

THE AEROWYN TALES

Bellarose

✦ AND THE ✦

Pirate

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Deleted - Preface

They journeyed to a land located beyond the second star to the right, where dreams and nightmares were invented by the fae. Aerowyn told Gerard that in French it was called Sans Âge Isle, which was interpreted as Ageless Isle because it was a *neverland* for aging—the inhabitants never grew old. It was where stories of adventure and treasure waited for anyone who could find it, even though the isle's main purpose was to keep the fairies safe as they performed the duty King Peter bestowed upon them.

Aerowyn had explained how King Peter moved his people to the isle after his own daughter had been killed by a dragon due to her selfish and reckless behavior. All the fae who chose to have magic and immortality were bound to the Wendy through the gold pendants each of them wore. According to Aerowyn, King Peter wanted to use the fairies to rid the world of selfishness, greed, and cruelty, but Gerard had thought that an impossible task.

He followed Aerowyn as she led him to her home.

Gerard couldn't stop thinking, *She looks like my love, Elayne, who broke my heart. What a vile trick she pulled on me—that witch...that beauty. She's horrible, conniving, and yet my heart doesn't believe what my mind is saying.*

In his wolf form, he still could process thoughts as when he was a man, and as Aerowyn had explained to him, they could communicate

to each other through their thoughts. She promised to teach him how to block anything he didn't want her to see, but for now, he knew she saw everything.

Of course, you know by now, Witch, how hard it is to disconnect Elayne, the girl I cared for deeply, from you, the enchantress I want to chew up and spit out. You're definitely not the virtuous Elayne, but a part of me senses you're not an evil witch either. It feels more complicated than that. Unfortunately, I assume there will be plenty of time to figure it all out.

Aerowyn interrupted his ponderings, "We won't be on Ageless Isle too long. I need to intervene in another human's life. His name is Captain Jasper Falcon, and not only has he stolen, murdered, and ruined many lives, but he's about to hurt someone you love like a sister. Jasper needs to be taught a lesson, and we're going to be the ones to do it."

Gerard didn't know if she was talking about Bella or Brooke, but they were the only girls he had begun to care for as sisters. Aerowyn must have seen his feelings for the women when she read his thoughts. Yet, the enchantress continued to be a mystery despite all she had explained to him.

When Gerard was human, he would have been concerned for Brooke or Bella if he had heard a man like Captain Falcon was going to hurt them. But now, Gerard thought, *I'm well aware of Aerowyn's lessons. If she is going to teach this Jasper character, the man doesn't stand a chance.*

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1

Captain Jasper Falcon was a pirate. He didn't have a conscious or moral compass to prevent him from doing whatever it took to get anything he desired. He grew up in a poor home with abusive parents. Jasper joined the crew of the *Black Fear* as cabin boy to escape his miserable life. Being a young, naïve boy, Jasper didn't know he was exchanging the horrors of a stationary home for a new set of terrors aboard a moving one—he learned quickly.

Captain L. Starr of the *Black Fear* wasn't an honorable English captain sailing for the King. Starr was a ruthless man who lived for himself and his own desires—he taught Jasper everything he knew. He treated the young boy as his own son. The older Jasper became the more power he was given aboard the ship. Jasper had almost every privilege Starr had except the selfish Starr wouldn't share glory with anyone.

Jasper grew up to be just like his mentor. As a result, he saw the benefits of being a ship's captain—reigning the crew with a fist of cruelty. Jasper craved ultimate power. He instigated a mutiny to end Captain Starr's reign who Jasper deemed too old to lead a crew of cutthroats with the proper authority.

MORE DELETIONS FROM **CHAPTER 1** AFTER GAVE TO
EDITOR

It seemed so long ago from his first day aboard the *Black Fear*. When he joined the crew as a cabin boy, he had naively assumed life would improve. Anything had to be better than the constant abuse he suffered at home. Unfortunately, he learned the hard way to never assume. Captain L. Starr wasn't an honorable English captain sailing for the King. Starr was a ruthless man who only lived for himself and his own desires—he taught Jasper everything he knew.

