

Faraway Kingdom

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. PALACE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Torches burn around the room. The KING and QUEEN sit on their thrones. The queen knits while the king watches his children before him with a smile.

LILITH (16) sits behind her younger sister GWEN (9) and brushes her long, blonde hair. Gwen brushes a doll's hair. Both girls wear beautiful dresses fit for princesses.

Near them, their two other sisters play together. ALERIS (14) and LUCINDA (12) are the complete mirror opposites of their sisters. There is a natural evilness about them, and they dress in black. Each holds a wand, laughing as they chase each other around the room, pointing their wands and pretending to cast spells.

Gwen saddens.

GWEN

I wish I had a younger sister so I  
could brush her hair.

There's a motherly manner about Lilith toward her sister.

LILITH

Why have all the trouble of a little  
sister when you can brush your doll's  
hair any time you want?

GWEN

So I'm trouble to you?

Lilith peers around her face.

LILITH

Of course not, but not all little  
sisters are like you.

She passes a disapproving look over to her evil sisters. Gwen really doesn't understand, but she nods anyway.

The king straightens in his chair.

KING

Daughters, come hither.

Immediately, Lilith and Gwen go to stand before their father. Their wicked sisters continue to play.

The king claps his hands together to get their attention.

KING

(stern)

Aleris! Lucinda! Come before your  
father!

The wicked sisters reluctantly stand near Lilith and Gwen.

KING

I have a present for each of you.

The king reaches behind his seat and picks up a wooden box. He opens it to reveal four beautiful bracelets made of exotic stones, each a different color - ruby red, lime green, sky blue, and lemon yellow. All the bracelets glow brightly, as the children's eyes widen with a hypnotic stare from each.

ALERIS

(excited)

Grandmother's bracelets!

KING

When she died, I put these away for  
the day when I would pass them on to  
my beautiful daughters.

LILITH

She was the most powerful witch to  
ever rule the Outlands, wasn't she,  
Father?

ALERIS

Using your powers for "good" doesn't  
count.

KING

(scolding)

None of that talk, Aleris. Just  
because one possesses great power  
doesn't mean they must be evil. I  
want you, all of you, to remember  
that.

ALERIS

(pouting)

Yes, Father.

KING

The bracelets draw strength off of each other but even alone, there is great power within the stones.

ALERIS

I want the yellow one!

She reaches out to snatch it. The king pulls back the box.

KING

The yellow is for Lilith, for it is a rare stone from a place far to the south. Someday Lilith will rule there and her power will come from these stones.

Aleris glares at Lilith.

ALERIS

Yes, Father.

The king hands the green bracelet to Aleris, the red to Lucinda, the yellow to Lilith, and the blue to Gwen. The glows fade somewhat as they are separated.

KING

Now, before you put them on, know this. You can never take them off.

GWEN

Why not?

QUEEN

People will kill for such power, so you must keep it to yourself. No one can know the power that you hold, or take them from you.

KING

These bracelets are given to serve one purpose. My kingdom will be divided four times, a portion going to each one of you. Your bracelets determine the land for which you will rule. Aleris to the West, Lucinda to the East, Lilith the South, and Gwendolyn to the North. Each possesses magical stones from those places.

The queen smiles as the girls listen intently.

KING

Your mother and I ask only one thing,  
that you will unite as sisters.  
Rule with compassion, and only call  
upon the power of these bracelets in  
defense of your very lives, or the  
lives of those you rule.

The girls marvel. Gwen raises her bracelet, looking deep into the cold blue stones still glowing. Mesmerized, her eyes are trance-like as she realizes her new power.

INT. PALACE - GIRLS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Four beds for all of the daughters. Two are vacant. Lilith sleeps. Gwen suddenly sits up. Her eyes shift to the two vacant beds.

Gwen gets up, her bare feet slapping against the stone floor. She opens the heavy wooden door and steps out.

KING'S SLEEPING CHAMBERS

The door stands open. A few torches burn on the walls. Gwen wanders inside.

The bed sheets are soaked in blood. The lifeless bodies of her parents lie within the crimson mess.

Gwen screams at the top of her lungs.

GIRLS' BEDROOM

Lilith hears the SCREAM and races out of the room.

SLEEPING CHAMBERS

Lilith runs in and goes straight to her sister. Their bracelets glow a little brighter as they come close to each other.

LILITH

What is it?

She looks to the bed. Shock consumes her.

FOOTSTEPS approach from the hall. Lilith rushes to a torch on the wall and turns it. A secret passage opens. She ushers Gwen into the dark passageway.

LILITH  
Go quickly.

GWEN  
What about you?

LILITH  
(hesitates)  
I will follow.

Gwen looks at her own bracelet. The blue stones glow brightly in the dark passage.

GWEN  
They're coming.

She gives her bracelet to Lilith.

GWEN  
You'll need this. It will help you.

Lilith pauses, then hearing FOOTSTEPS, quickly takes it and puts it on.

LILITH  
Run, run quickly. Find the magician.  
He will protect you.

PASSAGE

Gwen turns to run. She takes several steps and then hears the sound of the passage door CLOSING behind her.

SLEEPING CHAMBERS

Aleris and Lucinda enter.

LUCINDA  
Where is she?

Aleris goes to the window and looks out. She returns to Lucinda. Sees Lilith has both bracelets. Aleris smiles. Lilith stands quiet.

ALERIS  
Father didn't quite understand.  
North and South do not exist. Only  
the East and West.

Lilith glares at her.