

The lion in love

It happened a long time ago. The weather was fine and there was plenty of food and good beer to drink. There was a country and like all good countries it had a king. He wasn't a bad old stick either, as kings go, and his queen was a good-looking woman. So he did his kining in the daytime and his queening in the night and everything passed off very pleasant for everyone concerned. But like all good things it had to come to an end, and soon the king went off to war and the queen was left on her own for years. And naturally enough she got a bit fed up with it, and one night when she was in bed she heard the west wind knocking on her bedroom door. Well she knew what he was after all right, but she let him in all the same, and soon after he'd whispered a few sweet nothings in her ear and succumbed to his passion and one thing led to another and when she woke up next morning she found she was pregnant. So the west wind carried her off to his palace and when her husband came back from the wars and found out that she'd buzzed of he was very upset. Anyway, after a bit he got angry and snatched a thunderbolt out of the sky and threw it and he followed it to the place where it had landed, but his wife wasn't there. So he did the same thing again and again until he arrived at a palace. Well by this time the west wind had got a bit fed up with the queen and he'd left her flat, her and her baby, and when the queen realized that her husband the king had caught up with her she felt so ashamed that she ran away with her child and jumped off the edge of the world, straight into the sea, and as soon as she touched the water she was changed into a great rock.

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Shelagh Delaney.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the king like?
2. What was the queen like?
3. What happened after a time?
4. Who went to look for the queen?
5. Where did the wind take the queen?
6. What happened after the king came back from war?
7. What did he do to find the queen?
8. Was the wind with the queen when the king found her?
9. What did the queen turn into?
10. Vocabulary.
Fed up:
Whispered:
Jumped off: