

SNOW WHITE AND THE DEADLY DWARFS

MYRA BANNER WAS AN ANACHRONISM... A MISPLACED OBJECT IN TIME, WHOSE BODY DWELLED IN ONE CENTURY, WHOSE THOUGHTS DWELLED IN ANOTHER.

SHE LOVED THIS HOUSE. SHE LOVED THE ANTIQUE MUSIC BOXES, THE OLD GRANDFATHER CLOCK... EVERYTHING. SHE LOVED THEM ALMOST AS MUCH AS SHE HATED THE WORLD OUTSIDE.

BUT THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING THAT FRIGHTENED HER HERE...

...THE DWARVES!



THEY CAME OUT BY NIGHT TO WATCH HER... GLARE AT HER. THEY NEVER UTTERED A SOUND, BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS THERE. EVEN WHEN SHE COULDN'T SEE THEM, SHE FELT THEIR PRESENCE.

SHE SENSED THAT THEY RESENTED HER BEING IN THIS HOUSE.



MANY TIMES BEFORE, SHE HAD THOUGHT OF LEAVING. BUT IT WAS WARM AND SAFE AND ANCIENT HERE. OUTSIDE THERE WERE NEW PEOPLE... A NEW CENTURY.

ONLY ONCE HAD MYRA LET HERSELF BE EXPOSED TO THAT OUTSIDE WORLD. BUT HER DAYS AT SHARPTONMORE COLLEGE SEEMED FAR BEHIND HER NOW.

THEY CALLED HER 'SNOW WHITE' THEN.



AT FIRST SHE THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED HER BEAUTIFUL.



THEN SHE LEARNED THEY WERE MOCKING HER... AND ONLY BECAUSE SHE PLACED A HIGH VALUE UPON HER VIRGINITY!

WARREN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD.



BUT EVEN HE SMIRKED WHEN SHE TOLD HIM ABOUT THE DWARVES. SHE WOULD NEVER FORGIVE HIM FOR THAT.

YES, WARREN UNDERSTOOD. HE UNDERSTOOD A LOT OF THINGS.

WELL, THIS IS IT, WARREN BABY! THE SNOWDOWN. YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT SHE'S GOING TO SAY! WHY BOTHER GOING THROUGH IT?



OK, I OWE HER THAT MUCH. SHE'S BEEN A GOOD KID ALL THESE MONTHS, EVEN IF SHE IS A LITTLE STRANGE!



IT ISN'T HER FAULT THAT I'M A NORMAL MALE WITH NORMAL DWARVES, BUT I JUST CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS...





THREE YEARS
WE'VE BEEN BEING
EACH OTHER, BUT SHE
HASN'T GET FOOT OUT
OF THAT GHASTLY
MANSION SINCE WE
GRADUATED COLLEGE
TOGETHER...

...AND SHE'S NEVER
SO MUCH AS LET ME
ASS HERS.

MVRA OPENED HER
EYES SLOWLY...

... EACH TIME SHE DID, SHE PRAYED THE
DWARVES WOULD BE GONE, BUT THEY WERE
ALWAYS THERE. MARCMAN AND HAWTHAY.



MVRA FELT OLD BEYOND HER YEARS.
HER BODY WAS STILL FIRM, HER
SKIN SOFT, BUT INSIDE SHE
FELT... OLD.

SHE LOOKED CLOSELY AT
THE LITHE FULL BODY,
AND WONDERED WHAT
IT WAS THAT MADE THOSE
FLUHY MEN WANT TO
TOUCH IT.



SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND
HOW DID SHE UNDERSTAND
WHY THOSE STUPID LITTLE
DWARVES REFUSED TO GO
AWAY...



... WHEN ALL SHE WANTED
WAS TO BE LEFT ALONE.





SOMEHOW MYRA KNEW WHAT WAS COMING. SHE TRIED TO BRACE HERSELF FOR IT...

...THE SAME WAY WARREN HAD BRACED HIMSELF FOR THREE DAYS BEFORE HAVING THE COURAGE TO DO IT! EVEN NOW, HE KNEW THAT IF HE BLEW SO MUCH AS ONE LINE... HE MIGHT NEVER HAVE THE HEART TO FINISH.

REMEMBER HOW THEY USED TO CALL YOU SNOW WHITE IN COLLEGE?



YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, MYRA, YOU'RE STILL THE SAME FRIGHTENED LITTLE GIRL YOU WERE BACK THEN...

...AFRAID OF LOVE! AFRAID OF LETTING YOURSELF BE LOVED!



WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ISN'T LOVE! IT'S BASE DEPRIVATION! LOVE ISN'T SIMPLY SATISFYING YOUR OWN LUSTFUL WHIM!

NOR IS IT DENYING WHAT I FEEL ABOUT YOU! I CAN'T BE ALONEST WITH YOU OR MYSELF...



...WHEN YOU TRY AND TURN ME INTO SOMETHING I HAVEN'T GOT THE STRENGTH TO BE! I'M NEITHER A FOOL NOR A FANATIC, MYRA.



I NEED YOU...



WARREN... STOP!

SUDDENLY, SHE HEARD THEM, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEIR GQUEAKY LITTLE VOICES SPEAK...



"WE WILL PROTECT YOU, MYRA" THEY SAID.

THE FIRST TIME WARREN FELT THE BLADE TEAR INTO THE FLESH OF HIS BACK, HE FREEZES, UNABLE TO UTTER EVEN THE SMALLEST SOUND... AFTER THE SECOND AND THIRD TIMES, HE SCREAMED...!

Aiiiiiiiie

EEEEE!

IT'S THE DWARVES, WARREN! YOU SEE, I AM THEIR SNOW WHITE...

...AND THEY ARE MY PROTECTORS!

WHY, MYRA... FOR GOD'S SAKE... WHY THIS?



I AM PURE, WARREN! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO TAKE THAT FROM ME... THE DWARVES WOULDN'T LET YOU...!

MYRA... THERE ARE... NO...

DWARVES!

OF COURSE THERE ARE!

WHERE DID... THEY...

...GO?

THEY'RE HIDING AGAIN... BUT I KNOW THEY'RE HERE!

I CAN FEEL THEIR PRESENCE!

THEY SAVED ME FROM YOU, WARREN... JUST AS THEY'LL SAVE ME FROM ANY MAN... FOR EVER AND EVER!