

Love by Dragon's Mouth

By

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Based on  
celtic mythology

### Logline:

After Caer appears to Aengus one night, he grows increasingly lovesick. He and his family are desperate to reunite them before Aengus's condition significantly worsens and he dies from loneliness.

### Synopsis:

AENGUS YOUNG and his half-brothers BODB DERG, CERMAIT and AED are summoned to their father, DAGDA. Dagda alongside BOANN, Aengus's birth mother, addresses their sons and rewards Aengus's brothers with land to govern over, leaving nothing to Aengus. Aengus protests, but Dagda explains that Aengus does nothing but drink and charm women, rather than helping citizens and defeating enemies as his brothers have done. Aengus's brothers mock Aengus stating that the god of love has no one who truly loves him.

Aengus is furious at them all and storms off while his brothers mockingly blow kisses. Boann motions for BRIGIT, his half-sister, to comfort him. Aengus is bitter and states that he will never be what his father wants him to be and that every woman he encounters only love him for his youth and beauty. Brigit comforts him, but Aengus leaves, stating he will do what he does best.

Before dawn Aengus arrives in his chambers in a drunken daze. He sings to his birds and quickly falls quiet, looking at the pair lovingly. Suddenly an apparition of a beautiful girl appears, startling Aengus. After a brief conversation Aengus hesitantly offers her his hand. She reaches out, but the morning sunlight fills the room and she disappears. Aengus collapses into anguish.

Brigit visits Aengus. She gasps at his pale completion and demands he sees a physician. He argues that he is fine. Brigit is worried and sends a messenger to Boann about his condition. Boann arrives with FERGNE, a respected physician. Aengus is hesitant. Fergne states that Aengus is love sick. Aengus hesitantly tells them about the girl.

Boann pleads Dagda to help Aengus. Dagda argues with Boann, but eventually reveals that he knows of the girl Aengus had seen and that she is Caer, daughter of Ethal Anbuil. Dagda goes on to say that Ethal Anbuil, king of Sid, is too powerful to fight and too stubborn to listen. Boann convinces Dagda to try and help Aengus.

Dagda takes Aengus to a lake near Sid. Dagda warns Aengus that Caer is there, but they can't have any interaction with her in order not to anger Ethal Anbuil. There are many girls wearing silver necklaces. Caer is there and Dagda is forced to lead Aengus away. Aengus becomes weak and Dagda struggles to comfort him.

Dagda visits King Ailill and Queen Maeve and hesitantly asks for them to help get Caer. He tells them that Aengus has fallen in love with her. Ailill and Maeve explain that they would have to go to war to get Caer. A messenger is sent to Ethal Anbuail. The messenger returns and quotes that Ethal Anbuail will not give his daughter to the son of Dagda.

Ailill and Dagda brought their armies and destroyed Sid. Ethal Anbuail reveals that he can't give Caer to Aengus because she is currently in the form of a swan and will leave the land and fly soon. Ailill and Dagda convince Ethal to tell them that she will not return for a full year.

Dagda sends a messenger via Aengus's birds. He tells Aengus to hurry to the lake, Loch Bel Dracon, as Caer will leave. Dagda goes on to say that he is proud of Aengus for following his heart as that is what Dagda had done for Boann when he was younger.

Aengus arrives at the lake and finds many white swans with silver necklaces. Aengus stands at the edge of the lake and calls out to Caer. She comes to him and makes Aengus promise to let her return to the water when she wishes. Aengus agrees and Caer walks with him around the lake. Aengus then lets her return to the water. He watches her swim out for a moment before he jumps into the water and emerges as a swan himself. Caer and Aengus dance and swim together. The pair take flight, flying over lands and castles.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - THRONE ROOM - MORNING

BODB DERG, CERMAIT and AED march into the throne room and kneel before king DAGDA and queen BOANN. Boann quickly looks around.

BOANN  
Where is young Aengus?

BODB DERG suddenly rises.

BODB DERG  
My queen, your son was at the market  
place the last we heard of his  
whereabouts.

Boann frowns and turns towards Dagda.

DAGDA  
Lets not bother and continue.

Boann signals and motions to Dagda's sons to rise.

DAGDA (CONT'D)  
My sons, I've heard of your great--

AENGUS suddenly bolts into the throne room.

AENGUS  
I'm here, I'm here!

Boann smiles as Aengus stands in line besides his brothers.

BOANN  
Ah, my son. Your tardiness is  
something that must be fixed.

Dagda frowns.

DAGDA  
My boy, don't be late again.

Aengus gives a shy smile. Dagda sighs.

DAGDA (CONT'D)  
I've heard of your great success in  
far lands and most of you have wives  
and are planning a family. I have  
decided to award you, your own lands  
to govern over and develop.

Bobd Derg, Cermait, Aed and Aengus all smile.

DAGDA (CONT'D)

My eldest, Bobd Derg I award you Lake-town, already populated by citizens.

BODD DERG

Thank you father.

DAGDA

Cermait, I award you Phoenix Valley.

CERMAIT

Thank you father.

DAGDA

And Aed, I award you the Wild Planes south of Sid.

AED

Thank you very much father. I will ensure the Wild Planes will forever supply us with the strongest horses.

DAGDA

My sons, your mother will be very proud of you, may this bring her joy in the heavens.

Boann momentarily looks away, almost ashamed. Bobd Derg steps forward.

BODD DERG

Father, mother is always overjoyed with each breathe we take.

DAGDA

Thank you my sons, you are all dismissed.

AENGUS

Wait what about me?

The room falls silent. Dagda quickly frowns.

DAGDA

Aengus, you have no right to speak out of line like that.

AENGUS

Sorry father, but why have my brothers

received such gifts and I have not  
received anything?

DAGDA

I do recall mentioning their successes  
resulting in these rewards.

Boann lowers her gaze from Aengus. Bodb Derg leans towards  
Aengus.

BODD DERG

Maybe be it is because your mother  
said no--

DAGDA

Bodb Derg, stop spitting nonsense.

Bodb Derg straightens. Dagda rubs his temples.

DAGDA (CONT'D)

Aengus, you need to understand that  
rewards are given to those who work,  
as your brothers have in both the  
battles they have taken part in and  
manual labor in this city.

AENGUS

Then why summon me and make me watch  
you reward them?

DAGDA

To encourage you to do better than  
drinking and flirting with the local  
women.

Aengus's face turns red and he lowers his gaze. Bodb Derg,  
Cermait and Aed start snickering. Dagda rolls his eyes.

DAGDA (CONT'D)

My young boy, you need to make  
something of your life. Find a girl to  
settle down with or join the army.

Boann gently brushes Dagda's arm. She gently shakes her head.

DAGDA (CONT'D)

Not the army, but anything other than  
drinking and the women.

Aengus frowns.

AENGUS

What if I can't resist the women and the alcohol?

DAGDA

Then be prepared to live as a common folk in the streets than a prince in a palace in the future.

Aengus is shocked, Bobd Derg bursts into laughter.

BODB DERG

Forgive me father, but Aengus hasn't worked a day in his life and I also doubt that he will settle down.

Aengus jumps up with clenched fists.

AENGUS

What makes you think I can't settle down with a girl?

BODB DERG

Aengus, you're the god of love, women fall for you wherever you go, but they are only attracted to your beauty and will never truly love you in both soul and mind.

Aengus is speechless. Cermait and Aen laugh.

CERMAIT

I guess Aengus is going to be a commoner.

Bodb Derg, Cermait, Aed and Dagda laugh. Boann stands up, silencing the room.

BOANN

Enough of this.

AENGUS

Mother please don't stand up for me. I should be able to handle myself.

Boann's gaze softens at the sight of Aengus. She slowly settles back in her seat. Dagda glances at Boann and back at his sons.

DAGDA

Perhaps, that is enough. You are all

DAGDA (CONT'D)  
dismissed.

Aengus is the first to turn and storm out of the throne room with his brother slowly doing the same.

EXT - THE GOLDEN CITY - CORRIDOR - MORNING

Aengus leans over the banister, looking out over the city. He sighs and begins to hum in a gentle tune.

BRIGIT (O.S.)  
Are you okay?

Aengus quickly turns around and sees BRIGIT.

AENGUS  
Oh Brigit, it's just you.

Brigit slowly approaches Aengus, swaying gently.

BRIGIT  
How you feeling after *that*?

Brigit motions her head towards the throne room.

