

A Fairy Tale for Adults Episode 2

Written by
Crystal Storm

Copyright (c) 2023

Tales of the Forgotten Fiction Network

theteam@talesoftheforgotten.com

1 INT. STONE CHAMBER

Colin, Nia, and the Malaks arrive in a very different stone chamber. We hear the sound of their teleportation.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 1
"I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain
cells."– Dr. Seuss

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd) 2
That strange tingly feeling, you know the
teleported somewhere one, made Colin
uneasy, and let him know something just
happened. The Malak with the mustache
gave Colin's shoulder a none too friendly
shove.

BARLY 3
Go on. Ooout wit yah.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 4
Colin glared at the Malak with the
mustache (his name was Barly), but did as
he was told. He knew immediately that
they were in a different chamber because
the exit hallway ceiling wasn't low, or as
narrow. This one was quite wide, nearly
double the size in fact. More importantly
when Colin stepped out of the chamber, he
could no longer deny he was not in his
world.

2 EXT. JUSTICE DISTRICT

A fantastical busy place! We hear the sounds of winged creatures
fluttering about, magical creatures walking to and fro, chatting about,
the zoom of flying cars, and the cough of the engines because the
dwarves flying vehicles are a bit noisy.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 5
This chamber was in the middle of the
justice district in the very busy city known
as Carsteim. Carsteim is about ten miles
North West of the Forest of Stormal
where the Crofts found themselves
moments before. Carsteim was cleverly
built on top of two proud, towering rock
like hill sides. The river A'greem, a narrow,
beautifully pristine body of water ran
between the two hills.
(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.)(cont'd)

It was a breathtaking view at the top of those rocks to be certain, and strong polished steel bridges connected the busy population. The dwarves take it upon themselves to keep the bridges shiny, as they tend to like shiny things.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Unlike other areas of the city that are alight with color and the creative power of imagination, the buildings in the justice district of Carsteim are quite stern looking. They are tall, silvery grey, dome shaped, and built directly into the hill side. The Crofts and the Malaks stood on a walkway made of black granite directly in front of the courthouse and stockades, both in the same building that was marked by the gigantic justice scales hanging above the entranceway. Two other Malaks stood still as statues in front of the entranceway, eyes straight ahead. It was a busy place to be certain, as more of the Malaks went to and fro on various assignments. Occasionally an elf riding a bicycle zoomed by (most likely a messenger), and tiny creatures (mini-fairies, and pixies) whizzed over head at speeds too fast to be seen.

COLIN

What in the...?

DANIELLA (V.O.)

It was at this moment Nia began to come around. She slowly opened her eyes, looked at the Malak groggily and...

NIA

(screams)

CHARLY

(screams back)

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The poor Malak was startled you see, but thankfully didn't drop her. He did however put the now struggling, squirming Nia on her feet, and Colin rushed over to her, framing her face between his hands.

COLIN
(shaky and uncertain
himself)
Nia, Nia calm down. 10

NIA
(deep breaths)
Oh my god... 11
(beat)
Colin... where are we? 12

COLIN
I don't... I don't know 13

CHARLY
Carsteim. 14
(chuckle)
Poor things. You used the chamber on
accident didn't yah? 15

BARLY
It dooosn't matter now does it? Get 'hem
to their cells. 16

NIA
Wait, what? Cells? Why? Where are you
taking us? 17

COLIN
Apparently we're being charged with
wrongful parenting. 18

NIA
What? Why? What for? 19

CHARLY
I wouldn't say much more ma'am. Not until
you've seen Raziel anyway. Please come
this way. 20

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Sensing that he was the reasonable one,
and that Barly would use force if need be,
and knowing that neither of them knew
what kind of force could be used upon
them, they silently agreed it was best to
just do as instructed. So, holding tight to
each others hands, they followed Barly. 21

3 INT. JUSTICE BUILDING AND JAIL CELLS

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The inside of the justice building is absolutely huge. The ceiling a good twenty feet, dome shaped. Tall white columns. A giant stone staircase straight in front of them led to the offices of the Malak on the second floor. To the left was a huge doorway and a sign above it read "courtroom". To the right was a narrow corridor and a set of stone stairs that descended deep into the hillside. The Malaks took them down the stairs on the right. 22

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

The jail cells were extremely clean, even though they were kind of, well, medieval. You know, bars and all that. But there was no one else down here. Crime wasn't really an issue. The most serious thing that happened in the last decade was when two small fae folk got into a tussle. Colin and Nia were put into the same cell. Though, Barly did shut the door a little harder than necessary before walking away. 23

We hear the sound of the cell door opening and being slammed shut, followed by the retreating steps of Barly.

