

Settling for Something New

By XenSharama

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This story is about a boy who becomes the Prince of the underwater Atlantis. He goes on a journey to prove he can be the next Prince and faces many dangers as a merboy, only fourteen years old.

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1 - Chapter I

Chapter I

I had decided to take along the shores of the beach. It was that time that I got out for an hour, alone. Now, mind you, never do such a thing. I was walking in a t-shirt and shorts, my sandals were inside and my feet were bare. I had brown hair and hazel eyes. I was five foot five inches and I was slightly muscular and I am fourteen. I had walked to the point where the water was level with my ankles.

Then, suddenly, a hand grabbed my foot and pulled me under. I was brought out into the large open water where it was blue and you could see around, I would have except for my sensitive eyes. And then, I opened them and no pain rose. I could see perfectly as if I were in air. I then saw a girl swimming in the middle of the water. I gasped for air but noticed I hadn't need to. I had gills! Behind my ears and on the side of my neck were vent-like gills that water passed in and out of which extracted oxygen from it.

I then noticed that the girl was a mermaid! She had sparkling silver scales and her silver hair fluttered through the water. She wore a shiny shell bra and two shell earrings made of gold and pearl.

I then noticed my pants were off. My underwear was ripping as my legs glued together. Then, my feet combined and came to a point. Two long blue fins grew from each side. Blue scales covered my lower half and I felt a dorsal fin grow from my mid-lower back. It was the sign of the male mer-person. My ears pointed and my fingers webbed. The girl approached me and struck my lips with her own, giving me a passionate kiss. She was beautiful and then I noticed the tiara upon her head. She was the princess of the mer-people.

"Hello, Alex. My name is Ralona, princess of Atlantis. I've been watching you from a distance and I have chosen you."

I opened my mouth and water rushed in, but sound was still projecting through. "Chosen for what; I never wanted this?"

"I have chosen you as my mate. You will be crowned prince and will become king later. The previous prince, my brother, was killed and I was sent to find a new prince."

"But what if I don't want to be king, or a prince, or a merman for that matter?"

"You do not have a choice. If you refuse, you will be killed. You'll see Alex, you'll adapt all the same. You'll learn to love it." I shrugged and then sighed as she led me back to the kingdom. Instantly, I was cheered and praised by the citizens of Atlantis as I "walked" through the front gate. Two large guards came over and led the princess and me into the large throne room of the palace.

The palace was made of enormous blue slabs of an unknown substance. Its gates were made of teal green alloys and the windows of forest green glass. The inside was made of great halls filled with tables

and food and riches. Many picture hung on the wall and the suits of armor glistened as we swam by.

We entered the throne room where the queen and king “sat” on their thrones. A long red carpet led to their position and the carpet, on both sides, was surrounded by guards. They were bulky men that barred a long two-pronged spear and a steel oval shield. They wore a helmet of steel that had the Atlantean seal embedded into it. They also wore a piece of chest armor that also had the crest.

The two of us bowed and Ralona took her seat next to her mother. They looked at me and turned to their daughter. “So this is your new mate and soon to be prince? This is your choice?” the king stated.

“Yes father. This is my choice. I love him, he's perfect.” She stated this with true passion.

The king then turned to Alex, “What is your name?”

“Alex, your highness.”

“And where do you come from boy?”

“The United States, sir.”

“A human!” the king roared. He turned to Ralona and screamed, “You want a human to be a prince? He knows nothing of our ways or even of us until you brought this mortal here.”

“You mean you're immortal?” Alex exclaimed.

“Yes human; now silence!” the king ordered.

“Father, I have chosen him and you can't change that. He is already one of us, please father.” He thought about it for a moment and then agreed.

“Then you will have to teach him everything about our world. Prince Alex, excuse me for my rudeness. I am King Jupiter. Now you will be crowned first thing tomorrow, at dawn. Now Ralona, take the Prince to his quarters.” He waved us away and we went to a large room, slightly smaller than the throne room. It was covered in a teal green color and it was decorated with many gold and silver shells. There was a small chest on the dresser that was made of gold, turquoise, and jade. It had a small key hole in it and it shimmered in the light of the sun that shined through the window.

“This was Prince Ertos' room, my brother. There's his bed, closet, dresser, nightstands, and his golden treasure box. He had the key with him when he died so no one can open it. It is enchanted and only the key opens it.” A small tear appeared in her eye at the thought of her brother. I swam over to her and surprised her with an embrace that she returned.

“It's okay...everything will be okay.” I whispered into her ear. She squeezed me a little tighter and she left the room, crying. I closed the door and looked around. The room was enormous and it was very bright from the sun. I opened the closet and inside hung several garments. One was a white silk and had gold embedded into it. Another was emerald green with black diagonal stripes going down it. And then, there was one that was wavy and cream color that had gold all over it and red rubies embedded into it

as well. The cuffs were embedded with a fancy gold pattern and down the middle of it as well. I pulled it out and put the beautiful shirt on. It was very comfortable and it fit just right. I buttoned the six buttons and looked at my reflection in the mirror. It looked great and went with my blue fins. The other thing I noticed and realized about the other shirts was that there was a perfect hole in the back of the shirt where my dorsal fin fitted through. It fed it through and I thought to myself, *I can't believe this is happening. I am a merboy that is going to be crowned prince and I am going to be king of Atlantis. But the best of all...I'm going to marry a beautiful girl.* I put the shirt back and checked out the dresser doors. There were other less casual pieces of clothing in there so I slipped on a light blue t-shirt. It had the crest of Atlantis where a left pocket would be in gold and the back of it had the symbol of a dolphin. I lie down on the bed on my stomach and fell asleep.