AENGUS  
You saw it?

Aengus runs his hands through his hair.

BRIGIT  
You would have to be deaf not to have heard it.

Brigit lifts herself and sits on the banister. Brigit giggles to herself.

AENGUS  
I'm guessing mom sent you?

BRIGIT  
She was very worried and told me to make sure that you were alright.

AENGUS  
Yes I'm fine, it was just an overwhelming moment. The anger and frustration of it all was just building.



BRIGIT

Anyone would have been overwhelmed if they were just told they were a waste of space. I can understand your frustration, it was unfair of Dagda to make you watch your brothers get rewarded.

Aengus sighs and leans back.

AENGUS

Step brothers... I guess it really did sound like I was a waste of space, just here with nothing to offer.

Brigit playfully hits Aengus's arm.

BRIGIT

Don't be silly I was only joking. I am sure that you will find a lovely girl who would want to spend the rest of her life with you.

AENGUS

As much as I want to believe it, that sounds impossible. Women only love me because I'm beautiful not because they see a future with me.

Brigit laughs.

BRIGIT

That doesn't sound that bad!

Aengus turns to her.

AENGUS

Becoming a commoner doesn't sound that bad either. I will still flirt with women. I would just need work to pay for my drinks and meals.

Brigit frowns and shakes her head.

BRIGIT

Aengus, you can't possibly believe that you are okay with becoming a commoner and be kicked out of the palace. First of all the alcohol you drink is far more expensive than you think it is and secondly, no woman

BRIGIT (CONT'D)  
will want to settle with a drunk that  
used to be a prince.

Aengus slowly walks away from the banister and Brigit follows him.

AENGUS  
I guess I will have to do what I do  
best.

Brigit laughs.

BRIGIT  
And what would that be?

AENGUS  
Drink and bed women!

Aengus suddenly takes off running through the corridor.

BRIGIT  
Oh my god Aengus no! That is the  
complete opposite thing you should do  
right now.

Aengus laughs and waves goodbye to Brigit.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - CASTLES PRIVATE BAR - EVENING

Aengus is drinking and has two BEAUTIFUL GIRLS at his sides.  
The bar's BAND is playing fast pace music. Aengus turns and  
kisses one of the girls. LUGUS throws his arms over Aengus's  
shoulders, laughing.

LUGUS  
Oh Angus! Please make me your woman.

Aengus playfully shoves Lugus off him.

AENGUS  
Stop it my friend, you are  
embarrassing me in front of these  
beautiful women.

The women smile awkwardly at Lugus.

LUGUS  
Oh piss-posh.

Lugus grabs Aengus and pulls him away from the women.

LUGUS  
Excuse us ladies.

Aengus tries to break free, but Lugus locks Aengus against him.

AENGUS  
Lugus you brute, I was going to take them home.

Lugus laughs and hands Aengus another drink.

LUGUS  
And then what? Sleep with them. You will wake with them missing the next morning, return to this bar and repeat the process?

Aengus falls silent and dramatically looks back towards the women.

AENGUS  
But isn't that Heaven?

Lugus playfully hits Aengus on the head.

LUGUS  
Your brothers would gut you if they heard that this is how you describe the place where their mother rests.

Aengus takes a long sip from his drink.

AENGUS  
She wasn't my mother.

LUGUS  
Still, you need to show respect in order to receive it. Same thing with women. Give them respect and they show you respect... that is usually how you will know what girl will be yours.

Lugus takes another cup and finishes it.

AENGUS  
Isn't your wife one of the most feared and high ranked women in the army?

Lugus spits out his drink and collapses in a fit of laughter.

LUGUS

Yes! Yes! She could cut off my head  
and I would certainly let her! But  
hell, I love her.

Aengus's laughter suddenly grows quiet.

AENGUS

I envy you Lugus. I long to be happy  
with someone. To spend the rest of my  
life with someone, preferable, away  
from this city.

Lugus pulls himself up.

LUGUS

Why? What is wrong with the women in  
this city?

Aengus glances at all the women in the bar and smiles.

AENGUS

My friend, there is nothing wrong with  
the women in this city. What I meant  
was that I would prefer a woman from  
somewhere else. Where she will never  
have to know about me having been with  
nearly every woman in this city.

