

*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  
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  
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### 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  
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My blood is royal just as thine  
And I only worship thee  
Just like me my love be free now  
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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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