

Word Count: 1,559

The Prince and The Mermaid

By J.M. Rivers

Category: Adult

Genre: Romance, Fantasy

©2021 J.M. Rivers. All rights Reserved

“Tell me a story, Daddy.”

“Aren’t you a bit too old for bedtime stories?”

“Pretty please?”

“Alright. Since you asked so nicely.”

“Yay! Thank you.”

“Okay, snuggle in, and listen to my tale of woe.”

Once upon a time, in a magical land far away, there lived a prince. He led a happy and comfortable life in a large castle on a hill with his parents: the king and queen. His home was magical, so the weather was perfect every day, and he could go swimming in the lake with the water fairies and mermaids. All magical creatures co-existed in peace, so the king and queen did not have to plan wars or expand their kingdom. They were there to perform leadership duties, but also because they were part of a long line of magical beings with immense power. Their full power was never known to anyone but them until one fateful day.

A greedy fairy named Helena wanted to take the throne for herself and her kind, for she thought that non-magical creatures should not rule over magical ones, so, with the support of a few fairies and other magical creatures, they stormed the castle and forced the king, queen and prince—

“Wait, but aren’t the royal family magical? Didn’t they fight back?”

“They couldn’t. The prince was still too young and hadn’t come into his power yet. Fighting would risk the death of their son.”

“Oh. Go on.”

The royal family was kicked out of the castle, and they knew that they needed to hide. Their lives had been spared, but Helena could easily send out assassins, so they sought refuge from a sympathetic nymph family who helped them escape into another world: Earth. Earth was ideal because they could easily blend in with the humans, and that would buy them time for the prince to grow and receive training from his parents.

The prince remembered his home often and especially the lake he would swim in, so he would seek out lakes that closely resembled it. None quite met his expectations, but he did find one while he was attending a human university that was so similar that he could swear it had magic; it could have been the exact same. He visited the lake as often as he could, and one day he found a girl seated on the shore with her feet in the water.

“I sense a love connection. Will they marry and live happily ever after?”

“Well, I did say it was a tale of woe.”

“What? One of them is going to die?”

“I didn’t say that.”

“You didn’t *not* say it, either.”

The young prince was naturally drawn to the girl because she was different. That, and the fact that nobody else ever went to that lake. The prince startled the girl, but she made no move to leave. The prince knew better than to start a conversation, so he sat away from her and let his thoughts wander for an hour. Afterwards, he left. He continued to visit the lake. Some days the girl was there, and others she was not. This went on for a whole semester, and during the next semester, the prince’s last, the girl introduced herself. They formed a friendship.

“I thought they were in love!”

“Not yet. Give it time.”

“What’s taking so long?”

Once the prince graduated, his parents began teaching him how to use his powers. They taught him a few spells and surface level powers, but now they could teach him full-time. The girl and the prince talked often on the phone and would meet on occasion. Slowly, the friendship turned into something more. He introduced her to his parents, who were skeptical at first, but with time saw that she was not a direct threat. They did not trust her completely but treated her warmly and with respect.

One day, during a training session, a fairy saw the former royal family using their powers and traveled back to the magical realm to inform Helena. Helena was furious, and sent an army to arrest them, bring them back to their former home, and execute them on grounds of stealing magic. On that same night, the family was magically whisked away to their former home while they were sleeping and they awoke in separate cells. They tried using their magic, but the cell was enchanted to counter their powers.

“So, you’re just going to kill everyone off?”

“I never said that!”

“You didn’t have to.”

“Such a little brat.”

“Your little brat, always.”

They were brought into an arena where they would be tried in the presence of all the magical creatures. See, time in the magical land moves slower than on Earth, so the memory of the coup was still fresh in all the creatures’ minds. The revelation that the former royal family had magic did not sit well with them. Helena had spread convincing false rumours about their powers, turning even sympathizers against them. The trial was short, evidence of their powers was provided, and any of their true arguments were ignored. They brought forth the fairy as a witness, and they also called on a second witness: the prince’s girlfriend.

“What? What does she have to do with the story?”

You see, the prince's girlfriend was actually a mermaid, and not just any mermaid, but one that the young prince would play with in the magical lake. Her name was Kailha, and her parents sent her away because they sympathized with the former royals. Helena vowed to hurt those who did not ally with her and her cause, so she wound up on earth with foster parents who were also mermaids living on Earth.

Kailha gave testimony against the family, and the prince was heartbroken. He did know she was a mermaid. He sensed it the first time they met, and so did his parents. That was why they hesitated in their acceptance of her, and now the prince hung his head in shame as he whispered to his parents that they were right, and he had failed them. The king and queen felt for their son but knew that nothing they said would comfort him.

“Why did she betray him like that?”

“She had no choice. Her parents would have been killed.”

“Right, what guarantee did she have that their lives would be spared anyway?”

“A blood oath, a magical one in fact. Breaking it leads to death and death breaks it.”

“I hate how efficient your plot holes are.”

It was time for the family to be executed via magical curse, and right as a smiling Helena shot it at them, Kailha ran in front of it and was struck down. The prince held her as she fell to the ground, her body shifting between human and mermaid. He cursed her for being foolish while telling her he loved her. She explained herself between shifts. It all came out as gibberish, but the prince understood. The curse rebounded on Helena due to the love Kailha had for the prince, killing her instantly—

“Oh my God! You did not just rip off Harry Potter.”

“And what if I did? Do you want to hear the ending or not?”

“Fine, out with it.”

Helena was dead, and the magical creatures realized that they had not only been misguided but had also been under a powerful spell which lifted with her death. And so, their realm had been saved. The king and queen were reinstated, and their secret was out. They used their powers for good and even taught other creatures how to use some of their own powers. A school was set up for teaching others and storing the acquired knowledge.

“What about Kailha?”

Well, all healers were sought from inside and outside the realm to heal her. She did not die, but she was not quite living. They struggled to find a cure for her ailment for a long time, and the prince was always at her side. Finally, as if by a miracle, a potential cure was found, and Kailha was healed. However, there was a bad side effect to it. The mermaid lost a significant amount of her memory, largely due to a part of the curse binding to her soul. So, she was returned to Earth, where she now lives with her foster family.

“Your highness, allow me to interrupt. It is time.”

“Thank you Meayl. She just fell asleep.”

“You’re welcome, your highness. Excuse me. I will be waiting in the hall.”

“You know, for what it’s worth, I actually like your story, my son.”

“Hey, Mom. To her, it will be just a story, that is if she ever remembers it.”

“I know. This part is always difficult. At least you get one day when she remembers, and she can be yours again.”

“One day will never be enough, but I cherish each one as if it were my last.”

“It will be over soon, and a cure will be found. Take heart, my son. I’ll tell them you’re ready.”

“Thank you, Mom. Goodbye, my beautiful mermaid. I love you, always.”