Starr had mentored Jasper as if he had been his own son, but as Jasper's parents, physical chastisement was part of the education. He had given Jasper almost as much power aboard the ship as a captain, except that Starr had been selfish and would have never shared the glory with anyone.

Ultimately, it had taken Jasper's coup to overthrow Starr. The former captain had become increasingly brutal and irrational. Jasper had deemed his mentor unfit to lead a crew of cutthroats and nominated himself for the role.

"I know any mademoiselle in New Orleans would cut out their right eye to be with me, but I have no desire to fight for a wench." Jasper proclaimed, "The lofty war hero, Gerard can have The Swan's females. I'll go to another pub for my entertainment."

After the pirates visited The Swan on their first day, they learned that Gerard no longer was a patron of the tavern. Supposedly Gerard inherited a nearby plantation and was the son of a count. Jasper figured he could join his men there if the gossip was true.

It wasn't that he feared a fight with the larger-than-life man, but Jasper had vowed to never be like the former captain of the *Black Fear* who showed his weakness when it came to women. Starr forced females to do what he wanted because he was uncouth, hideous, and

scar-faced. Most dames were reviled by Starr and had to be persuaded by threats or money to be in his company.

Jasper deemed himself too much of a prize for women who should eagerly want his attention. Though unwilling to admit it, Jasper was afraid to compete with another man who could bruise his overinflated opinion. He needed his arrogance and reputation to maintain the crew. If he showed even the slightest inability to conquer a lass, his powerful control of the *Black Fears*' pirates could topple.

When Jasper was a boy, he envied Starr's scarred face that evoked fear in captors. Eventually Captain Starr confessed he had the pox as a child and Jasper's esteem turned to disgust.

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2

They were polar opposites from Quinn. It had been several months since Aerowyn whisked Gerard away after turning him into a wolf and she actually missed him. She would much rather see Gerard than ever repeat an encounter with Captain Falcon.

Her fears returned as the plantation neared. Even though Quinn was an expert with the sword, Captain Falcon had the reputation to be the fiercest pirate of the seven seas. She had lied to Jasper about hearing of him before. He was gossip at The Swan for infamous reasons.

Again, she stifled her qualms recalling Quinn's misguided chivalry at the ball last fall. He had attacked the ferocious wolf who ended up being Gerard's enchanted brother. That's when Quinn learned of Rose Manor's curse.

Since Gerard had accepted Aerowyn's deal to become a wolf in place of his brother, everyone under the hex went back to their human forms permanently. Bella didn't become homeless, but she lost her job when all the servants returned back to human. Now

Bella didn't feel right staying at Rose Manor without contributing. She needed to find a new purpose, but Antoine had told her to stay as long as she wanted.

He had teased, "You have humbled Gerard on so many occasions that he probably had agreed to break the spell because of you."

She suspected in a small way Antoine felt indebted to her. But she thought even if she hadn't belittled Gerard every chance she got, he would have still decided to take his brother's curse from him. Gerard had a broken heart over his lost love, and after all was said and done, he had finally wanted Antoine and Brooke to find their happily ever after, even if he couldn't.

Since Bella felt useless around the estate, she took the opportunity to visit Quinn almost every day. She wanted to learn swordsmanship, but she also desired to be with him. He understood her need to find another path in life, because he wanted to do the same. Neither one of them could figure out what that should be.

At one time Quinn had said, "Since my father has always hated me, I have been planning on ways to leave New Orleans. It seems the only place someone like me may be able to work is by joining the crew of a ship. That would take me far from here."

"I hate ships. After my parents died on one, the memories are too painful."

"Yeah, but you could create new memories on a new ship without all that vileness."

"Probably, but I feel like for now I'll stay in New Orleans."

After they had that conversation, Quinn talked less about his desire to leave. The closer they had become, the more she suspected he stayed behind because of her. He acted like he cared for her as much as she liked him, but they never spoke the words to each other.

