

HAPPILY NEVER AFTER

Written by

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INT. TOWER - DUSK

A beautiful PRINCESS sits mournfully in her tower prison.

PRINCESS

One day, my prince will rescue me.  
One day, I'll be far away and free  
of this dreadful tower.

The princess sighs as a handsome HERO crashes through the door. He looks battle worn.

HERO

Princess. I have found you!

The princess is shocked beyond words.

HERO (CONT'D)

I have travelled far and fought  
many a foe. I have slain dragons  
and outsmarted a trio of cunning  
witches. I have climbed the  
highest cliffs and sailed the most  
dangerous seas. I even destroyed  
the evil wizard who imprisoned you,  
but I never wavered. I knew one  
day I would save you.

Overcome with joy, the princess runs to the brave warrior.

PRINCESS

My prince!

HERO

Well...no...actually.

PRINCESS

You're not a prince? But then why  
have you ventured forth and faced  
such peril?

HERO

Because my lady. You are the most  
beautiful woman in the kingdom.  
And you smiled at me once.

PRINCESS

I did?

HERO

Yes. Do you not remember?

PRINCESS  
I'm sorry. I do not.

HERO  
I was a stable hand where you kept  
your horse. Whenever you came to  
the stables with your handmaidens,  
you'd smile at me.

The princess freezes with a jolt of recognition and backs  
away from her rescuer.

PRINCESS  
(Evasively)  
Oh.

HERO  
My lady, do you not remember?

PRINCESS  
Eh...yeah...I remember.

HERO  
You and the handmaidens would smile  
and giggle. I could not let  
someone so--

PRINCESS  
Listen, about the giggling, we kind  
of thought maybe you were...simple.

HERO  
Simple?

PRINCESS  
Not...bright? Dimwitted. A fool.

HERO  
You thought me a dimwitted fool?

The hero reflects for a moment. This clearly is not going  
the way he planned. He approaches the princess again and  
literally sweeps her off her feet.

HERO (CONT'D)  
Princess, I have faced many dangers  
and who knows what dangers lie  
ahead. We must flee at once.

They lock eyes. It's intense. The hero moves in for a kiss, but the princess turns her head. Instead of mouth, the hero gets cheek.

PRINCESS

Whoa there!

HERO

I do not understand.

PRINCESS

Didn't you just say we had to flee at once?

HERO

Yes, but I thought--

PRINCESS

You thought what?!

HERO

I thought maybe I could...get a taste of...um...your sweet...my lady have I done something to offend you?

PRINCESS

(Irritated)

Finish that thought and ask me.

HERO

I'm afraid maybe I am a simple fool for I do not understand. I risked life and limb to save you.

PRINCESS

Yeah? I didn't ask you to. You did that on your own.

The hero puts the princess back on the ground.

HERO

My lady?

PRINCESS

Listen, buddy. I don't even know your name.

HERO

It's--

PRINCESS

It's not important. It's not that I don't appreciate you doing all that stuff you said and everything, but I'm kind of holding out for a prince. No offense. You're kind of hot, but if you already dealt with all the obstacles between here and the kingdom, then I don't see how my prince can be too far behind.

HERO

There is no one else coming, my lady. I am it. There were two princes who came before me, but they were slain. The prince of Avalon appears to prefer the company of other princes. The prince from Vah Shir's father kind of wants him to stick with his own people and the prince from Norrath...I'd rather not say.

PRINCESS

What of the prince from Norrath?

HERO

He thinks you have cankles...fat ankles.

PRINCESS

Cankles?! When I return to my kingdom we shall destroy the land of Norrath.

HERO

My lady. I have loved you since the day my eyes were blessed with your site.

PRINCESS

That's cool and everything, but I kind of see us more as...friends.

HERO

Pardon me, but I have plenty of friends.

PRINCESS

What about the evil wizard who imprisoned me? Is he still alive?

HERO

(Pausing.)

Yes! Which is why we must flee at once.

PRINCESS

You're sure when you busted in and started rattling off all that stuff you did about killing dragons and climbing hills or whatever, you didn't say you killed the wizard?

HERO

(Hesitantly)

No.

PRINCESS

Okay. Well, thank you. I'll walk you out. I appreciate the rescue, but I think I'm going to stay.

HERO

I do not understand.

PRINCESS

Yeah, well his offer of ruling not just my kingdom, but the whole world seems a little bit more enticing now. Especially if it means we can destroy Norrath. I do not have cankles!

HERO

The wizard was...is...a gnarly and disgusting old--

PRINCESS

Yeah, yeah. He can also cast enchanting spells that makes him look like a real hunk, so I can get over that. If you see him could you send him up here?

The princess pushes the hero out of the door. She spins around with delight. There's a KNOCK on the door.

PRINCESS (CONT'D)

You may enter.

The hero enters the door.

PRINCESS (CONT'D)  
(Disappointed)  
Oh, it's you again.

HERO  
I am the wizard. This is an  
enchanted spell to make me look  
like that amazingly brave hero who  
faced certain death to rescue you.

The princess shrugs and ushers the Hero to the window.

PRINCESS  
So before you said this whole land  
would be ours.

HERO  
Yeah. Sure.

The princess turns and kisses the hero hard on the mouth.  
It's a sloppy and awkward kiss. He does not appear to enjoy  
it at all.

Once they stop, he reflects for a beat and then pushes the  
princess out the window. After he hears the THUD he looks  
out to the ground and sighs.

From his pocket he pulls the royal decree asking for brave  
warriors for their aid in rescuing the princess. He tears it  
up and throws it to the ground. He pulls out a second royal  
decree with a different princess's picture and sets off to  
rescue her.