LUGUS

No. No, young Aengus. Love is built on  
honesty. If you ever find--

Aengus frowns at Lugus, Lugus gives an awkward laugh and  
continues.

LUGUS (CONT'D)

I mean, when you find a girl you  
should be honest. If she leaves you,  
then she wasn't meant for you, but if  
she stays...

Lugus leans towards Aengus.

LUGUS (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Then, Aengus, she is the one for you.

Aengus's eyes widen.

AENGUS

You really believe that Lugus?

Lugus shrugs.

LUGUS

Yes of course. Any woman who stays,  
after hearing how many women you have  
been with, must be crazy enough to  
marry you.

Lugus laughs and Aengus laughs with him.

AENGUS

My friend, you are an asshole.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - AENGUS'S HOME - EVENING

Aengus stumbles through the front door in a drunken daze. He struggles to close his door and wanders over to his pair of phoenix birds. The birds starts singing to Aengus.

AENGUS

Such a beautiful song.

Aengus watches the birds sing together, they appears to be dancing. Aengus's smile suddenly fades. He sighs and very carefully approaches his birds and strokes them.

AENGUS

Not needing love for so long and  
suddenly it is something I feel I  
can't live without.

The birds chirps and Aengus smiles.

AENGUS

You want a song?

The birds chirp repeatedly and flap their wings. Aengus laughs.

AENGUS

Okay Shhhh... I'll sing.

The birds fall silent and Aengus smiles. He takes a deep breath and begins to sing in octaves. It is a song of sadness and loneliness.

CAER (O.S.)

What a heartbreaking song.

Aengus, startled, abruptly stands up. Suddenly, a very beautiful girl, coated in water floats towards the birds. Aengus is speechless.

CAER  
These poor birds will die after  
hearing such a sad song.

She turns towards Aengus.

CAER (CONT'D)  
Why are you so sad?

Aengus quickly shakes his head and stares at her.

AENGUS  
Um... I'm not sad.

Caer floats closer to him.

CAER  
But that song, it sounded like a man  
wailing for his dead lover.

Aengus's face turns red.

AENGUS  
I have no dead lover!

CAER  
Perhaps your lover left you?

Aengus immediately turns away from Caer.

AENGUS  
What? No. I... I have no lover.

CAER  
Then crying out for a lover?

Aengus falls quiet and sighs.

AENGUS  
Yeah, that might be it.

CAER  
You must be lonely at night?

AENGUS  
No. I mean I don't often spend the  
nights alone.

Caer laughs.

CAER

Then why sing like that if you are not completely alone?

Aengus pouts. Folds his arms over his chest.

CAER

Don't act like a child. You're a grown man.

AENGUS

Funny. No one really treats me like one.

Caer moves closer to Aengus, looking curious.

CAER

Why? Are you retarded or something?

AENGUS

I'm not retarded. Just the youngest of my siblings. By the way you should not call people retarded, it is rude.

CAER

What if you are retarded, then what?

AENGUS

But, I'm not retarded.

CAER

But what if you are?

AENGUS

What in gods name are you doing. I just said that I'm not. Are you deaf or something.

Caer falls quiet.

CAER

Now, that, was rude.

Aengus stares at Caer in disbelief. Caer cracks a laugh and Aengus laughs with her.

AENGUS

Good grief you are strange.

Caer looks down at her hands and laughs.

CAER

Yes, I'm here through dream pool.  
Everything about this interaction is  
strange.

Aengus suddenly straightens up.

AENGUS

Wait you're real?

Caer cocks her head to the side, inquisitively.

CAER

Yes?

Aengus jumps forwards towards her.

AENGUS

My lady I apologize I thought you were  
a drunken delusion.

Caer pauses and bursts into laughter.

CAER

My goodness you are such a silly man.  
I'm in a dream pool. I heard your song  
and came to investigate.

Aengus blinks in disbelief.

AENGUS

You are in a dream pool? Where?

CAER

I usually don't use a dream pool to  
teleport my conscious, but I wanted to  
try it.

AENGUS

Please give me your name my lady.

Caer glances around the room. She looks at Aengus.

CAER

No. I don't think so.

Aengus laughs.



AENGUS  
You are tormenting me.

CAER  
Nope, just teasing you.

Cear smiles at Aengus.

