

Synopsis
of
ROBYN

It is medieval times and a small but elegant sailing ship is moving through the English Channel beneath the moonlight. In the main cabin, the beautiful Princess Aylon and her perhaps more beautiful eight-year-old daughter, Princess Aylin, sing in their extraordinary lovely voices. Aylon wishes her husband could hear their daughter's singing and Aylin says he hears her in heaven. Aylon looks forward to having her daughter sing at court for her grandfather, King Alek, Aylin hoping his sickness is gone.

A shudder in the ship makes Aylon look out to find a larger ship alongside. Suddenly there are heavy footsteps on the deck then screaming and she hides Aylin in the closet. Lord Throop accompanied by two soldiers comes into the cabin and from his insolence Aylon knows something evil is happening. He tells her King Alek is dead, poisoned by Lord Mordant who will soon be king. Aylon lies in saying Aylin wasn't with her, but Throop sees her night-clothes on the bed and orders a soldier to find her. Aylon fights to keep the soldier away from Aylin in the closet, Aylon's ripped clothing revealing her royal birthmark of a heart on her upper chest. The two princesses are taken on deck where they find a massacre taking place, the dead being thrown in the water. Throop orders the soldiers to kill the princesses as Mordant commanded, and as Aylon tries to reach her daughter, she's killed and thrown in the water, sharks

already gathering. Aylin fights for her life and is staggered by vicious blows to the head but manages to throw herself over the railing to join her mother. The soldier assures Throop that Aylin is dead, thinking to himself that if she's not, she soon will be.

Aylin clings to her mother's body as it sinks beneath the waves, finally forced to let go, a shark menacing her. But then there is an undulating golden wave rising from her mother's body, and when it reaches Aylin she hears her mother singing in an unknown tongue. Aylin sings along with her and is in danger of drowning when the shark gently pushes her to the surface where she finds her world glowing golden. A dolphin comes to her, surrounded by other fish, and Aylin clings to the dolphin that sets off with the other fish, moving slowly so Aylin can hold on, the golden glow fading into the darkness.

A scavenger finds Aylin unconscious on the shore, caked blood on her head from her wound, her ripped clothing revealing she, too, bears the royal birthmark. When Aylin suddenly awakens, she doesn't know who she is or where she is, and when the scavenger begins to paw at her to find money, she runs frightened to the woods.

A hungry wolf approaches Aylin as she sleep in the woods. Aylin is dreaming of singing in the unknown tongue with her mother, and begins to sing softly in her sleep. The wolf immediately stops and watches her. Aylin awakens and continues to sing, her world glowing golden. She can communicate with the wolf through her thoughts and she tells it "I don't know where I am or who I am. I'm lost and hungry. Please

help me.” The wolf howls and a pack of wolves appear and come to Aylin, nuzzling against her and then leading her into the woods.

Aylin is five years older, thirteen, and is again being watched as she sleeps, this time by two poachers who are afraid she is the fabled sorceress of the woods. Though fearful of her reputed evil magic, they spring on her, gagging her so she can't work her spells through her singing, and bind her to carry her from the forest.

Two teenage children, Beth and Jack, are in the vegetable garden of the Menkwood Orphanage on the edge of the forest. They confront the poachers coming by with the bound girl, and when Beth pulls the gag from Aylin's mouth, the poachers run, yelling “witchcraft!” Jack jokes that she must be the sorceress of the woods, Aylin saying she wishes it were true as it would have made things easier, not about to reveal her secret.

Aylin's ankle has been twisted in the poacher's attack and she can't walk, Beth and Jack saying she must come to the orphanage until her family can come for her. Aylin, who's been alone in the woods for five years, suddenly feels the weight of her loneliness and confesses that she has no memory of who she is or where she's from. Beth and Jack help her to the orphanage where she meets the other older orphans, two girls and three boys, along with Friar Furst who runs the orphanage. Furst hears her story and tells her she'll stay there until her family can be located, asking she pick a name. Aylin sees a bird on the windowsill and asks what it might be called, being told a robin, and she takes it as her name, Furst finding she doesn't remember how to spell, explaining it will be spelled 'Robyn' and she has much schooling to make up.

Eight months pass, and one day Jack, who thinks it a secret how much he likes Aylin though it's obvious to Beth, is showing Aylin how to shoot with his homemade bow and arrow. When a rabbit appears, Jack sets to shoot it and Aylin softly sings and warns the rabbit to flee. Only she can see the golden glow her singing creates. Aylin has such a lovely voice that Beth says they should all form a choir, the other girls singing well, Jack joining in not so good but loud.