As Bella walked back to the plantation, she grew frustrated with her lack of direction in life.

She talked to herself since no one was around to hear her. "Even the small promise I had made to Gerard before he turned into a wolf has already been fulfilled by Brooke and Antoine. I'm basically the same

aristocrat's daughter I was in France, except now I'm poor and relying on the charity of the de la Roses.

I couldn't even help with communicating to Gerard's adopted parents and his friend Leo, because Antoine already wrote the letter explaining the story we agreed to tell everyone. I feel so worthless and not in control of my own fate."

Antoine had written a letter to Gerard's loved ones explaining that Gerard was his brother and that he was kidnapped from the de la Rose family. He left out all the information of Aerowyn and her magic, but he lied about how Gerard had died defending Antoine from a wolf's attack.

He sent Gerard's parents money to help them with their debts and told them it was a thank you for taking care of his brother for all those years. Antoine had connections in New Orleans, so he was able to make sure Leo also had whatever he needed to prosper in the town with his future wife.

Of course, Bella couldn't have done any of that, but she would have liked to have helped write the letter or something. She felt frustrated.

"I'm no longer that spoiled and pampered girl I was before arriving in America, but I still feel like I'm being treated like that. I don't want my only contribution to the world to be showing up for a party or giving someone beneath my status a compliment. Those days are a million years behind me."

Deleted from Chapter

12

“I like to see you smile. I had hoped our rough start wouldn’t ruin this whole journey for you. Please let me know if there is anything else you would like.”

Bella yawned again. “I could always use books. I love to read, but I don’t want you to steal or murder to get me any.”

Books? Were there any on board? He’d have to find a way to get a few, and quickly. “My Lady, you wound me.”

“I doubt it.” Bella smiled again, but her eyes slitted closed.

She pivoted, and stumbled to the bed.

Alarmed at her uneven steps, Jasper stepped to her side.

“I don’t need your help,” she said, but her words slurred.

“And I don’t want you to fall and hit your head.”

“I’m not ... that kind of girl.”

As if he hadn’t known that. He chuckled. “I won’t take advantage of you until you ask me to.”

All the same, he lifted Bella on top of the covers and draped a blanket over her. A brief smile crossed her face, and she fell asleep.

Jasper left the room and tracked down Sven.

“What did you give her?”

“The usual potion for pain.” The old man’s brow furrowed. “Why?”

“She seemed drugged.”

Sven shrugged. "Maybe the lack of sleep made it more potent."

Did it matter, though? She'd been friendlier just now, and even though her saucy side had certain appeal, if she felt safe around him

...

"Captain," Sven looked Jasper in the eye. "Maybe you should treat this girl differently."

"Why?"

"She's a true lady, and true love isn't a horrible thing. Maybe you could find it with Bella."

"Blimey, Sven!" Jasper recoiled at the thought. "What kind of pirate would I be if I got caught up in that sentimental hogwash?"

Sven left mumbling under his breath, but Jasper didn't care. Ever since the first mate joined the crew, he obeyed orders and was good with medicine. If the man had an honorable past, it no longer mattered now that he was part of the *Black Fear's* crew.

Jasper had never seen Sven had never take a life, but the man pilaged with the best of them. Jasper snickered. Or the worst. Ultimately, Sven was good for morale, and Jasper didn't need to know anything else.

Post editor review note: I'm still having a hard time believing he wouldn't take advantage of her when she's sleepy if he's as bad as Peter says later. I think that this scene would play out better after he finds out about the book being cursed or even after they flee the island.

Deleted from chapter

19

Jasper expanded his pectorals smugly and thought of the ink etched upon his body, that proudly told his story since he last met the mermaid as a sniveling boy. The tattooed falcon was his favorite. It held a prominent spot on his chest in honor of his surname—the name he invented to escape his horrible parents and gain a reputation of being ferocious as a bird of prey.

The inked ocean waves that swirled around his biceps, represented his ability to fight through strong waters, figuratively and literally. His back tattoos helped cover the scars his mother had given him, and since the Jolly Roger was a predominate mark, it masked his biggest blemishes. It had the typical skull, but knives replaced the cross bones most Jolly Rogers used.

