

# Solace In Her Dreams

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*Feeling sad and unwanted after the birth of her younger sister, a ten year old Cassandra finds solace only in her dreams; dreams of a magical realm far from her own. Dreams of a Fae...*

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# 1 - Fae of her Dreams

**Disclaimer:** This story is the product of watching *Labyrinth* too many times in one week, as it will say in the story itself. Also, the main character in this is based slightly after myself, but not quite. If you're unsure of what exactly *Labyrinth* is, it's a fantasy movie that came out in 1986 starring David Bowie as the Goblin King and Sarah Connolly as the heroine, Sarah. It's a very intriguing and wonderfully done movie, and I recommend it to all fantasy lovers out there. They haven't made many good fantasy movies since *Labyrinth* came out. But anyways, all characters belong to me, as does the plot.

**Author's Note:** Please do not assume that simply because one of my characters may have the same name and similar looks to a character in the aforementioned movie, that I stole the character from the movie. I did not; I borrowed a name, nothing more. Thank you.

**Summary:** Feeling sad and unwanted after the birth of her younger sister, a ten-year-old Cassandra finds solace only in her dreams; dreams of a magical realm far from her own. Dreams of a Fae companion much older than herself. For the next six years of her life, the dreams give her happiness. But when the dream begins to fade, only then will she discover that what we see in our sleep can become reality.

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## SOLACE IN HER DREAMS

By Amaria

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### Chapter One: The Fae of her Dreams

They were ignoring her again.

Cassandra sat in the center of the large, plushy couch, silent as she watched her parents sadly. The two adults didn't even notice that their oldest child sat there, awaiting the customary Family Movie night that they had engaged in every Friday night since she was four. Her hands held tightly to the copy of *Labyrinth* her parents had taped for her off YTV roughly four months beforehand, waiting for the adults to remember what time it was and turn to her to see what movie she wanted to watch.

The ten year old had become slightly obsessed with the old fantasy movie; the wonderful characters and plot of the story had taken hold of her and refused to let go, despite the lack of CGI effects that movies tended to overdo in the newer films that were released. It had offered her an escape from the lonely existence she lived through every day of her life since her sister's birth in 1998. Cassandra had known that something had changed the day her parents came home from the hospital with her baby sister in their arms, noticing the way they had ignored her in favor of the baby. Even though she was only seven at the time, she's known right away that she'd done *something* wrong. She didn't know *what*, she just knew that something she'd done had caused her parents to change their attitudes towards her.

Cassandra had only recently realized that it was *her* that had caused her parents to change. Where other girls her age were experimenting with makeup and had begun to like boys, Cassandra would often sit by herself at school, her nose stuck in a fantasy book or manga book. Though she was athletic, she didn't go out for any of the sports teams, nor did she join the drama camp like her mother had wanted her to the summer before Caroline was born.

And so, they had begun ignoring her, using the baby as an excuse when the ten year old so obviously craved their affection. They lived far from the rest of their family, so Cassandra was only able to see her grandparents or uncles and aunts once a month, at the most. Her grandparents showered her with love and presents whenever they came to visit, attempting to show her parents the error of their ways by only giving Caroline something if it was her birthday or Christmas.

This had had the opposite effect. John and Leeanna began to limit what they bought Cassandra, ceasing in taking her out for ice cream or trips in the summer, instead leaving her with a baby-sitter while they took Caroline out to have whatever kind of fun it was a three year old could. This hurt the girl; a lot. She began to wonder whether she was worth anything at all.

Sighing, her shoulders slumping slightly when she realized her parents weren't going to stop playing with and cooing over Caroline anytime soon, Cassandra called out in her small voice.

Mommy, Daddy, can we watch a movie now? John and Leeanna turned to look at the blonde haired girl, as though just now noticing that she was there.

Oh, yes, of course sweetie, Leeanna cooed fake-ly, the ten year old not fooled for a second, what movie would you like to watch?

The little girl held the tape out, John striding over and taking it from her, his brow creasing when he read the title.

No, we're not watching this, he said sternly, handing it back to the surprised girl.

But why Daddy? she whimpered slightly, her silver-grey eyes now glistening with unshed tears. Her father didn't even notice.

It's too violent for a three-year-old, he replied, turning back to the video cabinet and pulling out a purple tape case, why don't we watch a Barney movie instead?