At the Tower of London, an excited crowd watches the execution of Lord Brantwell of Fens and Menkwood, his lands given to Lord Throop by King Mordant. Throop is to show himself at the castle near Menkwood then travel to the lands of the northern barons and get them to pay their exorbitant taxes.

The choir of the children sing in the orphanage, everyone enchanted by Aylin's voice. Furst tells the children about Lord Brantwell's execution and Lord Throop taking their lands, saying things not having gone well since King Alek died. The names Throop and King Alek echo in Aylin's mind though she still can't remember her past. Furst tells them the mayor has asked that they sing at the banquet being held for Throop.

At the castle, Throop and his aide Emdar appear bored as they listen to the choir entertain everyone until Aylin sings her solo in her wondrous voice. Immediately, Throop is on edge and abruptly ends the entertainment and clears the castle, telling Emdar to bring the singing maiden to his quarters. Emdar doesn't like the implications of Throop being alone with the young girl, Aylin now fourteen, but does as he's told.

In his quarters, Throop makes Aylin tell him her story and he remarks that he's heard such singing only once before, long ago at court, asking Aylin if the name Princess Aylon means anything to her. Aylin is shocked to hear the name, seeing more clearly than ever the vision of singing with her mother on the ship though she still doesn't know what it means. Throop tells her to disrobe and Aylin is mortified. Throop attacks her and rips the top of her clothing to reveal the royal birthmark, Throop stunned and saying, "My life is forfeit." He then tries to kill Aylin by choking her and she knocks him unconscious and escapes out the window using a rope of covers.

She runs to the orphanage to gather her things and flee to the woods, knowing Throop will be coming for her quickly. The other children won't let her go by herself, Jack reciting the phrase that will be their pledge, "One for all, and all for one," and they all flee into the forest.

Throop, Emdar and the troops arrive at the orphanage to find their quarry gone, Throop leaving Emdar to get their descriptions while he sets off in pursuit.

The children walk through the woods away from the road into the darkness.

Throop returns empty-handed to the castle and tells Emdar he must follow the king's orders to visit the northern barons and warn them they must pay their onerous taxes. Meanwhile, Emdar is to find the children and kill them, tell no one and bring the body of the girl named Robyn to the castle, saying this time he must see her body. Emdar is disgusted at the order and wonders what Throop means by "this time" he must see her body, but he has to obey Throop's orders.

When the children are asleep in the forest the first evening, Beth sees Aylin slipping away on her own and follows her, watching in astonishment as Aylin sings in the unknown tongue and the animals gather. She can't hear Aylin asking the animals to help them in their plight, but she realizes that Aylin truly is the sorceress of the woods. She pretends to be asleep as Aylin creeps back into her bed, Beth saying to herself, "I know your heart, Robyn. Your magic must be good."

Throop and his many troops are at Castle Carn, home to Lord and Lady MacSanvale, outside the village of Lizvale in the northern lands. Throop berates Lord MacSanvale, Lord MacAntisoir, Lord Cruchan and Lord Easton about being behind on their taxes, warning them King Mordant must have them or they'll end like Lord Brantwell.

Aylin is leading the others to a camp she knows by a pond with a waterfall, the same place she was captured by the poachers eight months earlier. One of the boys mentions shooting an animal for food, and Aylin stops and tells them they cannot harm any of the animals. The others, except Beth, are flabbergasted, but Aylin insists and they all go along.

Emdar is unhappily searching the woods with his troops and doesn't notice a wolf watching as they pass.

The children are setting up camp. Suddenly a wolf appears above the waterfall and Aylin sings softly. The wolf tells her armed men approach. Aylin claims to the others that she can hear the troops approaching and has them clear away any trace of their being there then leads everyone to a hiding place behind the waterfall. Emdar

and his troops arrive and begin to set up camp, one soldier heading for the waterfall to clean himself. Aylin softly sings again and water-snakes scare the soldier from the pond and then they all are attacked by ants. Emdar, disgusted with chasing children through the forest, breaks camp to return to the castle. The children emerge and when Aylin is asked why she endangered them by singing, she claims she was just scared, noticing that Beth seems to know something.