The final pièce de résistance below the pirate flag was the motto, *NO REGRETS AND NEVER LOOK BACK* in intricate calligraphy for his enemies to see after he mortally wounded them and left them to suffer.

Deleted from Chapter 24 and 25

*P*er editor's suggestions. She rewrote the chapter to be more showing than telling, but still suggested deleting it so I did.

Editor's note: *While I can see how this chapter supports Peter's journey and thusly the arc of the novel, this whole chapter is backstory and telling. If you can't integrate it with another chapter, I recommend cutting it. It might work to shift it up to his Sven chapter and weave it into those thoughts, but it needs to be interactive somehow—Peter and someone else/Peter and the environment/Peter and Tilly after Arela's chapter/something tangible.*

He searched for a way to become mortal and thought about the ancestors and the star Cigam. The ancient ones lived contented lives in the Kingdom of Magic and they didn't understand Peter's growing restlessness after Wendy died. Most of them didn't marry humans, and didn't know loss.

After much research into ancient manuscripts and pondering over his own peoples' origins, it dawned on Peter the intense heat of the star Cigam was why the ancestors were sent to Earth after birth and matured during their passage to the planet. If he could create something to produce fire that extreme, he could be killed.

He studied all kinds of myths and stories and realized there was a beast called a dinosaur that could grow rather large. With a bit of magic, Peter could morph a dinosaur into a winged creature that

would produce fire so hot that it would kill a fae. It seemed irrational for an immortal to craft something to destroy his own kind, but he was lost without Wendy. He gave no thought to what a beast like that would do to humans, because grief made him egocentric.

Peter put the first dragon and its mate in the human realm nearest the dark forest. None of the fae knew what Peter had done. He justified his overreaction because the dragons diverted curious humans who had become a nuisance to his people. This alone changed the endings to many of the humans' folklores and altered the fairy tale books Bella dearly loved.

After wallowing in despair, his self-destructive desire waned. He was scared of the pain, and realized he had overreacted to Wendy's death. When he finally moved past the worst of his sorrow, he wasn't ready to leave neither the world nor his daughters who were part of Wendy too.

The fae who liked to visit the humans beyond the dark forest started being killed by the dragons. The king of the fae, Arthur, bravely went out to kill all the dragons, but was incinerated also. Since no one knew it was Peter who had invented the monster that ended the beloved King Arthur's life, they elected Peter to become their king.

That was when Peter's daughter Isla died as told in *The Scorned Fae*, the book Bella had said she read multiple times.

Isla's death caused Peter to make his second mistake by punishing Ulyssa. She was Isla's friend. She was supposed to keep his headstrong daughter safe from her own impetuous decisions. When she didn't, he cursed her, and that changed the merfolk tales. Peter punished Ulyssa for not stopping Isla and as a result the merfolk's tales changed too.

Then Peter's third error in judgement was when he forced his people to move to Ageless Isle to escape the dragons.

He stood amongst the fae and spouted his grand plan, “Because dragons are a danger to our people, we must flee this land and find a new one. I have found an island where we can be safe.”

The fae questioned him, but ultimately followed him. He didn’t want them to discover his secret so he forced them to wear the same gold pendants that bound them to follow his wishes.

He lied to them, “If you leave Ageless Isle and take off these pendants, you will become mortal and lose your magic. That is the cost for living here.”

The more he devoted his life to fixing his mistakes, the more he forced his people to get involved in selfish human’s lives by casting cures on them and twisting their tales. He wanted to right all the wrongs in the world as penance for his own inexcusable actions that cost Isla her life.

The fae tired of his dictatorship and chose to leave the magic, immortality, and the isle behind. They willingly gave their pendants to Peter and returned to the Kingdom of Magic to take their own chances with the dragons.

Aerowyn was still young and stayed with her father. She didn’t know that the adornment didn’t really bind her to Ageless Isle. She also wasn’t aware that her magic and immortality would still be hers if she left her father and the necklace behind. Peter hoped her love for him would be enough to keep her loyal to him. The other fae figured out Peter’s lies, when they could use magic to go back to their former home, but Aerowyn was left ignorant.

What truly grieved Peter was when he discovered that any who lived on Ageless Isle stayed forever young. Peter had wished he found the island before his beloved Wendy died. That would have prevented all of his self-inflicted problems.

For years, Peter hadn't revealed to Aerowyn any of his lies, but every one of his actions had turned the fairy tale world upside down, and it would take something truly miraculous to fix it. Aerowyn continued following his plan to redeem the world from hatred. He hoped each life she changed would put the distorted folklores back to their original plots, but nothing was being altered as he traveled through each dimension in time.

Then he stumbled upon a hopeful solution in a simple girl who loved books.

Yes, there were many bibliophiles on Earth, but Bella had a rare ability to dive into stories as if she was living them like no other. She wasn't perfect, but she had potential. When her family lost almost everything, she became the perfect candidate for his next attempt to reverse his follies.

Her modern day life was so close to a fairy tale that Peter hoped to use Bella's idea of happily ever after to change the fate of all the stories. That's why he needed to see what made her happy with the pixie dust. Knowing what would give Bella a happy ending and fulfilling it may just be the solution he needed.

It was Peter's last hope, since the villains he and Aerowyn had punished with curses hadn't changed anything except that their evil reigns finally ended.

When the king had discovered Bella in her modern day riches to rags story, he confessed some of his wrong choices and failures to his daughter. She loved him enough to stay and continued helping him, but Aerowyn was still left ignorant about the pendants. She continued to think that if she returned the necklace to her father, she would become fully mortal and lose her magic.

Peter felt she didn't need to know the truth about that. Together they devised a plan to use Bella as the key antidote to repair his failures.

Peter still wasn't sure why Aerowyn involved Gerard in the plan, but the young man did reverse another hasty hex that had been put on the de la Rose plantation because Aerowyn had been following her father's wishes.

He didn't know how Aerowyn was going to use Jasper to restore the disaster he had made with Ulyssa, but Aerowyn mentioned killing two birds with one stone as she dealt with the pirate. Currently Peter's main focus was Bella and the plan he had for her. Aerowyn now knew what was at stake, and Peter had faith in her abilities to help him.

That's why he devoted his life to fixing his mistakes and any other deeds he construed as evil. It wasn't enough to change the tales that had been twisted. He needed to do more.

It was true that Peter could bring the crew up without Tilly's help. He also could have a ship conjured for Jasper to take back to the human realm, but he needed to keep Bella and Jasper on the island for other purposes.

He read their thoughts as Jasper astutely deduced, but he often chose not to be so intrusive unless he felt it was necessary. The need to see what made Bella truly happy was one of his motives for reading her mind currently. It was also the reason he used the pixie dust technique to get everyone on top of the cliff instead of transporting them there with his own powers.

Peter knew one version of his fairy tale from another dimension had him as a boy fighting against the pirate Captain Hook who was named after his hooked hand. Peter's story was different than that one because he didn't seek a place such as Neverland to stay perpetually a boy, but rather he chose to enter the human world before finding Ageless Isle.

When Peter decided to explore the human realm, he met Wendy and fell in love with her almost immediately. After Wendy aged, he

changed his appearance to match hers, and since he had been around for centuries, acting the age he looked was easy to accomplish.

Peter eventually told Wendy that he loved her and they married. Wendy moved to the Kingdom of Magic to live with Peter where they had two daughters who inherited their father's immortality and magical powers.

When Peter brought Wendy to his world, he couldn't make her immortal without cursing her because the payment for that kind of enchantment was too costly. Magic always had a price and limits. Instead, he aged his appearance to match hers and they grew old together until she died. It was a happy, long life in the Kingdom of Magic, but when Wendy left him, Peter wanted to die too.

That was when he made his first mistake that set him on his current journey.

Editor's rewrite of this chapter that was moved to Chapter 24

Peter sat on the cliff overlooking the tents and the wretched hut. Tilly settled on his shoulder, and they watched the waves wash the sand.

"You could have brought the crew up without my help," she said. "Or conjured a ship for those miserable men to sail to the human realm."

"I could have, but not yet."

"You know we don't like their kind here."

"I know. It won't be for long," he promised. "I need to know something if I'm to fix this whole mess. I've read their thoughts, Tilly. Tomorrow I will call you to help them up the cliffs. I need to see what makes Bella truly happy. I can't see it clearly yet, but your pixie dust technique will help."

“So why not get rid of that disgusting man and just figure out what she needs?”

Peter leaned back. “Why, indeed?”

Different story versions circled through his mind. In one, he fought a one-handed pirate as a boy. He hadn’t chosen to remain a boy forever. Instead, before discovering Ageless Isle, he had entered the human world and met Wendy. Despite his ever-present heartache, a smile teased his lips at the memory. Of course he’d fallen in love with her almost immediately. Wonder of wonders, she loved him, too, and they married. After she moved to the Kingdom of Magic to live with Peter, they had two daughters, who inherited their mother’s _____ and their father’s immortality and magical powers.

But for all his power, there was no way for Peter to make Wendy immortal without cursing her. Magic always had a price and limits, but immortal enchantments were too costly. Instead, he aged his appearance to match hers. They grew old together. And Wendy died.

With Wendy gone, Peter wanted to die too.

“Peter?” Tilly asked.

He glanced down at her concerned face. “Yes?”

“You’re awfully quiet.”

“Just thinking, Tilly.”

He had to fix the stories, and he needed Bella for that. He couldn’t do it on his own, for if he had understood the first mistake that had set him on his current journey, everything would have been different.

Chapter 34 and 35

Delete Parts

Notes from author: *Sometimes my editor switched around chapters and I think when I deleted this I didn't know where I deleted it from, but kept it in case I would use it eventually or at least reference the information.*

The rolling waves reminded Peter of pages as they turned in a book. The very same pages he saw whenever he traveled in time between fairy tales. He knew how each story was supposed to go and how his rash actions had changed them. That's why Peter knew how the pirate's story would end and that Jasper would attempt one last time to be evil and reckless with Bella's life, but his daughter would intervene. Currently, Peter was reading Jasper's thoughts to see confirm what he already knew about the captain's true heart's desire.

She explained what she had planned for Jasper since Peter wasn't supposed to have been on the *Black Fear* in the first place. Jasper was originally Aerowyn's project, but Peter worried Bella needed more protection than what his daughter had planned.

Aerowyn frowned. "Father, it was you who wanted me to rid the world of villains. Jasper is one of many, and his terror upon the seas needs to end. I'm only fulfilling the mission you started after we moved to Ageless Isle."

"I know, I know, but Jasper is so foul." Peter rubbed his palms together. "I got tired of reading his thoughts. They made me feel like I

needed to wash off the filth. He has done some truly awful things, and before you gave him that hooked hand, he treated women deplorably.”

Aerowyn looked down. “I know, and that’s why he needs the same treatment we’ve given all the others—curse, lesson, then choice to break the hex for redemption.”

“But I don’t think he deserves the chance to change. I think he should have that cursed hook until he dies.”

Aerowyn’s eyes widened. “Everyone should be given a chance at redemption. If they reject the opportunity, then that is their choice. You saw his childhood. You know how it molded him.”

Peter poured himself a cup of tea. “Many humans have experienced similar abuse without turning out evil.”

“You of all people should understand how easy it is to make bad decisions based on your own pain.” Tears gathered in her eyes.

Peter leaned forward. It felt like she had punched him in the stomach. His daughter told the truth, and he ultimately knew, he was the cause of Jasper’s past agony. How easy it was to forget his own flaws when he was too busy examining other’s iniquities.

