

# Princess Sofia

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*this one is about a princess. but dont just turn away that easily. i am proud of this idea and i hope this story will turn out very well.*

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<b>Chapter 0 - Prologue</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 1 - Sarah</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chapter 2 - The Old Lady</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter 3 - Sofia</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chapter 4 - Another Escape</b>	<b>11</b>

## 0 - Prologue

If there was ever a best time to visit the kingdom of Shade, today would have been the day. This day every year, the whole kingdom came out to celebrate the anniversary of the kingdom's birth. This was the day everyone was at their happiest and showed their best faces for the world to see.

Everywhere you would look, you would see the streets filled with people, and it is a great sight to see. This day especially attracted foreigners because of how great of a day this was. Not to mention, prices were really cheap this time every year in Shade.

When the main celebrations were taken place, the people got to be honored with the presence of their king, queen, and young princess. This was a special attraction, especially to the foreigners. Everyone had always heard about how great the king and queen were to their people. And, of course how cute and adorable little Princess Sofia was. The people of Shade loved their king and queen and could only hope their next rulers would be half as great.

However, the festivities stopped after that year, when something very strange had happened. The royal family were supposed to make their appearance 45 minutes before a soldier went inside the castle to see what was wrong. Most of the soldiers and castle staff had been allowed the day off to celebrate, so very few were inside the castle. But if something was wrong, someone would have normally informed the staff who were celebrating. This was very strange indeed.

When the soldier went inside to investigate, he was inside for about five minutes before he came running out. He whispered something to his captain, who then made an announcement that the festivities were over. Although, he left everyone in the dark about exactly why until later that night, and only because a woman with a little boy had urged him to inform the people what happened to everyone who was in the castle. Her husband, and the father of the little boy, was inside, working as one of the soldiers all day, and she demanded he tell them what was going on.

He gave in and informed the kingdom that the castle was almost completely empty. Almost everyone was gone, except for two people. Those two were the king and queen, and he told them with a sad face that although they were found, they were found dead. Everyone else, including Princess Sofia, were missing. They had absolutely no idea where they had gone, and there was no way of finding out unless one of them turned up.

The little boy, gripping to his mother's hand, started to cry. Although, he wasn't the only one. Most people in the crowd were, at the last, trying to hide their tears.

This day, which was supposed to be so joyful and happy, has now become a dreadful, miserable day.

She was trapped in her new "home," listening to how the people of the kingdom of Shade had taken the

terrible news.

"I wish there was something I could do," she said. "I want to just go up there and get them to not worry so much. That even though their king and queen are dead, I'm still okay."

"You put too much on your own shoulders for someone so young," said Thar. "You shouldn't have to worry about that. And besides, you know you can't. There really is nothing you can do. Whether you go up there or not, its not going to make a difference."

"I know. This is just terrible, though," she responded. "And to think, that man is the cause of this. I always knew there was something wrong with him and he shouldn't be trusted. I just want to strangle him!"

"You have too much anger, too," Thar said. "You should just settle down."

"How can I when this just happened? I'm forced into isolation and the people are so sad. I should be able to do something about it..."

"I wish you could do something as well. I have a family that I should be able to protect. Although my duty as your care-taker comes first."

"I've always trusted you ever since I was just a baby, Thar, and I really appreciate your loyalty. But you really should escape and be with your family."

"I can't. Your safety comes first. My wife and son will be able to take care of themselves."

Tears began to well up in her eyes.

"Don't worry. It'll all be okay some day," said Thar.

"You can't promise that," she said.

"I can tell you that it won't get very much worse, which makes the fact it has to get better."

"Liar..."

"Come on, Miss. You can't stay like this. You don't want him to see weakness in you, do you?"

"My age shows weakness..."

"Please don't be so down. You know I don't like seeing you like this."

"You are so nice, Thar. But, I can't pretend to be something I'm not. Otherwise, I'll be on my way to being like him..." She looked at the ugly ceiling above her, her emotions changing to sudden anger. "I will do something eventually. If nothing else, I will get someone to help us get out of here and to destroy that evil man. I will make sure he receives the same exact respect he gave to my mother and father in the end."

# 1 - Sarah

Krae bounced his ball against the ground while walking in the ally behind his house. It was hard to find a way to entertain himself most of the time. He ended up just playing with his ball in the ally a lot. He knew the ally pretty well because of this. Watch your step when you walk out of the door, look out for glass from next door, don't run into the stacks of boxes or garbage, and don't go near the public street. But he thought something looked a bit weird to him today. It wasn't the ground or any glass, but the boxes looked a bit weird. They were always stacked really neatly, but they looked messy today. So while he was playing outside, he seemed to pay extra attention to the boxes.

At some point while he was outside, he thought he heard a strange sound come from the boxes. So, he looked through them and he saw something. He moved the boxes and saw that there was a girl hiding there. It looked like she was sleeping.

"Hello?" Krae said to see if she was awake.

Her head jerked to look up at him. She looked about his age and she seemed to have not taken a bath in at least two days. She looked like she had recently been crying. All in all, the way she looked made Krae feel bad for her, for whatever happened to her.

Krae smiled. "Hi, there," he said. "My name is Krae. What's yours?"

She seemed surprised that he talked to her. Maybe she hadn't met very many friendly people in her life.

She hesitated a few seconds. "I'm... My name is... S-Sarah," she said.

Krae gave her a really big smile. "Do you want some help?" he asked. "My mom will cook you something to eat. She's a good cook. And we can prepare a bath for you. And my mom can also clean your clothes for you." Krae tended to get excited when he met other kids.

"Um," Sarah said. "I don't know."

"I'm sure hiding in a stack of boxes is so much better than being in a nice cozy house," Krae teased. He reached out a hand to offer to help her up. Sarah brought her hand up slowly until it touched his and he pulled her up.

She was wearing a beat-up blanket over her clothes. Even so, the little bit of clothing Krae could see looked like it would look very nice if it was clean.

Krae led Sarah to his house, holding her hand the whole time, almost as if he was making sure she wouldn't run away or something.

When they walked through the door, Krae yelled, "Mom, I'm back! And I brought a friend with me."

A very pretty woman with long, curly, dark brown hair came into the room. "Hi, sweetie," she said with a smile. "Who's this little cutie?"

"This is Sarah," Krae said. "I was wondering if we could give her something to eat and let her take a bath. She was in the ally sleeping in that stack of boxes."

His mother walked over to Sarah and looked at her. "Krae, can you please go start a hot bath for her? I'll give her something to eat." She turned to Sarah. "You look like you haven't even eaten in days. Poor girl..."

Sarah felt really welcome in Krae's house. His mom, who told her to call her Laura, made sure she was squeaky clean, cleaned her clothes until they were as clean as her, and fed her so much so that she felt she would never be able to eat again. She even offered for her to stay the night there.

"Would you like dinner?" Laura asked Sarah later that evening.

"No, thank you," Sarah said. "I am still completely full from the first meal you gave me."

Laura smiled. "Fair enough. But you will be staying the night, won't you? I don't want you to be sleeping in anyone's trash again."

Sarah let slip a small smile. "Okay."

While Krae and his mother were eating, they were finding out everything about Sarah that they possibly could.

"How old are you?"

"9."

"Where are your parents?"

"Home."

"Why aren't you home?"

"They are unable to take care of me."

"Why?"

"They are in... a really bad state where they can't even take care of themselves."

"Isn't there anyone to take care of them or you?"

"No. They are my only family. And besides, the doctors tell me to do what I can for them and then stay out of the house as much as possible so I don't get what they have."

"You poor thing!" Laura said. She threw her arms around Sarah. "Anything you have to leave the house, you just come straight here, okay? We will take care of you."

## 2 - The Old Lady

Sarah stayed at Krae's house for a few days. Each day, Laura treated her pretty much the same way she was treated the first day. Only, instead of being treated like she was a poor girl found on the street, she was treated more like a daughter with a very loving mother, and like she was a best friend to a brother.

"Come one, Sarah!" Krae called. "We're gonna go to the marketplace today. Don't you wanna come with us?"

Sarah looked up from the most recent book she grabbed from Laura's bookshelf.

"Can't I just stay here and read?" Sarah called back.

Krae came into the room. "Aw, come on," he said. "That's all you've been doing the past few days. Please come with us." He made a sad puppy-dog face.

"That's not fair, Krae!" Sarah said. "It's not fair to pull out the puppy-dog face!"

"Come on!" Krae pulled on Sarah's arm to try to get her to get out of the chair.

"Alright," Sarah said and put the book down.

Krae grabbed her hand and pulled her to the door. "She's coming with us, Mommy!" Krae said to his mom.

Laura smiled and handed Sarah a jacket. "Its a bit cold outside and I don't want you to get sick."

"Okay," Sarah said, putting on the jacket.

When they got to the marketplace, Sarah was kind of happy to see that there were quite a few people outside. Of course, she remembered seeing more people before the incident. People were probably still trying to get over what had happened. She knew she was.

Krae seemed to be a bit too enthusiastic about going shopping. But he was probably just still really excited about getting to hang out with someone his age.