Emdar is brought into a room in the palace of King Mordant in London and Mordant questions him about why he's not with Throop. Emdar tries to hide the orders Throop gave him, but finally admits to the king what he was doing. The king suspects why Throop tried secretly to kill this young girl after hearing her sing, knowing that Princess Aylon had an extraordinary singing voice. Emdar is placed under arrest and taken away.

At a new camp in the woods, two of the children are entertaining the others with a home-made Punch-and-Judy show and Beth suggests they could make money by putting on the show in villages along with their singing as a choir and Aylin's beautiful solo singing. Aylin is worried that they're still be pursued in the woods and they decide to try it, going for help to the only person who's ever cared for them, Friar Furst, who agrees to help.

Throop is dragged before King Mordant who quickly gets him to admit he failed in his original mission to murder Princess Aylin. Mordant is unforgiving that he tried to hide the truth and has him dragged out then tasks the Viking Vingaron to take a small group of men and find the still living princess and bring her alive to him.

The children, using new names, are in rolling country with a wagon pulled by a small horse, Furst having helped them.

Vingaron arrives at the orphanage to talk with Furst pretending the king wants to help the children after Throop's crimes. Furst suspects he's lying and claims to know nothing and Vingaron leaves with the pillows from the children's bed for his bloodhounds to get their scent.

The children put on their show in the village of Lizvale and collect a lot of money from the audience, Aylin's voice thrilling them.

Vingaron and his men search the woods fruitlessly.

The children are having a meal in the inn with their new-found wealth, and Aylin has memories of her earlier life, but they are still frustratingly vague.

Vingaron abandons searching the woods, convinced the children have left.

The children's show is going over well in Lizvale, the children thinking about making it their headquarters for a time.

Vingaron stops in another village to enquire about the children, getting no information and setting off again.

The children have so much money they're buying new clothes. Their show attracts Lady MacSanvale who invites them to the castle the next evening to present their show to Lord MacSanvale. The children are excited, but after Lady MacSanvale leaves in her carriage, Vingaron and his men appear, Vingaron pleased that finding the children proved so easy. With the crowd still around the children, he tells his men they'll take them that night so as to not arouse the people.

In her bed in the inn, Aylin is having a dream of the attack in the cabin of the ship when she awakens to find one of Vingaron's men over her. He clamps a hand over her mouth and carries her out, other soldiers bringing the other girls. They find the boys cowering inside the caged wagon of the bloodhounds, Vingaron warning them that he'll slice off the head of anyone who makes a sound. The girls are put in the wagon and they all set off. Beth gestures to Aylin to sing, Aylin now knowing that Beth knows her secret powers, but warns her silently to say or do nothing yet.

That night, they make camp in a thick woods, and when the troops are asleep, Aylin summons the help of the animals, a squirrel pulling the key to the padlock from the dog handler's pocket, Aylin instructing the bloodhounds to lead the men the wrong way in the morning when they awaken. The other children now know of her powers and are thrilled. Aylin opens the padlock and they all escape into the woods. Flailing in the thick foliage, Aylin summons the fireflies to light their way.

At the break of day, the children are in the woods looking at Lizvale. They're scared to show themselves, but all their belongings are there. They think Vingaron and his men will still be following the dogs the wrong way and they head for the village to grab their things and get away. As they reach the streets, however, Vingaron and his men appear on their horses and surround them. The tracker Vingaron is using realized there was no trail of anyone going the way the dogs were leading them and found the trail the other way, Vingaron curious what scent they left to lead the dogs in the opposite direction but getting no answer.

One of the boys pulls a soldier from his horse and takes his sword, uselessly as he will be cut down. Aylin grabs the sword from him and puts it to her throat, telling Vingaron it is she that he wants and if he doesn't let the others go, she'll kill herself. Vingaron is impressed with her courage and lets the others depart. Aylin returns the sword to the soldier and Vingaron pulls her up into his saddle and they gallop away, the children watching them go. They know Aylin's powers and believe she'll escape again, deciding to seek help from Lady MacSanvale at the castle.

As they ride on the road through woods, Vingaron asks Aylin if she knows why this is happening to her and Aylin tells him of the lies Throop told about her assaulting him and stealing from him. Vingaron, who knows the truth about her being Princess Aylin, tells her he admires her, saying to himself, "Perhaps you should be queen." Aylin wonders at that statement, but Vingaron tells her he must hold his tongue to keep his head. She thanks him for letting the others go and Vingaron tells her he doesn't kill children and won't kill her, adding "But I cannot speak for others."