Peter had been to blame for Jasper’s parents. When he made Callista an outcast, she killed both their fathers at sea which led to their life of poverty and despair. Jasper never knew his grandfathers, but that still didn’t excuse Jasper’s malevolent deeds.

Even though Peter needed to protect Bella from Jasper for his own goals, Aerowyn had told her father of another story she was repairing that would ultimately lead to Bella’s happily-ever-after as well. It would collide with Jasper’s tale and give the pirate his second chance. Peter trusted his daughter’s scheme and knew his time with the girl had to end.

Aerowyn had been the main emissary to reverse all of Peter’s wrongs, but she couldn’t be two places at once. In order for Bella to

have her happy ending, Aerowyn had to work on another part of the saga while Peter protected Bella from pirates, and creatures of Ageless Isle. Now it was the king's time to stay home while Aerowyn finished what she had started.

His heart swelled thinking of how noble his daughter had turned out, but then it was bittersweet, because her mom would never see this side of Aerowyn. He learned of Ageless Isle's ability to make humans immortal too late.

Since Peter had lived for hundreds of years, he knew these things took time and patience, but from a human's viewpoint, Aerowyn's plan had taken way too long. She had been manipulating the puzzle pieces for years so they would all come together at the perfect time. Antoine's curse took a year to return the beast back to a man, but it could have been longer if Gerard didn't sacrifice his humanity. His redemption was still unfolding. Jasper's blueprint for repair had been in the works since he left his parents many years ago.

In a mortal's timeline, this was excruciatingly long, but in the world of fairy tales, it was working out just as it needed to.



Peter's last task with the humans was to give them a ship. Callista had put a detour in his original course, which made their journey more perilous. Before her tale could be mended, Jasper needed to be dealt with first.

Peter pretended that it required imagination to conjure up the things on Ageless Isle, but he had read their thoughts and used his

powers to form their wishes into reality. That was how he could discover what made them truly happy.

Peter began, "To create something as large as a ship, I think you all need to wish for the same thing." He read each pirate's thought as he attempted to explain. "The ship can have different elements of what each of you want, but you will all have to agree on whatever it is."

"Are you going with us?" Bella asked.

"No, my mission is complete." Two lines formed between Bella's eyebrows, so he added, "Don't worry, you will be safe. I have ways to protect you even when I'm here instead of on the ship."

"Then why did you join this crew and pretend to be Sven?" Bella's curiosity knew no end.

Peter folded his hands. "That explanation is for another time."

Bella's frustration was easily read all over her face without looking into her thoughts, but Jasper grinned from ear to ear. He had thoughts of freedom and deviant things he could get away with when Peter wasn't around to stop him. He no longer plotted ways to destroy Peter once he learned that the king wasn't joining them, but he still schemed ways to reinstate his brutal reputation over the sea. If Aerowyn's plan for Jasper succeeded, he would no longer be a threat.

Indeed, the captain may still desire to plunder, murder, and seduce women, but Peter saw his deepest heart's desire, and that was supposed to be Jasper's end game if he took the second chance Aerowyn was going to offer him.

Jeb awkwardly bowed. "I will miss ye Peter, I mean Yur Majesty."

"It was a pleasure meeting you, and I trust you will keep Bella from harm."

"Yes, sir." Jeb saluted.

"No one is going anywhere without a ship." Jasper clapped his hands. "Men, start concentrating on the *Black Fear*. Remember all

its nooks and crannies. I want an exact, but smaller duplicate of my former ship since we have less crew members.” Jasper scanned his men and they all squeezed their eyes shut.

He continued, “Imagine our vessel into being, or whatever it is you call that mystical mumbo jumbo. I will focus on a more improved *Black Fear* so Bella will have her own room and not have to share mine.” He looked over at Bella and she slightly nodded.

Peter saw Jasper lied about his motives for an improved ship, but he would give the captain what he wanted anyway. Bella’s thoughts were less focused on the craft and more on the journey home, so if it really took all of them to create the new *Black Fear*, she wouldn’t have contributed to it at all.

Fortunately, Peter had the power to craft a ship without any of their minds. He was confident nothing more would hinder his goals to repair the twisted fairy tales.