Sarah kind of enjoyed herself as well. She didn't get to actually be around people very much in over a year. And it made her happy to see that people in Shade were getting over what happened.

There was one thing that Sarah found weird about the day, though. There was an old lady who seemed to follow them around everywhere. Sarah was starting to wonder if she was the one thing she hoped she wasn't.

They were sopping for a while and when they wanted to go home, Sarah told them that she had to go home and she couldn't stay with them that night.

"Okay," Laura said. "But promise me that you will come over any time you need anything."

Sarah nodded and then got attacked with a hug from Laura.

"Please come back to play with me soon," Krae said.

"I'll try," Sarah said, smiling.

She walked in the opposite direction from Krae's house, making sure every other step that the "old lady" was still following her and not going after Krae and his mom.

After she thought she was far enough away she stopped, turned her head a little, and said, "What do you want?"

"You know what I want," he said. "You have been a very naughty girl, 'Sarah.' And you are coming back with me. This is the only time I will be nice to you about it."

"On one condition," Sarah replied. "You don't hurt them. And you don't send anyone to hurt them. They have nothing to do with this."

"Fine," he replied. "But, if you ever escape again, don't you ever dare to see them again." He made a tsk sound. "I'm surprised you didn't tell them the truth."

"I didn't want to tell them."

"I think only 'Sofia' doesn't. But I think 'Sarah' is dying to tell them."



### 3 - Sofia

She was literally thrown into her "room," landing in a way that she almost broke her leg. But she had become used to it in the past year.

She struggled to get up, so Thar came over to help her up. "You look really clean and taken care of," he said. "That's a little odd since you had just been away for about a week."

"I met a little boy," she said. "He took me to his house and his mom took care of me. They are very nice and wanted me to come back to visit soon."

"That's sweet," Thar said. "But, Miss Sofia, you probably shouldn't ever do that again. You should stay away from them if you don't want them to get hurt."

"Yeah, I know," Sofia replied. She brought her voice down to a whisper; you never know who's listening. "But next time, if I run into them, I'll make sure I know exactly what to do so they won't get hurt."

Thar looked confused.

"The royal family is able to use magic, aren't we?" Sofia smiled.

"Yes, I know, Miss Sofia," Thar said. "But how do you expect to learn it when you weren't taught?"

"Easy. I spy on him."

"With all due respect, Miss, how will that help you?"

"If you kill someone of royal blood with your bare hands, you are then able to use their magic.' He told me about that the first time I got caught sneaking around. That's why he killed my parents. But I haven't gotten caught in a long time. I figured out one thing by myself. I can turn myself invisible."

As if having to prove to Thar that she wasn't lying, she turned invisible.

"See?" she said. "Easy." She reappeared, smiling.

"Just promise me you'll be very careful," Thar said. "The last thing I want to happen is for you to get hurt."

"I always am!" Sofia smiled, turned invisible again, and went out the door, past the guards, and down the hall.

He was almost always practicing magic. He still hadn't gotten tired of it, although it had been over a year since he had become able to use it.

When she got to his room, sure enough, he was playing around with his magic.

She watched him carefully, but he just kept using the same spells over again. Ones that would be of no use to her. Figures. He's so destructive, he only practiced magic that could be used to kill people. She didn't really expect any less.

Sofia watched him for over a week, but still nothing useful was practiced. She was starting to give up.

Instead, she decided to do some exploring around. She snuck around a lot, but she had never actually really explored around this place she hated so much.

She figured there wasn't really anything interesting. You wouldn't think so either if you were there, a place that's underground, damp, dark, and smells a lot like mildew.

But when she actually took a look around, she found quite a few interesting things. There was a room full of things he stole from the castle, a lot of it actually being Sofia's toys and favorite belongings. She couldn't help but think he was a creep because of it.

There was also a huge library. Sofia absolutely adored books. Once she found this library, she found herself coming to it often. And, after looking around a bit, she also realized that the books were either books from the castle or books that absolutely had to have been his (There was no other person in the world who was as demented as him to have those books).

The majority of the books were dusty and seemed to not have been used in a long time. Although, there was one shelf that was hardly dusty, and it held a few books that weren't dusty at all. They were books Sofia had seen her father reading a lot. And when she looked closer, she saw the royal family's seal on it. Immediately, she knew these were the books she needed to go back to Krae's house without getting them into any harm.

## 4 - Another Escape

Because of the wonderful ability Sofia inherited from her parents, it was very easy to escape. All she had to do was make herself invisible, make sure not to run into any guards, and go out the only spot that wasn't underground. No matter how many guards he used, she was still always able to get out okay, especially since her knowledge of spells was pretty wide.