I dreamt that I was swimming and swimming away from a monstrous shark that had blood stained teeth and three jaws. It finally caught up to me and right before its lower jaw snapped down on my fin, I woke up...

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Chapter II

“Ahh!” I screamed as I woke. That nightmare had scared me badly and my fears of the deep oceans were coming back. When I played his video games and I had to go into the water, I always feared that I was going to be eaten by a shark some sea-monster.

I then realized that it was just a dream, but not my mer-ness. I was still a merboy and would remain that way. I got up and swam out of my room. I entered the Great Hall that was similar to the throne room except much bigger and more guest appealing. I turned left and I got to a hallway of rooms. I then saw one room with valiant silver doors with pink diamonds in them. I knocked and there was no answer. I started to open the door when Ralona came around the corner.

“There you are...I've been looking for you. It's time for your first lesson. And I see you found my brother's wardrobe.” She smiled and led me to the courtyard. “Okay, first, you need to know the history and other stuff about the water-world.” She pulled up two chairs and we took their seats. “There are four kingdoms of the seas. There is one located in each ocean. In the Atlantic, there is Atlantis, home of the whales. In the Pacific, there is Artatis, home of the great white sharks. In the Indian, there is Altor, home of the hammer head sharks. And in the Arctic, there is Alura, home of the dolphins.”

“Wait a minute, why are they home to a specific animal?” Alex questioned.

“Because each kingdom's people can turn into that animal. It was a gift from Oceanus and he created the four kingdoms. Now, I don't know what you are since you were turned, not born. But we'll find out in a minute won't we?” She smiled at him and he looked at her, puzzled.

“Now, you're going to think about the Greek Titan Oceanus and his appearance. He has blue scale, humanoid-like, a thin two-piece black mustache, dragon-like ears, a goatee, and sharp fins for hair. Once you create that picture in your head, you will begin to morph into your designated animal.”

I thought of the image and realized it was the image of the Age of Mythology version of Oceanus. I created the picture in my head and I noticed a tingly-ness in my webbed hands. I opened my eyes and I looked down at my hands. They were melding together smoothly and my arms were shortening. I was losing my scales and my fins became as thick as the root. My tail shortened a tad and I became shorter. I thickened and I became slick and grey. All of my human features disappeared as my head shaped into a dolphin's. I was a dolphin! First a merboy and now a dolphin. This couldn't get any weirder. I cackled away and did a few underwater tricks.

“You're a natural Alex...though; you're not what I hoped you'd be. I was hoping you were a whale but that's okay. When a baby is born it takes only one animal, not cross them. To turn back, imagine yourself again.”

I formed myself in my head and I reverted, scales and all. "That was so cool. And what did you mean by baby?" I looked at her, hoping she wouldn't say what I think she was going to say.

"Well silly, we are going to have to have a baby...after daddy dies you'll become king and we need a prince or princess, simple as that." She smiled and she went on with the history and the geography of the underwaters.

An hour later, I was alone again in my room, reading a book about the creation of Atlantis and Oceanus. He was their only god, they did not believe in the Hebrew God or any of the other Greek titans. They believed in only Oceanus. Now, I was not about to convert to the Atlantean religion nor was I going to stop believing in God. I would remain a Lutheran and still believe in Jesus Christ. The only problem was I didn't have a bible or any place to go to church. I would just have to make a small shrine in my room and stick with that.

Their "bible" was very interesting. It told of the creation of the planet and how those who were underwater were the divine and those who were amongst the land were cursed. Oceanus was also the controller of the planet and its weather. He also made the first two mermen out of his own image. There were many parables and hymns in the book in the Atlantean language. They called their language *Keavotos* which they had all of their sermons in. Religion was a really big factor for the Atlanteans and everyone attended service on the eight day of every week. Their weeks were made up of nine days and seven months. They had no prophets or super divine people in their bible, only a hero in their only epic. His name was *Anstiss*, which was Greek for resurrected. He embarked on a journey to free Atlantis from the power of the Artisians which was under the rule of King Deraalloth, a great white shark.

I put the book down and read up on another book I found. It was on the three other kingdoms.

The next day I found myself in an unknown place in the palace. It was a room with blood-stained walls and some ancient paintings of past battles. There were also primeval weapons and guards (helmets, chest plates, etc.). Under each of the paintings were captions and it told of many bloody battles and other gory scenes. He read them all and studied each of the pictures, seeing if I could figure out any of their hidden meanings. I interpreted one of them until a servant entered the room. He shooed me away and I tried to make my way to the gates of the palace but it seemed as if I was lost. I ended up making my way to the grand dining room which was full of silver dishes and platters. The normal meals consisted of every kind of seafood you can think of. And what's worse is seafood is my least favorite food.

Over the next few days Ralona taught me many more things about her world. After a month had gone by, I had learned everything I needed to know about the underwaters. And after that month, I noticed some things about myself that were different. My lower triceps had turned into a light light blue color. Also, he skin had become scales. Two small fins had grown from my elbows and my ears were now different. My ears had become a light blue as well and they had grown back and had become fin like. They were dragon-like in a way as well. I knew that I was becoming a real merboy like everyone else; it was just taking some time.