Deleted from Chapter

43

Notes from author: *My editor said this part slowed down the urgency to get back to Captain Modo. It was when Bella was temporarily back inside the magical library away from the fairy tale. I really wanted all the elements of this library to be on paper, but I understood what my editor meant.*

When she moved to open what looked like an exit door, another chamber formed around her with a different, more contemporary decor. The room had a simpler look to it with a subtle sophistication. The furniture and walls were gray and white. Filled with splashes of color were shelves of books in rainbow hues, sorted by their colors.

Each colored section had its own fragrance, and within each section, the odor never stayed the same for long. The blue-covered books were a mixture of clean linen and freesia that gradually transformed into the scent of sea breezes and then finished off with blueberry. Bella had been looking at the different titles in that section and it seemed the aromas changed.

Awestricken, Bella tested to see if each aisle had its own scents. The reds came in fruit flavors, cinnamon, and candied apples. The greens morphed from mint to pine, and then to something herbal. The purples had some odd mixture of aromas, and Bella only recognized the grape scent. The yellow and orange books had traces of the fruits they were named after, along with other floral fragrances. The brown

books were Bella's favorite, as they smelled like baked bread, pies, chocolate, and other goodies. Then it changed to more earthy aromas.

Was she in a book lover's heaven?

Deleted from Bellarose II – Interlude Book

This interlude book was published between The Aerowyn Tales book 1 and 2 (Gerard and Jasper before rebrand).

Just like when Dorothy saw that the scarecrow, tinman, and cowardly lion were actually the men who worked on her uncle and aunt's farm, Bella realized that Layne, Gerard, and Quinn were part of the fictional adventure she had just left.

The recollections came back to her as she thought about Gerard—who wasn't really the beast's brother, but rather a vain boy she just met that same day from her apartment complex. At least she thought it was the same day. Then there was Quinn, who she really liked in the story, but he had a hunched back, unlike the Quinn she met outside her apartment.

Layne was the enchantress who had hexed... what was his name? Oh yes, she had hexed Antoine to be a wolf most of the time. Gerard actually turned out to not be as much of a jerk as she had originally thought because he rescued Antoine from the curse. But now Gerard was a wolf following Elayne around like a pet.

Bella surveyed the room for Layne, who was supposed to be reading her own fairy tale from the shelves, but she was nowhere to be seen. She continued to walk around the library so that she could explore the

old house since Layne wasn't in the room. Did that girl leave her alone to be stuck inside a story? What was happening?

Chapter 3: Narrator

Before Bella analyzed her current situation any more, she was whisked away to the dark forest near the Kingdom of Magic. This time, she was an observer instead of a participant, but that was safer since this story has dragons. After she finished *The Scorned Fairy*, Bella will be transferred back to the plot she left behind, because as she suspected, she did need to complete her own tale to escape the library and all its fairy tales.

As before, Bella will forget all about her real life away from fantasy and folklore. The new adventure is called *Jasper*, and it is based on a well-known pirate with a hook—but it won't be anything like what you have read about the infamous captain because these accounts have been changed.

Following this chapter, the author has provided for you the reader *The Scorned Fairy*, the book Bella took home from the magical library, and the one Gerard took from her in the tavern. It gets talked about several times so the author thought you need to read it before you read *Jasper*. It will give you clues as to why Bella is stuck inside these stories, and it will shed some light on comments that are made between Bella and Peter. Before you think he's Peter Pan, think again. He has become part of the crisscrossed chronicles that have different endings and different plots with slight nods to the original popular tales.

It is implied in *Jasper* that *The Scorned Fairy* is actually a true story, and you may wonder who wrote it. Fairy tales write themselves after they are lived out by the characters. The tomes get placed in the magical library and eventually get distributed by fae who implant the stories in authors' heads. The authors will usually rewrite the tales and claim them as their own. I hope you enjoy this version of the frog

prince—who turns into a dragon rather than an amphibian. Bella, the expert book lover, did.