CHARLY

You just holler if you need anything. I don't imagine you'll be waiting very long. 24

Charly walks away.

NIA

What are we going to do? 25

COLIN

I don't know yet. We'll get out of here though. 26

NIA

How could they accuse us of wrongful parenting? They don't know us. 27

COLIN

They're obviously a bunch of lunatics. 28

NIA

Don't say that out loud Colin! We have no idea what the laws are here. 29

COLIN
All right, all right. 30
(beat)

Unless you know how to pick a lock, 31
escape isn't going to be likely.

NIA
Oh my god... Calanon. 32

COLIN
What about him? 33

NIA
He told us if we weren't teaching the 34
children how to properly use the chamber
we were breaking the law, don't you
remember?

COLIN
Oh you can't be serious. 35

NIA
Look around, Colin. Obviously they are. 36

COLIN
(makes a frustrated
noise.)

Beat.

NIA
The kids must be having the time of their 37
lives with us gone.

COLIN
(amused) 38
Maybe they'll figure out how to use the
chamber and come rescue us.

NIA
(chuckles) 39
That would be something.

COLIN
(beat) 40
This timing isn't great. Us being stuck here,
I mean. Ali wanted to talk to you.

NIA
About? 41

COLIN
(beat) 42
Pronouns.

NIA
 Pronouns? 43

COLIN
 She's... they. 44

NIA
 Oh... oh. All right. 45

COLIN
 That's it? You took it better than I did. 46

NIA
 Oh god, what did you say? 47

COLIN
 I promise I wasn't an asshole. I just wanted to know why. 48

NIA
 What did sh-They say? 49

COLIN
 They don't want to be confined. Ali said sh-
 they felt more comfortable being a they,
 and they don't want to be bound by
 gender, (beat) 50

Ethan thinks it's cool. 51

NIA
 (smiling)
 Doesn't surprise me. 52

COLIN
 Yeah, me neither. 53

NIA
 (beat)
 Shit. 54

COLIN
 What? 55

NIA
 I'm scared for Ali. Especially now with the
 way the country is... who else did they
 come out too? 56

COLIN
 I don't know. We hadn't gotten that far
 into the conversation yet. 57
 (MORE)

COLIN (cont'd)

(beat)

Shit. You're right... I was still processing, I
hadn't even thought about other people. 58

NIA

I don't want to restrict them being who
they are, but what if they tell the wrong
person? God, I haven't been keeping watch
on what's going on with any of that
politically, you just hear about the bills- 59

COLIN

Hey. Hey. We'll figure it out, okay? We'll
figure it out. And if that means we move
to keep Ali safer, we do that. Whatever it
takes. 60

DANIELLA (V.O.)

(whispers)

Dear listener, I think it is important for you
to know, in this moment, Colin and Nia
moved closer to each other, and... they are
holding hands. 61

NIA

Colin... what about other people's kids? I
mean I... I wasn't paying attention to all
that. Not really. I was just... busy but now
it's effecting my kid what about the
others? 62

COLIN

We do the best we can, Nia. There's... I
mean there's just so much going wrong
right now... 63

NIA

I know, but... we've been oblivious for too
long. We've got to do something. I mean,
we're lucky, privileged even, that if we
need to find a safe place for our kids we
can. What about everyone who can't? 64

COLIN

(beat)

You're right. We get out of here, and we
figure out what to do. You know I don't
have any problems arguing with people. Or
getting into trouble. 65

NIA

(laughs)

