

Bride of the Water God

By : Aislinnia

When Merlin's impoverished, desperate village decides to sacrifice him to the Water God Arthur to end a long drought, they believe that drowning one beautiful boy will save their entire community and bring much-needed rain. Only, Merlin is surprised when he's to be rescued by the Water God instead.



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Bride of the Water God

Merlin/BOTWG crossover

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CHAPTER ONE

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"I'm sorry honey, I'm so sorry." That was the sad sound of Hunith Emrys' voice. That day, which was just as gloomy as a funeral, was Merlin's wedding day.

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"Hey kid, the matchmaker gave you two red strings, which means you'll love two people in the future." Suddenly Merlin's mother abruptly grabbed her child's hand and brought him back to their home. "Merlin! Come here! How many times have I told you not to wander off alone? You could have been taken!" And all the while the little boy just looked at her, eyes blank and wondered Who said that?

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He sat on a wooden plank and that was being carried by several of the strongest villagers. Sad music played as he was carried through town. The plank wasn't comfortable but his delicate robes cushioned his behind. Villagers came out of their homes to bow in honor at Merlin's presence and Merlin immediately felt depressed. "So, he's the bride of the Water God?" Merlin stiffened visibly at the people's gossip.

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"That's the child who received the divine revelation."

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"Poor thing, he's so young."

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The voice became louder and louder as Merlin leaned to the side a bit.

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"There's nothing we can do. It's been dry for years now. The well has been dry for a while too." Besides the farming problems there's only a little bit of water left for us to drink."

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"Someone needs to be sacrificed on our behalf."

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Merlin wanted to yell and scream and shout and tell them all they were wrong. That they shouldn't speak behind his back, that they should be thankful he was about to die for them. But instead he continued to look forward, to look elegant, to look regal and heavenly, to look...

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Beautiful.

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The waters were calm, the sunlight glistened on the surface. Off in the distance small islands could be seen. Birds flew over and chirped in an enthusiastic manor whilst dragon flies hovered over the vast ocean waters taunting the fish beneath them.

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Over all it seemed like a good day to die.

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The villagers followed Merlin to the shoreline as they said their goodbyes and expressed their sympathy to him. "Please don't hate us. We didn't want this to happen either..." An old woman carry cloths said.

"But Merlin - I'm glad you're going"

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A couple of people nodded their heads. "We're very thankful to you. We can now all live because of you." Merlin only shut his eyes tight and breathed in a steady pattern. It's a lie...

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They all really wanted him gone, he knew it. He was useless and a waste to the village, many of the village kids had told him he was no good and shouldn't be there. Mother's didn't let their children play with him, no one liked Merlin and although each and everyday his mother would comfort him in bed and tell him the he is worth something and that one day he'd change everything...in a good kind of sense.

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But he didn't want to go. No, he wanted to stay with his mother and his younger sister Freya. He wanted to sneak out at dawn and put his feet in the shallow murky streams that passed through the land.

He didn't want to die, not yet, and it wasn't till his mother squeezed him in a giant bear hug that he realized he was crying.

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He clung onto her battered clothes sweaty, sad, and desperate before a couple of people separated them and sent Merlin away in the boat as quickly as possible.

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The boat slowly drifted onwards into the great waters for several hours. Raising his head towards the sun Merlin took in a deep breath of air. He was still crying but only from the amount of wind stinging his eyes. I don't care what happens to my village...He thought, But -

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Suddenly the calm waters shook furiously dumping Merlin into the depths of the ocean. Waves the size of mountains clashed with Merlin and he was carried father away from the boat and any land. He struggled to stay above the surface kicking furiously with fear, it wasn't until the next wave hit him that Merlin was finally pushed under. He felt his lungs fill with the salty liquid and slowly his mind turned blank. But not before thinking, Please Water God...Please!

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And he blacked out.

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The sound of familiar gulls echoed through Merlin's mind and he woke up with a jolt. Amazingly he was fine, although a bit of water came up. He sat up and checked his surroundings. "...sand?" It was indeed sand beneath him and it was really hot! Merlin winced at the unsuspected heat, so yea...he was on a beach then, and he was alive.

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I'm alive...

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Merlin grinned so wide his face looked pained.

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He stood abruptly and shuddered at the cold air that hit his body full blast. Then Merlin looked down to only find that all of his robes except one were all gone. Merlin felt his cheeks heat at the sudden realization although no one was watching.

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Right?

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Chapter 2

"This place," Merlin started, continuing to stare at the new world in awe. "...is the Water Kingdom...?" His breath hitched as his mind became blank.

He...couldn't be here, could he? Not in the Water Kingdom, not when he was suppose to die. And yet...he was comforted by the thought of being brought to the water kingdom. As Merlin became accustomed to the bright sun, an enormous fish came out of nowhere and blocked his view.

