

Tales from the Stormthrower
Esmiralda, blue lagoons at Moonislands

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Work and learn at the same time, the school had advertised. Till now all she got was the learning part. No coin had ever gone her way and still she had to live with her mother and father when school was out. Sure, she had the most amazing year anyone could have. But her second dream of party and play in the buzzing hotspots of the world was not happening soon, looking at the letter describing her assignment for the coming second year. It was sending her to the blue lagoons of the Moonislands, although she had no idea wherever this place could be, it had taken her into a shopping spree for bathing suits, bikinis and other light airy clothes. Since no map she could get her hand on would steer her close to the location of this tropical paradise she simply told everyone she was going to some uncharted island in the vast empty Pacific Ocean.

Had expected a lot, but sending a student into the fabled world of the elves was not among them, nor her being put into a tiny sailing boat on catching sight of her island destination. She now sat at the helm blowing air in the sail just sparingly. Enough to keep her on course to one of the bigger islands of the Moonislands archipelago, yet also the most remote. Inhabited by nature herself, which generally meant creatures of magic.

Curious but also anxious she stalled landing on the beach and circled the island from a distance. Found no easy access so slowly entered the lagoon, protected by the narrow bands of corral rock all around the island and was immediately drawn to the vibrant colors hurrying past and under her boat. Drew the sail just to drift for a while in this spot of beauty spread herself on the flat deck of the boat looking into the water, soon attracted all sorts of interest. Remembering her painful encounter with the water nymphs in the park she kept her hands inside the boat. Watched the acrobatic display of the water nymphs instead and in the end could not resist to catch them, as they were getting ever so close, gave them a lift, carefully making sure she was giving attention to all the attending fairies. Suddenly her boat shook madly as something seemed to have hit it. Struggling to keep her balance she put one leg into the water, immediately feeling a hand gripping it.

Eye to eye with mermaids she hoped she would live to tell this adventure, but like the nymphs they just wanted to show off. Gripping her waist she was taken for a tour of the underwater sights of the lagoon. Hurlled into the air to catch her breath and taken down below to see the next part. Used some air to hurl herself even higher and into some acrobatic moves, the next time she was taken to compensate her inability to breath underwater. Got the laughter and was pushed back for an encore.

Saw a rock standing out of the underwater forest and convinced her escort to take her there. Probably guessing what she was hinting at. Found a foothold and with her arms breaking the surface she helped nymph and mermaids alike performing intricate aerial maneuvers, until a low bell like sound got them saying goodbye and her swimming through the surf, trolling the beach until she found her little boat.

Greeted the young elf girl waiting for her and apologized for playing in the underwater world. Got a smile back. Wished all creatures where as easy going with the waterfolk. She had swam in the lagoon many a times and only got their attention when danger was close. Yet she had skill in water magic so was tolerated and asked to remove the dangerous fish from the lagoon, keeping it save.

The girl took her inland and showed her the place she could call home for the next few months. She used air to push herself onto the platform, holding bed and storages, leaving the foliage to shield her "room" from prying eyes. Caught her luggage, thrown to her by the girl and got a tour around the facility, boasting hot pools for bathing, a kitchen and grassy patches for recreational purposes, both open to the air as overrun by tree branches.

The tour ended at the big pool with bluish green water. Deeper than the lagoon it was in contact with. Being fed through a small channel protected by wood and foot long thorns. She was introduced to her employer, a beautiful fair haired mermaid, clad in short tight fitting scale like trousers, made from the water grass she had seen in abundance on her underwater tour, leaving her legs down from the knee free to stretch and so deploy the extra piece of skin as showed to her by the little nymphs in the park. Her feet again protected with the oily water grass.

The lady of the waves as she was called welcomed her in one of the last nurseries there were in this world. Had hired her off course for her influence on the little people, but also to help in teaching her magic to the classes residing at the island. In return she would get the chance to sit in on other classes enabling her to study water magic and wisdom. Off course as teacher she would be called upon to evacuate any dangerous fish, elf or otherwise not tolerated being, and for that she would get rewarded with coin, payable at the end of her term.

On the way back she asked Eeva, as the elf girl was called, if they could walk along the beach for a while. Found a patch of water grass and shaved just enough to be usefully and not enough to be harmful to the plant. Splashed around a bit gathering more from other plants, then lifted herself with air back to the beach. In the hot pools she showed Eeva how to make garments, infused the stitches with cool moonlight and ended up with two tight fitting trousers and shoes to match. Left them in the pool to keep their strength and stretchability.

Their garments sparkled in the lagoon as they entered the water for the first lesson the next day and finally got Eeva the attention of her pupils and the little folk, promising their new teacher would include this in her class. Eeva started her class in water magic. As it was an advanced class she sat in baffled by the magic and ended up observing the little mermaids reacting to their teacher.

The patrolling she did largely by air, weaved a screen around arms, legs and body, held it close to jump into the air, then filled up the chute like web around her body to glide down and around the island. Occasionally diving into the water scaring away big fish with splash and air bubbles. She was even learning some water magic and if boats or boards drifted

into the current around the island she would dive underwater with a pocket of air held by water magic and steer or blow it back on course into the ways of the Lords of the Wind.

The call they got now came directly from the Lords of the Wind. They had spotted boats leading their way and requested them to take a look and check, promising the Lords would be on standby if needed. Breaking off one of their classes, Evea and she had left immediately rejecting to take a boat hoping to make an impression on the many intruders. With Evea darting through the water and she flying high they spotted the ships. Heading for the biggest one, Evea showed she had learned a lot from her, by jumping out of the water onto the boat with ease. She landed next to her immediately after. Not expecting company they caused quite a stir on board. The non native boat had capacity for about twenty people not counting the sailors. They hung out on or in one of the little vessels giving closer access to the lagoons.

With lot of talk they finally got to speak with the captain, who was definitely not going to let two young girls order him around. He had plotted this course to show his high end clientele the beauty of the lagoons and would not steer away just because common folk were pestering him with trivial questions. Again Evea asked him to reroute their cruise to the perimeter of the island currents, asked him as a representative of the Lords of the Wind. The captain was still not impressed and ordered them to get of his ship with haste.

Evea turned around and shrugged her shoulders and replied softly "as you wish". Pumped up a large globe of the lagoon water and pushed it up into the air. She jumped after it, pushed it higher and then sent a blast of air through it, to let it explode. Dived back into the water to join Evea and watched the wind and current start picking up, countered by the magic of the sailors. One more time they jumped onto the ship and warned them not to cross the Lords of the Wind, but got laught at, belittling their puny capabilities in magic. Shaking their heads uttering "not ours" they watched how big waves took hold of the little vessels, smashing them, but delivering their occupants safely at the big ship, which was now tightly in the grip of the Lords, heading towards the main island and resident of the Lords of the Wind.

Reaching the borders of the island currents both Evea and she bowed to the now pale and quiet captain and wished him wisdom explaining all this to their masters. With this she grabbed hold of Evea and together they jumped to the top of the mast using it to get even higher, not willing to risk an encounter with one of the ships magicians.

Off course they had to tell all about their adventure, so they crashed a class that was given by one of the mermaids teachers and were seamlessly integrated in her lesson about the dangers of the high sea.

The End