Barney, Barney! Caroline giggled from her mother's arms, Leeanna smiling fondly at the brunette.

Yes, that sounds like a good movie, she agreed with her husband, moving to the couch and frowning down at her eldest daughter, Cassandra, could you please move?

But seeing her mother's stern look, the girl slumped completely and shuffled to the very edge of the couch, her mother sitting on the other end with Caroline still held in her arms. John sat down beside his wife, putting an arm around her and the three-year-old while practically suffocating Cassandra against the side of the couch. Wiggling free, she plopped down on the couch and resigned herself to watching Barney, doing her best to ignore the whispering of her parents and the giggling of her sister and trying to keep her focus on the idiotic purple dinosaur dancing across the screen.

At that moment in time, she would've liked nothing better than to have stolen Jeff's sword and run it straight through the stupid purple beast. That was one thing her parents didn't like about her, she mused, the fact that she disliked many things that other kids her age loved, and adored things that they would run from. It wasn't as though she could help it; how was she supposed to change her personality without becoming someone she wasn't?

Well, I need a drink, you guys want anything? John said suddenly, standing.

Just a glass of milk and a bottle for Caroline, sweet heart, Leeanna murmured, bouncing the brunette gently on her lap.

A can of Pepsi please, Daddy, Cassandra said quickly, turning back to the screen when he left the room. He returned moments later, handing the milk and bottle to his wife before settling himself back onto the couch, opening his own can of Pepsi and taking a long sip from it. Cassandra's face fell; he'd forgotten her again.

Tears bursting from her eyes, the girl stumbled to her feet and ran off towards the stairs, headed for her bedroom. The fact that her parents hadn't called after her, hadn't cared, hadn't even *noticed* that she'd gotten up just made the tears flow faster. Slamming her door behind her and diving onto her bed, Cassandra buried her face in her pillow and sobbed, her small shoulders shaking.

*It's not fair!* she cried silently, looking up from the pillow to gaze at the moon outside her window, *why do mommy and daddy hate me so much? All they ever think about anymore is Caroline! They don't even notice me anymore!* sobs slowly turning into sniffles, eventually her crying stopped completely as Cassandra drifted off into sleep, tear stains evident on her cheeks.

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Cassandra looked around in awe, spinning to take in the entire view. Wherever she was, it was beautiful! Flowers she couldn't name bloomed all over the small clearing she currently stood in, trees rising up around her in a circular barrier of sorts. Nearby, a babbling brook emerged from between the trees, running off into a sparkling pond of clear blue water. A waterfall also ran into the pond, its side's running behind the line of trees. There looked to be a cave to the one side, but Cassandra's eyes were drawn back to the pond when colourful fish began to jump up into the air, sparkling in the bright sunshine that filtered through the clearing.

Feeling warm, the girl glanced down and realized she was still wearing her sweater and jeans from when she'd fallen asleep. Realizing that she was most likely dreaming, Cassandra rolled up her jeans and her sleeves, taking her socks off completely to wander through the clearing in bare feet, smiling at the feel of the soft grass on her soles. She moved towards the waterfall, walking around the edge while gazing up at it in awe. She'd never seen a waterfall up close before, and she'd certainly never seen one whose water was so clean and sparkly.

Coming around to the right side of the waterfall, Cassandra stopped, gasping slightly. She hadn't expected there to be anyone else in the dream. Just a few feet away from her, a teenage male, somewhere around eighteen, from what she could tell, sat on what appeared to be a large boulder. His hair, which was shoulder length, messy, and platinum in colour, had blue streaks running throughout it, and a small blue marking beside each eye gave him a mysterious air. His eyes were closed, and he had thin lips and a sharp angled, but handsome, face. His ears were normal size, but rather than being rounded like a human's, they were pointed like those of an elf.

He wore a blue, princely jacket, designs weaving over the material in alluring patterns, and he wore what almost appeared to be leather pants along with black boots. An amulet of sorts hung from around his neck, resting against the buttoned dress shirt he wore beneath the jacket, the symbol reminding Cassandra vaguely of the ankh. She stayed absolutely still, wondering if she should stay there or make a run for it. She prayed that he wouldn't notice her, but, as we all know, things that we do not want to happen, generally do happen.

Almost as though he had sensed her presence, the male's eyes snapped open, un-matched eyes of violet and blue staring at her in surprise and curiosity. Cassandra's breath hitched, the ten year old not able to tear her gaze away from that of the teens, wondering why she suddenly felt as though she was paralyzed. When he smiled, the girl sighed in relief, able to breathe and move again.

Um& hi? she managed, clasping her hands behind her nervously. What was she supposed to say to a teenager? She'd never had to speak to one before, let alone a teenager who dressed as though he were a prince!

Hello, he replied, smirking in amusement, his eyes trailing over the little girl, landing on her ears. He frowned again, you're human.

Cassandra rolled her eyes before she could stop herself, Well, *duh*, of course I'm human, what else would I be? she froze once the words were out of her mouth, remembering that, due to the pointed ears, this guy more than likely was *not* human. To her surprise, he laughed, hopping down off his rock to stride towards her. She took a step back fearfully, the teen noticing this and pausing about two feet from her, bending so that he was eye level with her.

I see that you've noticed I'm not human, he grinned, showing sharp incisors like those of a vampire, I am Fae. Cassandra blinked, nodding slowly, wondering why that word sounded so familiar to her.

This must be a dream, she blurted out, blushing when the teen laughed again.

Yes, you are dreaming, he agreed, humans can only access this glade through their dreams. However, he frowned then, tilting his head as he looked at her with those alluring eyes, only humans

who are either very sad or very lonely or are both can come here. Are you sad or lonely or both, child?

Cassandra blinked again, taking a minute to figure out what he'd asked before looking away from his curious gaze, shoulders slumping visibly, Both&

What's your name? she looked at him again, confused.

What? the teen rolled his eyes, raising an eyebrow at her.

I asked what your name was. I can't keep calling you child now can I? the girl blushed, looking down again.

Cassandra& she replied quietly, the male grinning as though she'd given him a gift.

Cassandra, it's pretty. Mind if I call you Cass? when she shook her head, he grinned wider, And now, since you have given me your name, I shall give you mine. I am called Jareth.

Jareth! her head snapped up immediately, jaw dropping, L-Like from Labyrinth?

Jareth sighed, shaking his head, Jeez, I wish people would stop thinking that. No, I'm not Jareth from the movie Labyrinth; I'm what caused the writer to think of the character, and he stole my name for it because I met him in a dream, but otherwise I have nothing to do with Labyrinth. Cassandra nodded, understanding, but slightly disappointed that he wasn't the character from the movie.

Seeing her look, Jareth was quick to react, But, I *am* a prince. Not of Goblins, but of the Fae realm, which you are in currently. I'm the only one that knows of this glade, however. So we're quite alone. Now, he gave her a serious look, what is it that has caused you to become sad?

Cassandra sighed, looking down when she felt tears start to gather in her eyes once more, My parents&

Ah, one sec, Cassandra squeaked when Jareth suddenly scooped her up, carrying the ten year old back over to the boulder and jumping up onto it, settling into a cross legged position before setting her on his lap, tucking her head under his like a big brother would, now, what about your parents?

They ignore me constantly, she admitted, tears beginning to drip down her cheeks, all they ever think about is my baby sister. It's always Caroline this, Caroline that, never Cassandra& they don't even acknowledge my presence most of the time! I just&

Shh, Jareth whispered, gently turning her to wipe her tears away, letting her cry into his shirt, let it out; you've kept it in for too long, little one, far too long. It's not your fault; it's your parents' fault for not seeing how special you are.

Comforted by his presence, Cassandra soon stopped crying, blinking to clear the last tears from her eyes before looking up at Jareth in apology, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to get your shirt all wet&

It's fine, he dismissed it easily, once more scooping her up and jumping from the boulder, heading

towards the pond. Setting her down, he indicated for her to kneel, doing the same.

Just wait, he told her, motioning towards the water. Turning back to it, Cassandra gasped, wide eyes sparkling.

Mermaids! she gasped in an excited whisper, watching as the two beauties swam over to them, smiling happily and giving her quick hugs.

Such a pretty little girl, one said, stroking the little girl's hair.

You take care of her, Jareth, the second added, sending the teen a wink. Jareth gave a wry smile as they disappeared back into the lake, happy to see Cassandra looking alive once more. Cassandra giggled, exhilarated, until she felt the call of reality tugging on her.