Aylin begins singing softly and tells the horses she needs their help to escape and they must throw the men riding them and race away, telling Vingaron's horse she will ride him to safety. Vingaron asks that she stop singing so he can hear anything that must be heard. Aylon gives the animals the command, and the horses rear and spin and dump their riders then run off. Aylin holds on to Vingaron's horse who acts more gently not to throw her, Aylin pushing Vingaron to get him off then racing away while the horse-less troops stare helplessly after her.

At Castle Carn, Lord and Lady MacSanvale listen to the story the children are telling them, angry that such illegal acts are brazenly being committed in their lands. As MacSanvale heads to set off in pursuit, Aylin arrives. When MacSanvale asks that she tell him everything that's happened, Aylin, still believing Throop just tried to assault her, tells of fighting for her honor then her life, mentioning Throop's strange reaction when he ripped her robes and saw her birthmark. Lord MacSanvale heard Aylin's mother sing at the court of King Alek years before and he knows of the royal birthmark. When he hears Aylin's story, he asks Aylin to show him her birthmark and when he sees it and she allows him to touch it to make certain it's real, he drops to one knee and pledges his life and lands to Queen Aylin.

Everyone is stunned and, after asking his majesty's leave to rise, he tells them there is no doubt. She bears the royal birthmark proving she is Princess Aylin, daughter of Princess Aylon, granddaughter of King Alek, and the rightful heir to the throne stolen by King Mordant. Aylin suddenly remembers her past, her mother and all that happened, saying that her mother wasn't lost at sea as everyone was told – she was murdered along with her grandfather who was poisoned by Mordant, and they tried to murder her as well.

MacSanvale vows they will return her to the throne or perish in the fight, Aylin saying she wouldn't have them do this. MacSanvale responds, "Forgive me, your majesty, but for justice to prevail in the world, those who value it must sometimes fight for it. And this is one of those times."

Mordant's many troops face the northern baron's weaker forces, Mordant's forces lined up in the meadow with woods on three sides. Through the woods to one side come the children, all except Aylin carrying swords. When they can see Mordant's forces, Aylin begins singing, commanding the animals what to do. Mordant, wearing a splendid jeweled crown, and his mounted troops are thrown from their horses that race away into the woods. Mordant's men are then attacked by the animals of the ground and soil and air. Foxes, wolves and bears move out of the woods between the lines and in front of the woods where the children are, Aylin warning them to stay far enough away to come to no harm, wishing harm to no one, only that the forces of evil be harassed and driven from the field of battle. As Mordant's troops swat at bees and mosquitoes and ants, snakes menacing them, eagles and hawks and other birds swirling about their heads, they lose all thought of fight and run for cover in the trees.

The northern barons and their troops are stunned by what they're seeing, Lord Easton wondering if Mordant's troops carry some scent that is driving the animals mad, Lord MacAntisoir saying there are things in this world we cannot know.

MacSanvale believes god wanted this young woman to reign, and it will be good.

Aylin sees Mordant, holding his jeweled crown on his head, flee into the trees and asks that wolves and bears cut him off alone and keep him from escaping while risking no harm to themselves. She stops her singing and she and the others happily sneak off through the trees.

MacSanvale and the other barons along with troops move through the woods and come upon a large bear sitting on the back of a crying man, a jeweled crown on his head. The bear ambles off leaving Mordant on the ground sobbing. MacSanvale informs him he's under arrest for the murder of Princess Aylon, the attempted murder of Princess Aylin, and, he suspects, the murder of King Alek which will have to be proven. The crown falls from Mordant's head as he's pulled to his feet.

In Westminster Abbey, Friar Furst officiates with the help of Jack and Beth as the assembled lustily give their approval to the ascension of Queen Aylin. When Furst tries to put Mordant's jeweled crown on Aylin, she declines to wear it, saying it will be disassembled with its wealth used for the people. She then accepts Beth's offer of the simple gold tiara she's wearing for Aylin to take as her crown, the people loving her even more. Aylin says that it's a new time in their realm with new and better ways, and she would like them all to know the love she feels in her heart for them, and the best way she knows to show it is... She sings.

Afterwards, in her rich private quarters, her friends are shown in and left alone with her. They tell her they don't know how they're going to live in such splendor and Aylin tells them they'll just have to make the best of it as she can't do this without them. Jack recites their heartfelt and proven pledge, "One for all, and all for one," and gets a kiss from Aylin for himself before they all embrace.