

The Dragonfly Girl

By Talia Rose Newman

“Once upon a time, in a land far far away, there lived a dragonfly princess,” I began, as my siblings, Ezekiel, Joel, and Rose, settled down on the gritty sand of the Cape Charles beach, eager for another one of my imaginative stories.

“Her body shown a beautiful blue-green and her wings were iridescent. Her name was Guinevere, and she was the most powerful being in the land, even though she was just a small dragonfly, for the dragonfly was a symbol of imagination in that land. Whenever anyone saw a dragonfly, it sparked an idea.”

In my mind, I’d left the beach and become the dragonfly princess in her white marble palace. It was as if she was telling the story, not me.

“The land the princess ruled was full of different creatures, like the Zorze, loyal protectors of the crown; the mysterious shapeshifter clans; and people like the princess Guinevere, who could read people as if they were a book.

“The land prospered from the abundance of imagination. Everyone loved Guinevere. Everyone except one: a girl named Octavia. Octavia, as the name suggests, was the youngest of eight children and frequently ignored.”

Just like me, a voice inside whispered. I could tell my three siblings any number of stories and they would still take me for granted. Most days the mom responsibilities fell to me anyway. Mom was sick more and more often these days. I was the one the twins and Rose looked to for guidance. And love.

“Octavia and the princes had been friends once,” I continued, “before Guinevere’s duties increased, and Octavia felt betrayed, but she waited patiently for the right moment to get revenge.”

“Stop, Nehama,” pleaded Joel. His face had gone pale, as had his twin’s Ezekiel’s

“Nehama, you’re scaring me,” cried Rose.

But I seemed unable to stop. The story flowed out of me.

“Octavia set out to kill Guinevere, and she had her revenge. The crow became hers. And such is the tale of the forgotten Dragonfly Girl.”

The story stopped, and I came out of the spell.