The first day I met you, you were getting
into trouble. 66

COLIN
 Okay, but I'm not the only one who likes
 causing a scene. You remember that PTA
 meeting? 67

NIA
 (laughing)
 Which one? 68

COLIN
 (laughs with her)

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 The silence is comfortable. A shared look.
 A moment of connection. Their hands grip
 each others tighter. It is the approaching
 footsteps that pull them away from each
 other again, back into their situation. They
 look away, hands released, and stand as
 Charly unlocks their cells. 69

CHARLY
 He's ready to see you now. 70

COLIN
 Who is? 71

CHARLY
 Judge Raziel. 72

NIA
 What's your name? 73

CHARLY
 Charly ma'am. The grouch that was with
 me earlier is Barly. 74

NIA
 (surprised by his name)
 Charly? 75

CHARLY
 (good natured)
 What did you expect my name to be?
 Rufus maybe? Because of the tail right? 76

NIA
 I didn't know what I thought. I'm sorry if I
 offended you. 77

CHARLY
 No harm done ma'am. You're not from
 here, I imagine this is a little hard for you. 78

COLIN 79
Do you know where we're from?

CHARLY 80
Of course. Everybody here knows about the 3rd dimension. We've all been there at one point or another.

NIA 81
In my world?

CHARLY 82
Yes ma'am. Most of us migrated to here from there.

COLIN 83
Well then we can't be expected to follow the laws of this land if we're not from it.

CHARLY 84
It's a bit more, ah, complicated than that. But, Raziel will explain it I'm sure.

4 INT. COURTROOM

Note for SFX: Pull whatever sounds you want from Daniella's narration. It should just be a noisy room to start.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 85
The courtroom was the most familiar thing the Crofts had seen in the last two hours, but that's where it ended. The room was packed, at least twelve rows that could hold about twenty people a piece sat on each side of the aisle, and above them was a balcony. Nia and Colin stared back as much as they were being stared at, because all manner of creatures sat in the courtroom packed. Two humans being put on trial was a big deal you see, and word traveled fast as it does in Carsteim that the two humans were from the 3rd dimension.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd) 86
Charly brought them past the gate and to the front, placing them at their table. Sitting across from them was a jolly looking fellow, with a full head of white hair and long white beard. He wore a pinstripe suit that fit well on his rather round figure. His thick fingers were laced over his chest, comfortably napping.

| | |
|--|-----|
| NIA | 87 |
| Whose that? | |
| CHARLY | 88 |
| That's Mr. Kringle the prosecuting attorney. | |
| NIA | 89 |
| Mr. Kringle... | |
| (beat) | 90 |
| Tell me his first name isn't Kris. | |
| CHARLY | 91 |
| That would be him. | |
| NIA | 92 |
| You mean's he's not... | |
| CHARLY | 93 |
| I know you haven't seen him much in your world. He works as a prosecutor here part time. And he can manage it, because we don't have much need for trials here, there's maybe one or two a year. | |
| NIA | 94 |
| What's this place called? | |
| CHARLY | 95 |
| Well, Carsteim is the biggest city in the overall dominion of Meiketh. | |
| NIA | 96 |
| How many cities do you have? | |
| CHARLY | 97 |
| Oh not that many, just another three. It's not a very big dimension. | |
| MINI ANGEL | 98 |
| All rise for his Angelicness, Judge Raziel! | |
| DANIELLA (V.O.) | 99 |
| Awestruck would be the proper way to describe the expressions on both Nia and Colin's face when the towering figure of the Angel came into view. Her wings were blue, matching the color of the Malaks uniforms. She wore a silvery grey robe that draped around her more like a toga, exposing the large muscles in her arms. | |
| RAZIEL | 100 |
| Be seated. | |

DANIELLA (V.O.) 101
Nia sat. Colin... well, dear Colin remained standing. That boy.

COLIN 102
Your honor, I think there's been a misunderstanding.

RAZIEL 103
Oh?

COLIN 104
Yes. You see, we're not from here and in our world-

RAZIEL 105
Ignorance is not a viable defense Mr. Croft. In the 3rd dimension isn't it your responsibility to know the laws of a different country when you visit?

