

July 2021
Issue #2- Tails & Tales



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A NOTE FROM MISS BLAIR



#Zine is a place for tweens and teens to be creative and express their artistic talent in all its forms. For Issue #2, we decided to embrace the Summer Reading theme of Tails and Tales, and we were so excited to see all the amazing talent Prescott's youth had to offer.

The creative tweens and teens (as well as a guest artist) took this idea and went to fun, imaginative places with it. This issue is chock full of stellar art and writing featuring all kinds of fantasy tails and tales. It always impresses me when artists take creative themes and ideas to new places. That is how the most innovative art is born.

Enjoy this issue of #Zine. We were so pleased to have a great group of imaginative tweens and teens submit their work. If you are inspired as you peruse, check out the last page for information on how you can submit to the next issue of #Zine, or join The Write Spot- a new writing club for teens!

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ALONG THE OCEAN FLOOR

by Sarah Meyer



SEVERAL ANIMAL HAIKUS

by Ben Pool

Goats are rather odd,
They'll eat anything they see
And jump right on me.

A deer in the yard?
Let me go get my camera.
I'm here-where'd it go?

Spiders are not bad.
I just hate it when I see
Them in my shower.

If an antelope
Ate cantaloupe then I
Would be out of lunch

BEAUTIFUL ANGEL

by Elizabeth Worl



JADE

by Megan Engle



THE DRAGON QUEEN

by Eliana Tuley

Ladon The Dragon King, sits in his palace staring out the window at his kingdom below. It was his 16th birthday. He'd tried to convince Lavinia, Queen of the spirits, that a formal feast was the exact opposite of how he wanted to spend his birthday. She didn't care of course, if SHE wanted a feast, a feast she would have. Lavinia was only beautiful in physical ways. She was selfish, quick tempered and vain, but as she was Queen of the Spirits, it was in the best interest for his kingdom that he marry her. So Lavinia was, much to his irritation, his betrothed. Ladon resignedly prepared for the feast.

Meanwhile, In the dragon kingdom, a human girl, the only human there, was being bullied yet again by her fellow classmates.

"You're never going to graduate if you don't even have fighting talents like the rest of us," they jeered.

In truth Grace couldn't agree more. She HATED fighting. She had no other options though. She was an orphan, surrounded by dragon people, (half human, half dragon) elves, and spirits, who never came out of their kingdom.

Grace pushed through the crowd of fellow classmates and made her way to the Dragon King's castle. Three months ago, the Spirit Queen had come to the academy in search of a servant. Grace's classmates all volunteered her at once, and so every day for the past three months, she walked to the palace after school, and spent hours doing whatever it was that the Queen needed.

She arrived at the palace, where a woman greeted her, "Wait here, I'll tell her majesty that you've arrived."

Grace stood outside the doors to the King and Queen's room. She heard her majesty yelling, but that didn't surprise her. She expected a furious Queen to open the door, but much to her surprise it was Ladon, the noble and wise Dragon King who greeted her.

Her stomach fluttered as she gazed at him, his hair, dark at the top, melting into a flaming red at the ends, he was tall with a human-like build, except for the fact that he had horns poking through his messy hair, and red dragon scales running from the back of his neck, down his spine to the end of his red dragon tail.

He looked at Grace, his eyes sparkling. He was the most gorgeous thing she had ever laid eyes on.

Grace was caught off guard when the Queen, instead of pouting as Grace would've suspected, smiled at her and thrust some of her leftover lunch into Grace's hands, "you'd best eat that outside, I'll be down shortly." the queen said as she ushered Grace out of the room.

Though suspicious, Grace hadn't eaten all day, and was too hungry to think much of the Queen's strange behavior. She made her way back down three flights of stairs and outside into the courtyard again.

When she sat down to eat, she noticed an elf on the opposite side of the yard. Grace approached the elf, and offered him her lunch basket, and he opened it without even a thank you. At that moment the Queen called Grace to her. Still hungry, She left him with the basket, and walked toward Queen Lavinia.