CAER (CONT'D)  
I think I like you. You are very  
funny.

Aengus looks at her, hopeful.

AENGUS  
Please, give me your name.

Cear opens her mouth to speak and suddenly sees the sunlight slowly rising. As the light pours into the room Caer disappears. She looks longingly at Aengus. Aengus's face turns into terror.

AENGUS  
No!

CAER  
Goodbye, funny boy.

Aengus jumps up and dives to embrace Caer. She disappears in his arms. Aengus collapses onto the ground staring into his empty hands.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - AENGUS HOME - MORNING

Brigit opens Aengus's door. She frowns confused.

BRIGIT  
Aengus! Are you home, apparently you  
didn't join mom for breakfast.

Brigit slowly walks through the house. She looks at the birds and the birds are staring at the balcony doors. Brigit frowns and hesitantly tip-toes towards the balcony doors.

BRIGIT (CONT'D)  
Aengus?

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - AENGUS'S HOME - BALCONY - MORNING

Brigit opens the balcony doors and sees Aengus staring directing into the morning sun. His completion has become

unnaturally pale. Brigit, concerned, embraces Aengus.

BRIGIT (CONT'D)

Aengus! What has happened? Are you  
sick? My lord how much did you drink  
last night?

Aengus sighs.

AENGUS

I didn't drink that much.

BRIGIT

You are sick Aengus.

Aengus gently pushes Brigit to the side and returns inside.  
Brigit follows closely behind him with a concerned  
expression.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - AENGUS HOME - MORNING

Aengus moves to his birds and starts stroking them.

AENGUS

I'm am not sick.

BRIGIT

You clearly are. You are as white as a  
ghost. I will call a physician  
imediately.

Brigit quickly rushes for a pen and paper. Aengus quickly  
grabs the pen from her.

AENGUS

Brigit, I am not sick and I don't need  
to see a physician.

Brigit looks at Aengus. She frowns suddenly very worried.

BRIGIT

You used to care a lot more about your  
health. What is wrong?

She opens her arms to embrace him. He leans into the hug.

AENGUS

I'm not ready to accept the cause of  
my illness.

Brigit frowns and gently pulls away from Aengus and looks

into his eyes tenderly.

BRIGIT

You know what has caused this illness?

Aengus looks at Brigit tenderly and nods.

BRIGIT (CONT'D)

I'm sorry brother, but I can't sit by  
while you are in such a state.

Aengus gives a smile.

AENGUS

Please try.

Aengus suddenly turns serious, catching Brigit off guard.

AENGUS (CONT'D)

And don't tell our mother.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - AENGUS'S HOME - MID DAY

There is a sudden knock at Aengus's door. He opens the door  
to see Boann standing proudly at the door, with Brigit  
avoiding Aengus's gaze and FERGNE who extends his hand.

FERGNE

Good day young prince. I have been  
informed of your sudden illness and  
have been tasked to remedy it.

AENGUS

What?

Aengus is speechless. He glances at Brigit and frowns. Boann  
steps inside to embrace Aengus.

BOANN

My son why have you not informed me of  
this illness.

AENGUS

Mother I am not that sick.

She ignores him and gently pushes Aengus away too look at  
him. She gasps.

BOANN (CONT'D)

My heavens you are white as a ghost.

She looks at Fergne and points at Aengus.

BOANN (CONT'D)  
Please cure this.

Fergne nods. He pulls out a bag filled with tools. Aengus's eyes widen at the tools.

AENGUS  
No thank you I am quite alright.

BOANN  
Nonsense, look at you.

Aengus rolls his eyes at him mother. Brigit leans towards Aengus's ear.

BRIGIT  
I'm so sorry brother, I was concerned about your health.

AENGUS  
You should be concerned about you're health when I get my hands on you.

BRIGIT  
I did say sorry.

Brigit gives a wicked smile.

BRIGIT (CONT'D)  
But I will enjoy seeing a few needles impaling your skin.

Aengus's eyes widen.

AENGUS  
Don't you--

BOANN  
Fergne is the highest respected physician for miles.

Boan smiles sweetly at Brigit and Aengus.

BOANN (CONT'D)  
Don't worry Aengus we will cure this illness quickly.

