

visitezmatente
SORGDOTTIR

The Icelandic tale this album is based on exists in several versions and usually goes under the title of “The Good Stepmother”. I have changed the title into “Sorgdottir” (which can be roughly translated into “Sorrow’s Daughter”, focussing (like the tale actually does) on the perils of the protagonist-princess rather than on her stepmother (who only gives her some advice).

I have as always taken some poetic license in dealing with syntactic issues, reversing word order for the sake of style and rhyme.

1. elsku skarfur

[Instrumental; serving as an overture of an eider telling the following story to a cormorant in their competitive tale-spinning]

2. pining, pilgrim, pact and price

In the lands of the North lived a king and a queen
In a state of splendour no one had ever seen
Their love was untainted from the day they were wed
And their people loved them though they were both sad

For no matter how big their love and how much they tried
The queen she was not blessed never was with child
Her wish was an heir for the king and his lands
And sorrow befell her that wouldn't seem to end

”Oh if only I had a daughter” she sighed
”With lips red like blood and skin snow-white
With hair like a raven’s feathers so black
I would sell my soul and never want it back”

And then one day there stepped from a boat
A powerful pilgrim rats’ furs as his coat
The people of the kingdom shied away from the strange
man
From his hollow sunken eyes and his rotten corpse-like
stench
”I am a sorcerer from the Island of Ice
And I grant every wish though it might have a price

Now show me to your Queen
An offer I have
For the wife of your king
And happiness I will bring

If you make me a courtier then I will work a spell
A daughter you shall have more beautiful than I could ever
tell
And everyone will love her deeply adored she will be
Your king he will be happy as all the world will see”

So said the stranger and chuckled within
The smile on his lips turned into a grin
As the queen had sealed this pact without fear
He whispered to her for no one to hear

”But you will hate her
But you will hate her
But you will hate her
But you will hate her
But you will hate her
But you will hate her
From the bottom of your heart”

3. the sprout

Oh beauty oh beauty step into the sun
And dance to the music oh dance to the song
Oh beauty oh beauty step into the sun
The whole kingdom calls you their beautiful one

Your father is happy oh girl see him smile
His heart skips a beat every once in a while
Your father is happy oh girl see him smile
The future queen you are your people beguile

But only your mother sees things differently
The sorcerer told her he told her you see
But only your mother sees things differently
Her envy is growing it’s hate actually

Now my girl the things are changing
Happy childhood days must end
Your stars need a little rearranging
To the Fates you now must bend

Go up to your mother who’s lying in bed
Her joy it is withered her spirits have fled
Go up to your mother who’s lying in bed
She knows she will soon be and wishes you dead

4. the dying curse

You will kill a man
To the castle fire set
And finally dear then
An abomination wed

You will kill a man
To the castle fire set
And finally love then
The abomination wed

You will kill a man
To the castle fire set
And finally love then...
THE ABOMINATION

5. who's wooing woe

You gallant knights there on my doorstep
You who are waiting down below
I can just look at you and wonder
Who might it be that's wooing woe

I guess a far way you have travelled
But I'm afraid to no avail
My heart's cold like the ice around us
So gallant friends better set sail

For you must know I am in mourning
My little brother went away
And now he is among the missing
Killed in the snow most probably

But if he returned right here to my side
I would be happy to be anyone's bride
If I ever could ever set eyes on him again
I would be happy to abandon home and name

I know no pain will last forever
Maybe it's time to move along
And leave this sorrowful existence
To join your lord in dance and song

You gallant knights here on my doorstep
You who are waiting down below
I can just look at you and wonder
Who might it be that's wooing woe
That's wooing woe

6. schemer's end

He was a man used to getting what he wanted
He had come to this land and cursed and schemed and
enchanted
Now that the queen was dead
It was about time to get her daughter to bed

Her suitors arrayed to marry the princess they did what she
wanted
But they were misplayed because the princess she had
planted
On a mountain of ice
A flower to pick – her stepmother's device

The others they fell bruised but never fatally fallen
He wished them to hell the powers of demons he secretly
called and
He began his ascent
The laws of nature with magic to bend