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THE DRAGON QUEEN- CONTINUED

“What took you so long? You know how much I hate waiting. We’re going to my kingdom. Carry these,” Lavinia said, thrusting a number of bags into Grace’s arms. Lavinia wasn’t sure if she should bring Grace to her kingdom, but she certainly was not about to go by herself.

After a long walk, they arrived at Lavinia’s kingdom. Grace thought that the Queen seemed unusually nervous and jumpy. “Is something wrong your majesty?” Grace asked. “Nothing.” The Queen snapped, and she called for the guards to open the gates.

Grace had not expected what she saw when they entered the Spirit Kingdom, instead of the bright, colorful, glowing magical spirits that she remembered from when she was little, the spirits were dull, droopy and miserable. At sight of them the spirits stopped whatever they were doing and Grace could’ve sworn they turned slightly red with anger.

The Queen looked very uncomfortable. Two spirits pushed them towards a stage and held them there.

“Stop!” the Queen shrieked. “As your Queen I demand you unhand me!”

The spirits ignored her and a speech began on the stage. In a voice that was magically magnified, a spirit said, “HOW DARE YOU CALL YOURSELF OUR QUEEN! WHEN WE CALLED TO YOU FOR PROTECTION YOU IGNORED US, WHEN WE CALLED TO YOU FOR RESOURCES YOU IGNORED US!”

“I order you to be silent” the Queen said.

“ONE MORE THING. WE GIVE YOU ALL YOU ASK FOR, AND ALL YOU GIVE US IN RETURN IS THE BARRIER OF ASHES AROUND OUR KINGDOM TO LOCK US IN HERE!”

“I SAID SILENCE!” The Queen yelled.

The silence that followed was deadly. Grace stared at the Queen in horror, but the Queen wasn’t paying attention to her.

“I want all the magic potions you have left. Or else.” The Queen held up a small black pouch which caused the spirits nearest to her to shy away and others did as she commanded. The Queen told Grace to stay where she was and wait while she went to collect her goods. Grace however, had other plans.

As soon as Lavinia left, Grace went to the nearest spirit and after convincing it that she meant no harm, it told her how the ash that the Queen placed around them kept them locked inside. it warned Grace that after all she knew she would be in danger.

At that moment Lavinia came around the corner, arms full, and briskly told Grace that they were leaving.

The spirit watched Grace leave, and suddenly had an idea. It might be fatal, but if it worked, it might save Grace, and the rest of the spirits. Decidedly, the spirit whisked itself to the border of ash, and with great determination, crossed it. Its time was now limited so it hurried as fast as possible to the Dragon Palace.

Lavinia walked out of the kingdom in silence. This was by far the angriest Grace had ever seen her. Grace walked quietly behind the Queen, terrified of how the Queen would react to even the slightest disturbance.

THE DRAGON QUEEN- CONTINUED

The silence dragged on, and Grace was noticing that the trail they were taking wasn't at all familiar. Grace's heart started pounding, but just as she considered making a run for it, the Queen spun around, her eyes dark with rage.

"Grace," she said, her voice stripped of emotion. "You won't ever mention that to anyone, will you? My position as queen would be... threatened."

Grace, relieved, swore to secrecy.

"I wish I could trust you," Lavinia said. "But I can't risk my position because of a silly little girl."

Grace stood there paralyzed. She couldn't move. Couldn't think. She couldn't even breathe. Just as the Queen unsheathed a dagger, Grace felt strong arms around her, a flash of red, and everything went black.

When Grace woke, she was in what she recognized as Queen Lavinia's bed. The sunlight was glaring into her eyes, and she could just make out, was that King Ladon? Yes it was. He was sitting next to her with his head in his hands. He was probably worried about Lavinia.

Grace sat up, very confused. Ladon lifted his head and strangely, he smiled. No, he grinned. "Grace!" he exclaimed, "You're okay! I don't know what I would've done if Lavinia were to do anything to you."

