

Beauty and The Buccaneer

by Lily Armour

Once upon a time, in a kingdom on the edge of the sea, there was a young Prince whose greed was relentless. He had no care for his beautiful kingdom, and spoiled himself rather than provide for his loyal citizens. While the Prince wore pristine, luxurious suits of tailored gold and silk, his people could hardly afford their next meal, let alone a new pair of trousers. So, as punishment for his horrible ways, the King and Queen banished the young prince to the sea – exiling him from a comfortable life and propelling him in the shoes of his citizens; a life where nothing came easy, and everything must be worked for. With no money and no luxuries, the young Prince was forced to become a pirate to survive, and before long, ruled the cerulean seas with a fiery temper and a deadly blade.

But one day, this Prince – now a Pirate Captain – found himself struggling to provide for himself and his crew. The pirates had long combatted and appeared victorious over all who roamed the seas, but their luxurious winnings had begun to run dry. To keep his pirate crew wealthy and loyal to his blade, the Captain decided to recruit a fisherman who could provide for the pirates. So, the Captain sailed towards a small, provincial village at the edge of the kingdom, keen on finding a fisherman who he could recruit to his cause.

But unbeknownst to him, the Captain had wandered upon a very materialistic village – one that prided itself in making all kinds of craftable goods. These villagers despised the sea, disgusted by the slime and the grit, but luckily, there was a singular fisherman in the village. He was an old man with graying hair, who's lonely boat floated upon the bubbling sea. The Captain set out to kidnap the Fisherman and force him onto his boat, but little did he know that the Fisherman had a young Fisherman's Daughter for a daughter who happened to be on the boat with him that day. She was the most beautiful woman in the village, but she had no love for all the silly things that the village was proud of – instead, she loved the sea.

The Captain's heart was rotten and unkind, so without a second thought, he kidnapped the Fisherman, intending to leave his daughter upon the boat alone. But, the daughter spoke up for herself, begging the Captain to take her instead. Though she was not as good of a fisher as her father, the old Fisherman's hands were rickety and shaky, and his trade had become less valuable as he grew old. With some hesitation, the Captain agreed, and forced the daughter onto his ship – leaving the Fisherman to find his way back to the village without his daughter.

At first the Captain was unkind and hateful towards the daughter, forcing her to work from sunrise to sunset. He belittled her, mocking her and constantly reminding her of her long-lost father, who she missed so dearly. Soon, the fisherman's daughter grew cold and anguished and blended in with the crew. But on one sunny day, she timidly asked the Captain to teach her the ways of the sea.

The Captain was shocked, and pondered lecturing her – but he hesitated for reasons he did not understand. Rather than declining the plea, he gave in, and began to teach her the ways of the sea. He taught her how to man a ship, how to steer, and how to command a pirate crew – no matter how rowdy and dreadful they may be. It wasn't long before the two grew close, and the fisherman's daughter seemed to unearth a new man in the Captain – someone who was kind and gentle. Suddenly, life upon the pirate ship was peaceful – even enjoyable – and the crew noticed as well.

But one cloudy night when the Captain and the fisherman's daughter were stargazing on the ship's hull, a storm broke free of the taunting clouds, throwing sharp, frigid droplets of rain

Twisted Fairy Tale:

A variation of "Beauty and the Beast"

down into the sea. The sea relented, growing rageful and lethal as waves crashed into the ship's side, threatening to drown it far into the depths of the cerulean abyss. But the Captain was skilled as he steered the ship through the chaos, keeping the ship afloat. That is until a bolt of vicious lightning struck the ship, lighting a blazing fire upon the ship's hull. The fisherman's daughter, who was frozen in the frightening display of sparks and blazes, was caught in a wall of licking fire. In order to save the Fisherman's Daughter, the Captain threw himself to her, attempting to combat the fire with a single bucket of water. But alas, it was clear that there was no hope in defeating the blazing fire. In their last moments, the Fisherman's Daughter cast her arms across the Captain's shoulders, holding him tight as she whispered, "I love you, thank you for all that you have done." As the storm raged around them, and the fire licked at their clothes from afar, the Captain returned the gesture, pulling the Fisherman's Daughter close.

As the Fisherman's Daughter lifted her gaze from the Captain's, her eyes widened. From within the abyss of haze, rain, and cerulean mist, a wooden hull tore its way through the fog, along with the echoing crack of sails against tantalizing wind. The shadow of a gold-adorned ship slithered through the storm's suffocating embrace, piercing through the chaos and sliding in beside the Captain's ship. A collection of roars bellowed from the golden ship as figures leapt onto the pirate ship, large buckets of water spilling from their hands as they fought back the spitting blaze. Hissing gasps of smoke filled the air as, with the help of the frigid rain, the firing inferno was quenched, leaving a ring of scorched wood around the huddled couple. The Captain lifted his head to peer upon the savior ship, only to see the regal King and Queen gazing upon him with a pleased smile. Clutching the Fisherman's Daughter's hand, the Pirate Captain bowed towards the monarchs, clutching his heart. The couple's grins only grew as they peered down upon their son.

"It seems you have learned the ways of your people, and have even entrapped the heart of a young woman." The Queen remarked, her eyes sparkling. She gestured to the young Fisherman's Daughter with a pleased nod, encouraging her to smile. "I'm proud, son."

The King nodded in agreement, casting out a hand to his son. "Come now, my boy. It's time to return home."

The Pirate Captain – or rather, the Prince – grinned, his eyes ablaze with pride, but hesitated before stepping onto the royal ship. He turned toward the Fisherman's Daughter, and after a moment of thought, reached his hand to her. She took it gladly, and together, the two joined the regal monarchs, departing towards the kingdom with a newfound haste.

Not too long later, the Pirate Captain and the Fisherman's Daughter were declared the Prince and Princess of the kingdom, set to lead their citizens into a new age. The two made a happy couple, and showed the whole world that appearances can be deceiving, just as pirates can be princes.