

6/18/21 Prompt: The Solar Eclipse

“It’s time.”

In the heat of midday, evening falls like a veil. For the first time, I behold the realm of the faeries. On my skin is the cool of night, and my ears catch hardly a sound. The birds settle in their roosts while fireflies dance, their lights twinkling a secret message. But there is only one from whom I long to hear.

On the edge of the clearing, I see her. Hair of starlight, wings of moonlight. Her time is brief, I know, for she is Queen of the Faeries. Frozen in place, I wait. What news does she bring? Is my love alive, or is he...?

“He is well,” she says. “Bested the Master at his own game.”

My heart sings. “Is he coming?”

“Once his tasks are complete.”

I wring my hands. Our time is short.

“I am waiting. Please tell him I am waiting.”

“He knows you are faithful.”

She bows, but I am not ready to part. To my protests, she shakes her head. Silver floats like mist around her lithe frame. I reach for her, but she is too far, fading, fading into the dusk.

“How long?” I cry, the throbbing of my heart...

“Goodbye.”

Counting the seconds until...

“Wait!”

Light.

(I experienced a total solar eclipse a couple of years ago. It was completely surreal, and I really struggled to capture that moment in words. It’s like entering a dreamland. I don’t intend to make these flash fiction pieces a running narrative, but I decided to link this one to the Chess story last week. Now you know how that turned out. )

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