You're waking up, Jareth mused aloud, watching as the little girl's body slowly became transparent. He couldn't explain the strange sadness that welled up inside him as he watched her disappear, but he held it back, smiling for her benefit.

Wait! she cried desperately, not wanting to leave, will you be here again tomorrow night?!

Jareth grinned, nodding, I'll be here whenever you need me,

Smiling again, Cassandra nodded back, waving just before she disappeared completely, leaving Jareth in the clearing by himself.

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The sound of Iko Iko by Aaron Carter blasting from her alarm clock was the first thing Cassandra noticed as she drifted back into consciousness, blinking away the sleepiness in her eyes. Thinking back on her dream, and of Jareth, she giggled, bouncing out of bed and going about her morning rituals in a better mood than she'd been in in a long time.

She finally had something to look forward to in life.

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Holy shoot! O.o I did NOT make this chapter so long on purpose! I swear! 2,839 words& holy crap! I'm sorry! I was just enjoying writing and it kept flowing and and& yah. Anyways, hope you people enjoy! I can tell I'm going to have a lot of fun writing this fic! XD As long as people don't kill me for long chapters& *\*cough\**

Amariahellcat



## 2 - Saint Valentines

**Disclaimer:** Well, no reviews, but oh well. I m having fun writing this, and that s enough for me. Though reviews WOULD be nice& *\*hint hint\** *\*cough\** Anyways, enjoy the chapter!

**Authors Note:** Just to let everyone know, each chapter is a different year until later on in the story. Whereas Cassandra was ten in the last chapter, she is eleven in this chapter and so on and so forth. Enjoy!

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### SOLACE IN HER DREAMS

By Amaria

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#### Chapter Two: Saint Valentines

So one is wise to choose one well, and chocolates to resist. For in the midst of mania, it's nice to have one near, the teacher looked up at her grade six class, smiling at their bored faces, and that was the poem *A Valentine is Nothing Like*, written by Rory Dall O'Caghan. That concludes our look at valentines poetry, and now is time for our valentines party! smiling at the cheers this elicited from her students, Mrs. Morgan moved to the side of the room and flicked on the small radio that sat there.

You may now exchange your cards and enjoy the goodies, the majority of the class rushed from their seats, moving around the room and sticking cards into their friends card baskets . Cassandra watched this from her seat, having already thrown her pile of cards in the garbage on her way into the classroom. She hadn t wanted to give out any cards; it had been her mother whom had insisted that she give one to everybody in the class, once more failing at her attempt to get her daughter to become more social. Couldn t she understand that her daughter was a bookworm and planned on staying like that?

Probably not, the eleven year old mused, rolling silvery grey orbs. She wished that the day would just end; she wanted to go home and see Jareth. Cassandra perked slightly at the thought of her Fae friend. It had been a little over a year since the first dream , but she d continued to have it every night, always different, but always in the same beautiful glade, and always with the company of Jareth. He wore different outfits every night, always very princely. It had made Cassandra feel a bit awkward at first, she wearing only normal pjs, but he had assured her that her attire looked fine.

Cassandra hadn't changed much physically, except for growing about an inch in height. Her hair was slightly darker, and she'd cut it back to her chin, but otherwise she was the same as she had been at ten. She'd gotten her ears pierced while out with her older cousin (her parents had flipped, but she loved having pierced ears), but, once more, the changes were minimal. There was absolutely no change at home; her parents still ignored her in favor of Caroline, but it didn't bother her as much anymore. She had Jareth there for her when she slept, and that made her feel much better.

Glancing at the boy sitting next to her, Cassandra grinned. Jeff had been her good friend since he'd switched schools the year before, and though he was quite hyper and weird when in the company of friends, at school he was as shy as Cass herself. Currently, the brunette sat with a small valentine clutched tightly in his hands, staring down at it anxiously.

You look like you're gonna pass out Jeff, she commented dryly, standing and moving to stand in front of his desk, slamming her hands down on the surface causing him to jump, ready?

No, he gulped, swallowing deeply, no, I'm not. I can't do this Cass. I just can't&

Jeff, her tone turned dark, and he shivered when she glared, you've wanted to do this for months! You've been planning for ages! You *can't* back out now, you chicken.

