steal the crown, she was offering him not only equal status in Faeryland but also, access to the enchanted spring.

This spring was of great interest to him as he was aware of its enchanted properties. He felt if he had access to this spring that the imbibing of its waters would significantly enhance his magical abilities but more importantly his intention was to make money off it by charging a bag of gold for its use. He knew this would not go over well with the Seelie Court as they were the stewards and protector of nature, and believed in their code of conduct, that nature should not have a price tag and should be free to all. In fact, it was a sore spot of the Fae that those humans that loved money were not in agreeance to this way of thinking and seemed to go out of their way to exploit all-natural resources.

Lord Karnac had accepted Malignia's offer and had decided that he would sacrifice his own son to be the changeling replacement for the human baby. It was his plan to use his goblin son to be his eyes and ears in the green world of humans. He hoped to discover the location of the ancient faery spring that had found its way, hundreds of years earlier, into the heart of the enchanted forest. This magical spring could extend one's life by hundreds of years and enhance one's psychic and magical abilities. This was why Lord Karnac had his eye on finding that spring.

The very reason Queen Tatiana was attempting to work with humans was to teach and train them to be good stewards of the Earth. For in truth, whatever happens to nature in the green world eventually is reflected on the faery side of the gate. As Alice found out, Wonderland is located just on the other side of the mirror and that mirror reflects on both sides. Humans and the Fae are intricately connected to nature and as far as the Seelie Court is concerned the destruction of Mother Nature is coming to the tipping point of no return. Queen Tatiana knows it is imperative for their own survival to teach the humans how to be good neighbors. After all the Fae had been called The Good Folk for centuries. It was now time to teach humans the way of the Fae.