



Bella
&
the
Magic Carrot

Written by Chris Willow and sons Jasper and Silas © 2009

Once upon a time there lived a young girl who lived with her kind family in a wee small cottage in the woods. Her mother, father and brother were all farmers and she likewise enjoyed growing vegetables in the family garden. This girl was also known far and wide for her cooking skills and helped at the neighboring castle preparing the soup. The Castle was known as the Castle of Many Knights as it was the home the knights of the kingdom far and wide.

Lately the knights had been having a problem. They were having trouble seeing. Now it was quite hard to protect the kingdom from dragons, ogres, trolls, and giants when the knights had a hard time seeing them until they were right upon them! This was the topic of many a conversation at the castle.

One sunny day the young girl named Bella was at the garden with her basket gathering vegetables for the evening's soup. She had potatoes, leeks, beets, and cabbage! Often Bella would notice the forest animals that came to the gardens edge to see if Bella would leave them a treat! Today she noticed a rabbit watching her with strong intention. It was then that she realized how much this rabbit looked like the rabbits that graced the Family Seal on the shields of the Many Knights! He was dark brown with paws as white as snow. Just as she was about to go back to her work the rabbit turned towards the woods and looked back at her with one ear waving at her as if to beckon her to join in his walk. Bella looked once more and again the rabbit beckoned her with his ear! What would you do if a rabbit beckoned you- of course! Bella quickly gathered her empty basket and followed the rabbit.

She followed him through brambles and hedges until they came to a hill right next to a great oak tree. Though she had seen the hill often and remembered rolling down it as a young child, she had never noticed the small round door right next to the tree roots. Quick as can be, the rabbit slipped inside. Bella followed and what she saw made her drop her

basket. In a beautiful round room were piles of gold- golden orange and yellow vegetables with green tops of the likes that she had never seen! At that moment the rabbit bowed to her and spoke. “Bella my name is Indigo. I come from a long line of wise rabbits whose job it is to watch over the castle of Many Knights. I have heard of the problems the knights have been having with their vision. I have something that I would like to share with you. Take these vegetables and put them in your soup- they are called carrots. It will help them see with the vision of the sun.”

With that Indigo and Bella shared a wonderful carrot and she knew that this was no ordinary vegetable, nor was this an ordinary rabbit. She left with her empty basket full of carrots, carrot seeds, and promises of frequent meetings. Bella returned to the castle and made the knights a most delicious soup with the carrots and over the next few weeks their sight indeed improved thanks to the golden vegetables.

Bella and Indigo shared many stories over tea. She often brought him lavender that he loved. He shared the story of his name that was given to him because of a curious purple birthmark on his foot in the shape of a heart. She shared stories with of the castle happenings and tears filled his eyes when he learned that a rabbit was on the family shield honoring his families place and honor. They are friends to this day.

The End!