COLIN 106
Well yes, but I don't see how that applies here.

RAZIEL 107
That is your problem.

COLIN 108
Your honor we can't be held liable. We didn't know your world existed, let alone that the chambers could do that.

MR. KRINGLE 109
That's not entirely correct your honor. I've got a witness that will testify Mr. Crofts children, Ethan and Allison attempted to tell their father the significance of the chamber, even pointing out the fact that it rested on ley lines.

COLIN 110
This is ridiculous, I can't be expected to believe the imaginations of my children are based in any fact.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 111
Mr. Kringle slapped a hand on his forehead and just shook it. Colin's answer caused another uproar in the crowd, an almost simultaneous gasp of disbelief. Raziel narrowed her eyes angrily.

Note to SFX: Let's hear that crowd gasp.

MR. KRINGLE 112
Perhaps you should learn to do just that
Mr. Croft.

RAZIEL 113
Let me get this straight. Ley lines and
their intersection points resonate a special
psychic or mystical energy, a fact that has
been documented by multiple, intelligent
sources in the 3rd dimension, and you think
they only exist in your children's
imagination?

COLIN 114
It's pseudo science.

RAZIEL 115
Oh is it now? Then explain how you came
to be here Mr. Croft. Go ahead, I'm waiting.
Please dazzle us with your intelligence.

NIA 116
Your honor, what my husband is trying to
say-

RAZIEL 117
I'm well aware of what your husband is
trying to say Mrs. Croft. Do yourself a
favor and shut him up because he's done
nothing to help the charges against you.

NIA 118
Yes your honor.

MR. KRINGLE 119
I'm afraid I'll have to add them to my
naughty list, your honor.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 120
This was quite the big deal in Carsteim and
a hum fell over the audience, causing judge
Raziel to bang his gavel.

Note to SFX: Let's here another shocked gasp. The naughty list is a
big deal.

MR. KRINGLE 121
To the matter of the charges your honor.

RAZIEL 122
Yes, that. Mr and Mrs Croft have you, at
any point during your children's lives
taught them how to ground themselves
into the crystal core of Earth?

| | |
|--|-----|
| COLIN | 123 |
| What? | |
| MR. KRINGLE | 124 |
| I think that's a no your honor. | |
| RAZIEL | 125 |
| Have you begun encouraging them to learn about the energy systems of their own bodies known as the chakras? | |
| COLIN | 126 |
| You've got to be kidding... | |
| RAZIEL | 127 |
| Manifestation? Co-Creation? Aura reading? Meditation? Pineal gland exercises? | |
| COLIN | 128 |
| Why would I teach them those things? They have no value in my world! | |
| MR. KRINGLE (deep sigh) | 129 |
| There you have it your honor. The prosecution rests. | |
| COLIN | 130 |
| Your honor. I think you're missing the point. Our worlds are not the same. | |
| RAZIEL | 131 |
| Oh they aren't? | |
| COLIN | 132 |
| No. I mean have you ever been there? Look, maybe in this place there's such a thing called magic, but it doesn't exist in my world. I am good parent. I teach my children what they need to survive in a dog eat dog, competitive market place that is occasionally sprinkled with good people. That means they need to go to school, get a job that hopefully makes them happy and pay the bills. Aura reading or whatever isn't going to help them do any of that. | |
| RAZIEL | 133 |
| No. What you've taught them is to reinforce a system your people know is dying. And the very reason that system exists is because you allowed someone else to create the vision you. | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| COLIN | 134 |
| This is impossible... | |
| DWARF | 135 |
| Your Angelicness? | |
| RAZIEL | 136 |
| Speak Dwarf that made the spear of Odin. | |
| DWARF | 137 |
| Your honor, the children of the third dimension are beginning to see. And we know that they will rebel. Still, they need the guiding hand of their parents and these two are lost. So, perhaps a quest is in order. | |
| MR. KRINGLE | 138 |
| I'd be happy with a quest your honor. | |
| COLIN | 139 |
| Why can't you understand our worlds are different? | |
| RAZIEL | 140 |
| You speak in an ignorance I find very distasteful. Tell me human who believes that the rules that govern the universe don't apply to his tiny, sad life, will you take punishment or the quest? | |
| NIA | 141 |
| We will take the quest. | |
| COLIN | 142 |
| What are you doing, Nia? | |
| NIA | 143 |
| We have to get home, Colin. Do it. | |
| COLIN | 144 |
| Fine. What's quest? | |
| DANIELLA (V.O.) | 145 |
| A cheer went up around the room. You see, the people of the 3 ½ dimension were always very pleased when their brethren accepted the quest. Though life is never boring in a world of instant manifestation and connection, getting to watch those stuck in the mundane prepare to embrace the reality of the fantastical is terrible exciting. | |