"Why do you care? Aren't you worried if Lavinia is okay?"

As soon as Grace asked, Ladon wilted. Frowning he replied, "I never loved Lavinia, Grace. My father's last wish was that I marry her to expand my kingdom. He didn't know what she had been doing though. I doubt that you remember, but when you first came here, and I was a prince, I used to leave you gifts everyday. I saw how kind you were to everyone here even though they didn't return the actions. I convinced my father to allow you to stay in the school, and I convinced Lavinia to pick her servant there, in hopes that I'd get to see you again. It was selfish of me, I admit, and if I'd known how she would treat you, I would have never even considered it. This is confusing I'm sure, I forget that while for me it's like I've known you for years, you've really just met me. I hope you can forgive me."

Grace stared in amazement. "I-I remember you. I'd always hoped to find the mystery dragon boy from so long ago..." she trailed off.

"I denied myself any feelings I started catching for you out of loyalty to the Queen."

Grace was blushing. "I always thought that no one noticed me, let alone cared." she hung her head.

"I care," Ladon said, "I always have."

Grace looked up and smiled.

"Oh and by the way," Ladon said smugly, smiling back at her, "Lavinia is alive, but under lock and key, the spirit kingdom is free, and now that I'm freed of my promise..." Grace swore she caught Ladon blushing, "The position of future Dragon Queen is open to you if you want it. You don't have to decide now of course." Ladon looked down and added quietly, "I'll wait for you forever, Grace"

Overwhelmed, Grace leaned forward and embraced Ladon. "I love you too." she whispered.

OPAL

by Megan Engle



RUBY

by Megan Engle



THE OVAL FAMILY'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

by Nora Jacob

Every year, at the end of Summer all mice have a harvest. The day after they are finished they celebrate a holiday called harvest festival. Most mice harvest crops from the big gardens that they live near, mice come from miles around (Which are about fifteen feet for mice.) Or if they live too far away, the community gathers, and they all go on a long walk together. They hold little baskets and pick berries and vegetables that grow naturally.

The Oval family is different. They have a vegetable patch in the very back of Oakland Farm. They plant and grow all of the vegetables themselves. Inside of the big brick wall is where they live. In one hollow brick is a table and chairs, a kitchen, and a sofa. In another brick is where they sleep. A bed for mother and father and just behind that, a bed for the children. Their names are Evergreen, Nicki, Edward, Peter, and of course the youngest, Rosemary. Their parents' names are Nicki, and Jon.

It was harvest morning! Rosemary woke up, and immediately began jumping up and down on the beds. This quickly woke up everyone! It was time for the special harvest breakfast - potato pancakes, with delicious melted Swiss cheese on top! "Extra cheese!" exclaimed Evergreen! "Extra, Extra Cheese!" Shouted Peter "EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA, CHEESE!" Yelled Nicki and Edward at the same time! Pancakes were served and it was delicious!

It was time to go make presents! They sat in the living room, and wrote their names down on a piece of paper. They set it in a hat. Then they passed it around, and each drew one name out. Then they went off to the storage room. Evergreen got lots of leaves, Nicki grabbed a piece of bark, a small twig, and a leaf, then she ran down to the creek. Edward got lots of mud, before heading to the children's secret hideout. Peter got lots of leaf stems, and a big piece of bark. Mother helped Rosemary get flowers, and mud. Mother went to get leaves, and a leaf stem, and father got a walnut shell, leaves, and leaf stems.

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THE OVAL FAMILY'S HARVEST FESTIVAL CONTINUED

Everybody wrapped their presents nicely, and met in the living room. Evergreen went first. "For Edward," She said, smiling. Edward unwrapped it, and exclaimed, "It's a ball!" "Made of leaves!" Evergreen added. "I love it!" Next, Nicki handed a present to a very excited Peter. He shook the box about, and guessed five times before opening it. A boat! The tiny ship has a tiny sail, made from a leaf. A strong stick holds it up, with a base from a bit of bark. "I cannot wait to sail it!" He said excitedly. "I am glad that you like it!" said Nicki.

