

A Fairy Tale for Adults Episode 2

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Tales of the Forgotten Fiction Network

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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.)
"I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells."— Dr. Seuss 1

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
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. 2

BARLY
Go on. Ooout wit yah. 3

DANIELLA (V.O.)
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. 4

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.)
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. 5
(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 shinny, as they tend
 to like shiny things.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 Unlike other areas of the city that 6
 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...? 7

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 It was at this moment Nia began to 8
 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, 9
 but thankfully didn't drop her.
 (MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 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 15
 accident didn't yah?

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

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

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

NIA
 What? Why? What for? 19

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

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 Sensing that he was the reasonable 21
 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.

3 INT. JUSTICE BUILDING AND JAIL CELLS

DANIELLA (V.O.)

The inside of the justice building is 22
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.

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

The jail cells were extremely clean, 23
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.

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. 24
I don't imagine you'll be waiting
very long.

Charly walks away.

NIA

What are we going to do? 25

COLIN

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

NIA

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

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, escape isn't going to be likely. 31

NIA
Oh my god... Calanon. 32

COLIN
What about him? 33

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

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 lives with us gone. 37

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

NIA
(chuckles)
That would be something. 39

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

NIA
About? 41

COLIN
(beat)
Pronouns. 42

NIA
Pronouns? 43

COLIN
She's... they. 44

NIA
Oh... oh. All right. 45

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

NIA
Oh god, what did you say? 47

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

NIA
What did sh-They say? 49

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

(beat)
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 56
with the way the country is... who
else did they come out too?

COLIN
I don't know. We hadn't gotten that 57
far into the conversation yet.
(beat)
Shit. You're right... I was still 58
processing, I hadn't even thought
about other people.

NIA
I don't want to restrict them being 59
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-

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

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

NIA
Colin... what about other people's 62
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?

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

NIA
I know, but... we've been oblivious 64
for too long.
(MORE)

NIA (cont'd)

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?

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
 Do you know where we're from? 79

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

NIA
 In my world? 81

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

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

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

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.)

The courtroom was the most familiar 85
 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)

Charly brought them past the gate and 86
 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

Whose that? 87

CHARLY

That's Mr. Kringle the prosecuting 88
 attorney.

NIA

Mr. Kringle... 89

(beat)

Tell me his first name isn't Kris. 90

CHARLY

That would be him. 91

NIA

You mean's he's not... 92

CHARLY

I know you haven't seen him much in 93
 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	
What's this place called?	94
CHARLY	
Well, Carsteim is the biggest city in the overall dominion of Meiketh.	95
NIA	
How many cities do you have?	96
CHARLY	
Oh not that many, just another three. It's not a very big dimension.	97
MINI ANGEL	
All rise for his Angelicness, Judge Raziel!	98
DANIELLA (V.O.)	
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.	99
RAZIEL	
Be seated.	100
DANIELLA (V.O.)	
Nia sat. Colin... well, dear Colin remained standing. That boy.	101
COLIN	
Your honor, I think there's been a misunderstanding.	102
RAZIEL	
Oh?	103
COLIN	
Yes. You see, we're not from here and in our world-	104
RAZIEL	
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?	105

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

RAZIEL
That is your problem. 107

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

MR. KRINGLE
That's not entirely correct your 109
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
This is ridiculous, I can't be 110
expected to believe the imaginations
of my children are based in any fact.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Mr. Kringle slapped a hand on his 111
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
Perhaps you should learn to do just 112
that Mr. Croft.

RAZIEL
Let me get this straight. Ley lines 113
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
It's pseudo science. 114

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

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

RAZIEL
I'm well aware of what your husband 117
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
Yes your honor. 118

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

DANIELLA (V.O.)
This was quite the big deal in 120
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
To the matter of the charges your 121
honor.

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

COLIN
What? 123

MR. KRINGLE
I think that's a no your honor. 124

RAZIEL
Have you begun encouraging them to learn about the energy systems of their own bodies known as the chakras? 125

COLIN
You've got to be kidding... 126

RAZIEL
Manifestation? Co-Creation? Aura reading? Meditation? Pineal gland exercises? 127

COLIN
Why would I teach them those things? They have no value in my world! 128

MR. KRINGLE
(deep sigh)
There you have it your honor. The prosecution rests. 129

COLIN
Your honor. I think you're missing the point. Our worlds are not the same. 130

RAZIEL
Oh they aren't? 131

COLIN
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. 132

RAZIEL
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. 133

COLIN
This is impossible... 134

DWARF
Your Angelicness? 135

RAZIEL
Speak Dwarf that made the spear of
Odin. 136

DWARF
Your honor, the children of the third 137
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
I'd be happy with a quest your honor. 138

COLIN
Why can't you understand our worlds 139
are different?

RAZIEL
You speak in an ignorance I find very 140
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
We will take the quest. 141

COLIN
What are you doing, Nia? 142

NIA
We have to get home, Colin. Do it. 143

COLIN
Fine. What's quest? 144

DANIELLA (V.O.)
A cheer went up around the room. You 145
see, the people of the 3 ½ dimension
were always very pleased when their
brethren accepted the quest.
(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 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, 146
 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.

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 147
 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-

COLIN
 The what? 148

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

(beat)
 You are hereby ordered into the 150
 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.

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

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 Wisely, very wisely, Nia slapped a 152
 hand over Colin's mouth.

NIA
Thank you, your honor. When do begin? 153

RAZIEL
Now. 154

5 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE FOREST OF STORMAL

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Before the Crofts could blink, they 155
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
What the... how? 156

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

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

CHARLY
(chuckles)
Sorry. Here's a map of the forest. 159
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
Right. I'll take it. Thank you, 160
Charly... I don't suppose you know
where we should start?

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

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

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

NIA
You're joking right? Charly has a 164
tail! 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.)
Colin paused, because well, his wife 165
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)
Something... magical. 166

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

NIA
Yes. Let's. Follow me. 168

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Nia paused, and using her intuition, 169
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.