Note to SFX: Let's hear the cheer! Yay! A quest!

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Raziel slammed her gavel again, eliciting silence. A mini-angel came flying over to the podium, struggling with the weight of the parchment that was ten times her size. Because she was a very proud creature she handled her task admirably. She dropped the parchment onto the podium, and unrolled it so Raziel could read. 146

We hear the bang of the gavel, the drop of the paper and a very long roll of parchment being unraveled.

RAZIEL

By Order of Justice Raziel, Authority of the city of Carsteim, Colin and Nia Croft, Gods, and Co-Creators of Third Dimension, for the crime of wrongful parenting, you are hereby ordered to find the missing unicorn- 147

COLIN

The what? 148

RAZIEL

Interrupt me again, and you won't see your world for a hundred years. 149

(beat)

You are hereby ordered into the Forest of Stormal, to find the missing unicorn. Return the Unicorn to this court and you will be returned to your world. Fail, and wander the forest for all eternity. 150

COLIN

This is insane. How are we going to find a creature that doesn't ex- 151

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Wisely, very wisely, Nia slapped a hand over Colin's mouth. 152

NIA

Thank you, your honor. When do begin? 153

RAZIEL

Now. 154

5 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE FOREST OF STORMAL

DANIELLA (V.O.) 155
 Before the Crofts could blink, they were no longer in the courtroom. A thought and a poof, and they found themselves outside yet another stone chamber. This one on the edge of a thick forest. The trees were tall, the leaves there thick, allowing in only small pockets of sunlight. The Crofts could see paths... maybe? But there were many of them. Some went straight. Others went to the right. To the left. Others zigzagged. Why it even appeared that one went up. Yes. Up.

COLIN 156
 What the... how?

CHARLY 157
 All right you two, here's a map.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 158
 Colin and Nia jumped, not realizing Charly was behind them.

CHARLY 159
 (chuckles)
 Sorry. Here's a map of the forest. The only waypoint marked for you is the chamber, so when you find the Unicorn you'll be able to get back to it.

NIA 160
 Right. I'll take it. Thank you, Charly... I don't suppose you know where we should start?

CHARLY 161
 (smiled)
 You'll figure it out ma'am. I'm sure of it.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 162
 Tipping his hat towards the couple, the Malak went back inside the chamber and teleported away.

COLIN 163
 Why did you agree to this? How the hell are we going to find something that doesn't exist?

NIA
 You're joking right? Charly has a tail! 164
 There was a goddamn dwarf, and an Angel,
 and a friggin pixie, and about a dozen other
 mythological creatures in the courtroom
 and you really think in this forest there
 might not be a unicorn?

DANIELLA (V.O.) 165
 Colin paused, because well, his wife had a
 point. But that's the thing about adults;
 when faced with the fantastical, they will
 hold onto any shred of normal icky
 mundane they can, for a variety of fears.
 But when you release those fears, if you
 open your eyes a little differently dear
 listener, you could see something else. You
 could feel it.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd) 166
 Something... magical.

COLIN 167
 Whatever. Let's just go and try to find it.

NIA 168
 Yes. Let's. Follow me.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 169
 Nia paused, and using her intuition, even
 though she didn't realize that's what she'd
 done, she choose one of the paths that
 zigzagged. With an almost childlike angry
 stomp of his feet, Colin stomped after his
 wife. And thus began the Crofts quest, to
 find the missing Unicorn.