

CHAPTER III - MAD-ELLIA'S ADVICE TO THE KING

Some years later, as the time of the passage of the crown was very near, everyone was so happy and excited about the festivities which should start in just over a month!

The Great Gandra was the king of the province of Harlewoods and soon he would become the king over all the kingdom of Doggerland. His eldest son was named Fritz and he was reaching the age to marry.

In those days Mad-ellia decided to visit King Gandra to give him advice... She went to Harlewood Castle and asked to speak to the king.

Gandra liked Mad-ellia and decided to receive her in the yard of the Castle, where he was doing his morning walk.

- 'Good morning Your Majesty, how are you doing?' – asked Mad-ellia.

- 'Leave the formalities aside, Mad-ellia, I'm fine, thank you. What brings you to my presence so early in the morning?'

- 'My dearest friend Gandra, your elder son Fritz is coming to the age to marry, you know...'

- 'So....'

'Well, if it pleases the king, I would like to make a suggestion...'

- 'Go on ...'



- 'Let the king issue a royal decree calling on all young maidens of Harlewoods to attend immediately to the castle of your Majesty. Then, after a search for the most beautiful young girls, let the chosen ones be placed under the care of his personal attendants at the castle, and let beauty treatments be given to them. Then, on the last day of the greatest festivity, have the girls present themselves before the king and his son Fritz. Then, let the girl who most pleases young prince Fritz be his princess and wife!'

This advice pleased king Gandra, and he decided to follow it. But Mad-ellia had a request...

- 'There is a girl I have taken care of since she was still a baby as if she were my own daughter... She was abandoned at the door of my house and I never met her mother. I never mentioned this to the king, because I know that this is not a common case in Doggerland, and feared that the king could become angry with such negligence by a parent from this province. It happens that she became a beauty and she's also very kind and intelligent. So, if it pleases the king, I'd like to have your permission to bring her among the other girls for the presentation day!'

King Gandra was very upset by the fact that a child had been abandoned in Harlewoods, but did not attempt to investigate the case and gave permission to Mad-ellia to bring the girl on the great presentation day.

- 'Mad-ellia, what's the name of this young girl?' – asked the king.

- 'Her name is Arlequina...'

So, Mad-ellia left the presence of the king and returned home to take care of Arlequina and prepare her for the special day, when young Fritz would choose his favorite maiden. She was convinced that Arlequina would be the chosen one.