But he misstepped
And he toppled
Down the mountain
Although he grappled
Like a sack
Broke his back
Broke his neck
Dashed down dead
DEAD

The princess in tears standing over the body unhearted
Because all her fears had come true the curse had started
All worse for wear
The death of a man on her soul now to bear

7. the flower of truth

What brought thee here to my door
Oh little girl full of fear
I am more creature than man
But there are things that I hold dear

Whatever thou art running from
It can't be worse than here
I pity thee even more
Than my own monstrous veneer

Thou hast planted a flower
So high on the mountain
A flower of truth and of hate
I might pick it and show thee
That thy life is just more than pain
And that death ain't thy fate

I have to go out tonight
And I must beg thee to stay
And even though thou art afraid
Put thy trust in me I pray

'Cause before dawn I will return
Please wait for me don't run away
Of my belongings take care
Oh for thy good faith I pray

Thou hast planted a flower
So high on the mountain
A flower of truth and of hate
I might pick it and show thee
That thy life is just more than pain
And that death ain't thy fate

Thou hast planted a flower
So high on the mountain
A flower of truth and of hate
I might pick it and show thee
That thy life is just more than pain
And that death ain't thy fate

8. all by yourself

Leave this dark place my daughter
Take your fate in your hands
I have a plan to set you free
And with which your curse ends
There is no real use in fighting
Futile seems everything
Listen to my advice
To your curse fulfilment bring
All by yourself

This here monster can't help you
Trying to stop the clock
What the sorcerer set in motion
You have the power to lock
You can't depend upon others
On yourself you must rely
Stop the curse in midsentence
It is your time to fly
All by yourself

While your father is hunting
To the castle then sneak
Throw the servants right out
Kindle a spark so meek
There'll be nobody wounded
There'll be nobody dead
The castle will be rebuilt
And of the curse you're ahead
All by yourself

Leave this dark place my daughter
Take your fate in your hands
I have a plan to set you free
And with which your curse ends
There is no real use in fighting
Futile seems everything
Listen to my advice
To your curse fulfilment bring
All by yourself

9. as honour kills what I love most

What must I behold
In this bitter night
I see my castle
Burning bright
The smoke it is rising
Up into the sky
Whoever did this
Is bound to die
Oh guards fetch me
The wrongdoer here
Oh Gods it is her
My daughter my dear

From what I have said
There'll be no return
Just like my castle
My daughter must burn
My honour it binds me
Binds me to my word
She must meet my judgement
No matter the hurt
No matter her reasons
For setting the fire
I must keep my word
Take her to the pyre
(So mote it be done)

10. fates stalled

I saw that thou didst not leave me
Now this favour is returned
I am rushing to thy rescue
Hoping thou art still unburnt
I am riding like the lightning
Swift like wind and grim like frost
To delay the unjust sentence
To save thee at any cost

A score of knights I have brought with me
And they storm the castle gate

My heralds signal my arrival
We have come to stall thy fate
Ah the pyre is not lit yet
Though the torch seems all to near
But I wrest it from the hand
Of the henchman without fear

Now my curse it has been lifted
I'm no monster thou canst see
My blood is royal just as thine
And I only worship thee
Just like me my love be free now
Thou hast saved me with thy kiss
I have saved thee from the fire
Love and faith eternal bliss

It is time to tell my story
Word is that I had been killed
In an avalanche most horrid
But my skin remained unchilled
And while others say the wild beasts
Have devoured my flesh and bone
I have overcome these perils
With a heart of ice and stone

Instead I had been accursed
By the mage that wrought thy woe
He turned me into a monster
Gave me fur from head to toe
Gave me claws and fangs and bid me
To exist in ceaseless pain
But thy faith to me has wiped out
This abominable stain

Now my curse it has been lifted
I'm no monster thou canst see
My blood is royal just as thine
And I only worship thee
Just like me my love be free now
Thou hast saved me with thy kiss
I have saved thee from the fire
Love and faith eternal bliss

Now my curse it has been lifted
I'm no monster thou canst see
My blood is royal just as thine
And I only worship thee
Just like me my love be free now
Thou hast saved me with thy kiss
I have saved thee from the fire
Thus our tale goes and this is this

And this is this



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