"What the -" He began, only to stop when the world around him became clearer.

Golden fish the size of wagons and much bigger glided through the summer air with ease, as if they've been up there all their lives. Crimson red, and cornflower blue shone brightly across the sky, Merlin's eyes darted back and forth, taking in as much as he could. From the moss green of nearby forest, to the gray of simple concrete which dazzled beneath the vast atmosphere.

"Ahem." Startled by the sudden noise, Merlin snapped out of his trance. He turned around and saw an old man wearing the most elegant of robes, and felt a bit ashamed of his current wardrobe. His wrinkles told a story of his age and he glowed with an aura of wisdom so intense, it could bring sudden intelligence in even the stupidest of people. With his frost colored hair held back as a bun, and his garments flowing in the wind the man started to speak while gazing at Merlin.

"Welcome, I am in charge of the palace. My name is Gaius." Gaius spoke with serene words.

"Please follow me, I'll guide you to the Water God." And Merlin followed.

Lilac petals coasted with the breeze as Merlin panted heavily. The stairs leading to the palace were...enormous. The distance between the palace and beach was already to much fro him to handle, and now stairs! He certainly hoped that his physical pain would all be worth it in the end.

He closed his eyes in pain and continued up the stairs only to run into soft fabric and the smell of honeysuckle. Taking a minute to breathe, he looked up at Gaius. Although his mouth hadn't twitched his eyes were definitely smiling and Merlin just had to scowl.

"Please stay here." The old man said, and with a quick bow he left.

Merlin nodded and watched the man's retreating figure. His sorrow came back immediately. *Am I really alive?* It seemed he was, he could touch and smell and most likely taste. But the doubt still stung his throat, he really didn't want to be here.

What's going to happen now?

Chapter 3

The sounds of a rubber ball could be heard in the distance. *Thump thump thump* A golden ball stopped at the point of Merlin's feet. Picking up the ball he looked up to see a boy, no older than eight staring at him. His cheeks were tan, his hair blond. On top of his golden head lay an obsidian...whatever it was, it looked like a dam, emerald leaves adorned the side though and the child's robes were blood red. He looked like a royal.

A kid in the palace?

He crouched down with the ball in his hands and handed it back to the boy. He smiled at the child, who still just stared. Merlin became a bit nervous, maybe the Water people didn't speak his language? But Gaius was able to, and Merlin understood him perfectly. "Hello little boy. Do you live here?" A small gust of wind swept across his face as the boy passed right by him, leaving Merlin's mouth hanging a bit open. "W- was I just ignored?"

"Oh...I'm lost." Merlin said as he bit the sleeve of his robe and he continued down a red bridge to an area which looked like a garden. Sun shone on perfect green grass, to the right orchids blossomed, lilies the size of a small child shot from the ground swaying in the wind, moving gracefully. He squatted on the side of bridge, near a marble column, and sighed. It's been a long day and Merlin was already beyond exhausted. He looked up to see a pond in the middle of the garden, swans dancing along the ripples created upon the surface and a man hiding beneath the sun. Covering his mouth to make sure the handsome stranger didn't hear his shriek of surprise, Merlin's mind started to wander in ten different directions. He wanted to know if that man was his husband, or if once he saw his face, just as the legends went, would he be eaten?

"There you are."

Merlin spun around to see Gaius looking tired. "I'm sorry I moved, I just saw this boy, and then got tired and..." The old man just put up his hand to show he didn't care much and started walking, with Merlin following. They soon reached a tall wooden door the color of onyx with a golden emblem of a dragon in the middle.

"Why a dragon?"

"It represents the temper of our king."

"His temper is one of a dragons?"

Gaius nodded, his eyes dark. "He destroys everything in his path once he's upset or sad. It is best if you don't trouble him often. We might not have a kingdom anymore if you do." He mumbled the last part to himself, not expecting the boy to hear.

"Wh-" Merlin was cut off as the set of doors opened wide. Looking straight ahead Merlin saw a beautiful room filled with velvets and silks, a desk which looked as if it were made of jade and special artifacts hung about the room. In a far corner of the room sat a man with long locks of brown hair and a tan muscular body, his jawline chiseled and strong. The same man that was standing in the pond! He wore dark robes this time and held his hair back, the aura vibrating off of him was intensifying and Merlin found it hard not to cower in fear.

"This Merlin, is General Cenred Ellis." Cenred stood and bowed before sitting back down. *So he's not my husband.* Somehow this relieved and irritated him. Gaius could tell of the boy's impatience and chuckled.

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"And this is-" Curtains were immediately pulled back and Merlin was shocked at what he saw. "Your husband, the Water God." Gaius finished and left the room with Cenred following shortly behind him.

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