Peter gave Evergreen a lovely clay tea set. "It's beautiful, thank you!" Evergreen exclaimed! Rosemary gave her father a rather handsome flower petals bowtie. "I love you Rosy!" said father, happily. Father gave mother a walnut shell sewing kit. It has leaves, leaf stems (thread) and even has dyes. "Thank you, I love you!" said Mother.

Finally, Mother gave Rosemary two bunches of leaves tied together with leaf stems. "Now you can go swimming in the creek with your siblings!" "Yay!!" shouted Rosemary. "My present is at the creek," Said Edward. "Well," said Mother, "Good thing I already packed a picnic basket!" "Three, Two, One, GO" shouted Peter "No fair! You got a head start!" exclaimed Evergreen, but she was already off, after her brother. "Come on!" Yelled Edward! "I win!" "You did not!" "Sure did fair and square!" "Come ooon," "It's a draw!" said Father "Okay," said Peter and Evergreen, both satisfied. "A swing!" said Nicki. "Hop on" He had tied leaf stems together, to make two long ropes. Then, he attached a piece of bark at one end, and tied it to a tree branch.

When Nicki swung really high she felt she could see everything! Evergreen sat on a rock in the middle of the water, having a tea party with Mother, and Rosemary, who had just started kind of swimming around. Peter was on the shore playing soccer with father. Nicki jumped off the swing, into the water with a big SPLASH!

THE END

*A special to #Zine- this creative drawing is
from a young future #Zine contributor.*

SUNSET

by Bliss Tyson



#ZINE SUBMISSION FORM

Submission Guidelines- For Tweens & Teens Grades 6-12

- All entries in any genre must follow the theme of "Changing Seasons"
- You may submit up to a total of 2 of the following genre categories:
 - 1-3 poems of no more than 1000 words total.
 - Up to 3 pieces of 2D art: submit digital copies if possible. If not, contact us for more information.
 - 1 short story of no more than 1000 words in length.
 - Want to submit something different like a comic or a play? Keep it to no more than 3 pages total- or contact us for more information!
- All submissions must be original and your own work- but partnerships are allowed!
 - Both partners will need to complete an entry form.
- All entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form.
- All entries must be submitted to Prescott Public Library's Youth Services staff or emailed to youth.services@prescott-az.gov by October 15.

OUR EDITORIAL STANDARDS:

All submissions will be chosen for inclusion by Library Staff and held to the standards described in the guidelines above. Multiple submissions do not guarantee all items will be published, as space is limited. Unpublished submissions may be considered for future editions.

All editorial decisions are final.

Must submit completed form with each entry

Youth's Name _____ Grade Level _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Circle Type of Submission: POETRY ART SHORT STORY OTHER

Title of Submission _____

For Parent/Guardian:

Should my child's submission be chosen for publication, I _____ (print name) give permission to Prescott Public Library to reproduce my child's name and original work on the library's website for digital download, print format, and/or place this work on display, or utilize in other manners for the purposes of Library publicity.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



FEELING INSPIRED?

The next issue's theme is Changing Seasons, so get creative and think about how things change, and still sometimes remain the same. Remember, writing of any genre and 2D art of any kind will be considered for publication. Anyone in grades 6-12 is invited to submit!

Use the submission form on the previous page, stop by the Youth Desk, or download a submission form from www.prescottlibrary.info/arts-sciences

The deadline to submit for the next issue is October 15th.

HEY, WRITERS!

The Write Spot is here!

Join Miss Blair for a new writing club for teens in grades 9-12.

This monthly club will feature writing tips and exercises, writing discussions, and the opportunity to share your work with peers for feedback.

The Write Spot will meet the last Wednesday of the month from September-May at 4 pm in the James Activity Room

Register online, at the Youth Desk,
or call 928.777.1537