When she got to the opening, which was blocked off, she performed a spell she recently learned. Even when she was invisible, it's not like she could just walk through solid objects, which was why she preferred to use the spider spell along with invisibility when escaping). Now, she no longer had to make sure no one was watching when she tried to leave this way. She just had to walk right through it. When she reached the outside, she took in a long, deep breath. It felt so nice to smell fresh air instead of the gross combination of mildew, stone, and something else she didn't even want to know. Her lungs had felt as if they couldn't breathe at all while she was there, and it certainly didn't help that the longer she is there the worse it gets.

The scenery outside of her prison was actually very pretty. It was basically like a hidden grove with beautiful flowers. It seemed to always be green, even when it was really cold, and today was one of those days it decided to be really cold.

The kingdom of Shade was very peculiar when it came to the weather. It could be absolutely freezing one day then the hottest it has ever been the next. Most of the plants had gotten used to it, but this grove was different. It seemed to always be full of life. It had even been snowing and Sofia could see snow around the grove, but it seemed to just absorb into the ground without affecting the plants at all.

She was really happy it was so cold out because it gets so stuffy and hot in that place. She felt like she was as free as ever, especially with her knowing she had a refuge.

Even in the dark, she knew the exact way to where the main part of the kingdom was. She had escaped so many times before that, it was literally engraved in her mind.

She practically ran the whole way through the grove and the main market. Krae's house was only a minute or two from there. Sofia was careful to keep her concentration on the invisibility spell the whole time out here as well. She wanted to make sure she wasn't seen while performing the protection spell on Krae's house.

She found the spell very easy to perform, although it's supposed to be a higher level spell. It didn't take very long to finish, either.

As soon as she finished it, she knocked on the door, turning visible again. When she stayed there before, she found out that Krae and Laura stayed awake for at least an hour after it became dark, and it had just started to become dark before she left, so she knew they would answer.

Krae was the one who answered the door. When he saw Sarah standing there, he became really happy

and pulled her into a hug, practically dragging her into the house.

After he let go, he grabbed her hand and pulled her into a room down the hallway, Laura's room. "Sarah's here!" he said.

"Oh, good," Laura said. "How have you been, Sweetie?"

"I've been okay," Sarah said. Even though she had just escaped, she still looked as if she hadn't been taken care of in a day or two. Her outfit was a little dirty from walking through the woods. She was also pretty hungry. He liked to feed her mostly just scraps, what's left over from the meals he eats. And after she had eaten so much at Krae's house before, she had been hungrier than she had ever been in that prison.

Laura came over to Sarah and examined her. She looked at her dirty clothes and hair, and tried to figure out how much she had eaten recently. She sighed. "When was the last time you washed up?" she asked.

"A few days ago," Sarah said. It was true. She hated washing up when she was in that place because the water was always cold. And she felt dirty and grimy even when she did wash up because the water didn't seem clean at all. It was gross.

Laura pushed Sarah into the bathroom and got a bath ready for her while Krae collected some things in the kitchen for Laura to cook for Sarah.

Sarah felt kinda bad when she was here, kind of like she was intruding in their house and taking their food. She knew they were just trying to help her, but she felt kind of bad. But, that was probably because they gave her the hospitality she hasn't received since that day. Of course, Thar was really nice and treated her with care as well, but there was only so much he could do.

She also felt bad leaving Thar. But he reassured her tons of times that he was okay. She had a feeling that he wasn't exactly treated well when she disappeared, though. She could probably change that.

That night, she was trying to go to sleep when Krae slowly and quietly walked into the room. He walked up to the bed and checked to see if she was awake.

"What is it, Krae?" Sarah asked, sitting up.

"I just wanted to check on you," Krae said.

"There's something bugging you," Sarah said. "You look sad."

Krae seemed to become embarrassed. "I was just thinking about my dad."

Sarah looked confused and somewhat interested. "What about your dad? I haven't ever seen him."

"That's because he's not here." Krae's expression became sad  
Sofia looked concerned. "Where is he?"

"We don't know," Krae answered. "Just like how we don't know where the princess is. My dad was a soldier who worked in the castle. His job was to take care of the princess."

Sarah was surprised. "R-really?"

Yeah. He disappeared with everyone else in the castle."

Sarah could do nothing but sit there, wide-eyed. Sarah wanted so much to just tell Krae that she knew his dad, that he was okay. Sarah wanted to tell him who she really was. But Sofia wasn't exactly ready to tell him yet.

Sarah looked sad again. "I-I'm sorry." She reached out and tightly hugged Krae. She could somewhat relate to him. After all, she lost her parents, just like how he lost his father. Although she knew exactly where all of them were, including Krae's father.