But&

*Look*, she cut him off, sighing, I'm good at reading people, right? And I've been friends with Jenny for longer than I have been with you, and I can *tell* when she likes someone. And she likes *you*, and you like *her*, so you better not back out of this!

Jeff sighed, his shoulders slumping in defeat, I'm gonna kill you if you're wrong&

Smiling again, Cassandra grabbed her friend by the arm and dragged him towards the teacher, looking up at her innocently.

We need to deliver some valentines to Mr. Shrinkler's class; is that ok Mrs. Morgan? the teacher smiled down at the kids, nodding.

Go ahead.

Thank you! pulling Jeff out the door and down the hall, she ignored his mumbling as they wound their way through the halls and towards Jenny's class, finally reaching the door. The blonde looked back at her friend, raising an eyebrow when she noticed he was sweating, Would you just relax? Jeez&

Turning and releasing his hand, Cassandra knocked on the door, waiting and smiling politely when Mr. Shrinkler opened the door, the sound of partying coming from behind him.

Sorry to disturb you, Mr. Shrinkler, but can Jenny please come outside for a sec? she asked, the teacher nodding and disappearing back into the room. A few seconds later, a petite blonde with blue eyes exited the class, smiling at the sight of her friends.

Hey Cass, hey Jeff, what's up? she greeted, flushing slightly and keeping her gaze away from Jeff. Cassandra grinned.

Jeff has something to give you, she piped, then turned and sprinted off down the hallway, I'll be back!

She skid to a stop around a corner, just within ear shot. Cassandra stood silently, listening to the conversation going on around the corner.

What did you want to give me Jeff?

U-um& well& here& Cassandra heard the stutter in his voice, and the gasp when Jenny took the valentine, I-I like you a lot, Jenny&

A pause.

I I-like you to, Jeff, Cassandra silently jumped for joy, smiling much like a cat. Her job was done.

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I m home! closing the front door behind her, Cassandra hurriedly kicked off her shoes and coat, then headed through the living room.

Casseh! Caroline squealed at the sight of her sibling, tossing a pile of pink and red cards up into the air, look how meneh vaventines cards I gots!

Caroline s so popular, Leeanna cooed, coming into the kitchen and scooping up her daughter, sending a disappointed look Cassandra s way, if only her sister could achieve that as well&

Feeling the usual stab of pain that accompanied her mothers hurtful words, the eleven year old simply turned and headed up the stairs to the sanctuary of her bedroom. She finished her homework quickly, watching Inuyasha when it came on and hurrying downstairs to gulp down her dinner before once more retreating. Cassandra read until roughly nine o clock, then, grinning, she went to bed, drifting off quickly.

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So, what is the point of this& Valentines Day of yours? Jareth questioned the small girl sitting on his lap, absently chewing on a blade of grass. The two were sitting on the boulder where Cassandra had

first spotted Jareth the year before, and had become a favorite place for the two to talk. The girl had filled him in on the happenings of the day, but the Fae prince was still having some difficulty understanding the concept behind the day.

I *told* you already, Jareth, Cassandra sighed, turning to face the prince, it's a day when people gives gifts and candy to the one they like. It generally helps getting relationships going, the Fae nodded, trying to understand everything that the child had just said.

Finally, he asked So& it's like a first step in courting?

Yes! she exclaimed, happy he was finally understanding, that's exactly what it's like!

Finding her smile to be contagious, Jareth grinned down at the little girl, and what of you, little one? Do you have a valentine?

Cassandra blinked, then shook her head, shrugging, Nope.

Jareth frowned slightly, Why not? You're a pretty girl, you'd think some of those boys would be after you,

The blonde blushed slightly, but simply shrugged again, Oh well, doesn't really matter. Most of the guys in my grade are idiots anyways, Jareth laughed at this, Cassandra joining in, her cheeks still flushed slightly.

She sighed when she felt the pulls of reality, wishing she could spend more time with her Fae friend, I'm waking up again,

Aye, I can tell, Jareth commented, watching her once more becoming transparent, I will see you tomorrow night Cassandra,

Night! she replied just before disappearing completely, leaving the Fae smiling wryly to himself. Humans were such strange creatures.

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Weeeee another chapter done, yippee! Hope you all enjoyed!

Amariahellcat