Boann turns to Brigit and motions Brigit to join her out of Fergne's way. Fergne steps in front of Aengus and smiles.

AENGUS

What tests are you going to do?

Fergne smiles again.

FERGNE

For now, nothing, I'm just going to study your movements.

Aengus is confused as Fergne stares at him. Aengus frowns staring back at Fergne. There is a long silence and Aengus instinctively looks away.

FERGNE

You are lovesick.

Aengus straightens, immediately defensive.

AENGUS

I am not lovesick.

Aengus glances at Brigit and Boann anxiously. Fergne slowly shakes his head.

FERGNE

I'm an expert in my field. You are lovesick.

Aengus stares at Fergne, horrified.

FERGNE (CONT'D)

Who is she?

Aengus looks and Boann and Brigit as they look on in surprise. Aengus hesitates.

AENGUS

A girl, she was in a dream pool and heard me singing.

Boann and Brigit are speechless.

BOANN

There are only two existing dream pools on record in our books.

Boann looks around the room and approaches Aengus.

BOANN (CONT'D)

Aengus what is her name. We need to find her and cure your lovesick.

Aengus drops his head. A single tear traces down his face.  
Boann's expression falls.

BOANN (CONT'D)  
What did she look like?

Aengus pauses for a moment.

AENGUS  
She was the most beautiful girl I had  
ever seen.

Aengus stands up almost reliving the moment.

AENGUS (CONT'D)  
Her skin was silver like the moon her  
hair was long and golden like the sun.  
Her eyes...

Aengus pauses thinking back.

AENGUS (CONT'D)  
Her eyes were as green and wild as the  
untamed forests.

Brigit sheds a tear, watching as Aengus's colour slowly fades  
away.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - ROYAL CHAMBERS - EVENING

Boann enters the room and sees Dagda reading letters'. She  
takes a deep breath and hesitantly approaches Dagda.

BOANN  
My love.

Dagda smiles and turns to Boann.

DAGDA  
Yes, love?

Boann takes a seat near Dagda and sighs.

DAGDA (CONT'D)  
Are you about to tell me about Aengus?

BOANN  
You know about that already?

Dagda smiles sweetly at Boann.

DAGDA

I know about everything in this city.

BOANN

Will you help?

Dagda frowns and stares and Boann.

DAGDA

Why would I help? You and him heard what I said that morning. He needs to clean up, stop drinking, stop with all the local women and be of use to this city and its people.

Boan stands up suddenly offended.

BOANN

He is not as an awful person as you make him out to be. He is just being young--

DAGDA

And stupid. My love imagine how many children he has unknowingly fathered. It is a miracle no woman has claimed that a child is his.

BOANN

Stop speaking about him like that,

Boann becomes emotional and Dagda sighs. He gently holds Boann's hand.

DAGDA

I'm sorry my love, but I'm not going to help him when there is a chance he will go back to his lifestyle before.

BOANN

He won't. You would believe it if you were there and heard the way he spoke about her. Her skin and hair... it was beautiful and I honestly believe that she could change him and make him better once we find her.

Dagda clenches his fists.

DAGDA

I can't help you find her.

Boann is shocked and angry.

BOANN

After everything you heard and what I'm telling you. You still won't do anything to help find this girl.

DAGDA

I can't help you find her because I know who she is.

Boann falls silent. Dagda gets up and sets the letters down. He is exhausted and stressed. Boann stares at Dagda, patiently waiting for him to explain.

DAGDA (CONT'D)

White skin, golden hair, green eyes and had access to a dream pool.

He sighs.

DAGDA (CONT'D)

Her name is Caer and she is the only daughter of Ethal Anbuail, King of Sid.

Boann's mouth falls ajar. Dagda lets out a stressful chuckle.

BOANN

What is your relationship like with Ethal Anbuail?

DAGDA

Not good unfortunately. He can be dangerous as he has a strong army capable of defeating our own. He also has a very bad temper.

Boann looks worried.

BOANN

So what does this mean?

DAGDA

It means that I need to find strong friends in order to pressurize Ethal Anbuail to willingly let his daughter be with Aengus with no future retaliation from him and his army.

Boann jumps up suddenly happy.



BOANN  
You will help Aengus?

Dagda looks at Boann lovingly.

DAGDA  
I will help on the condition that I  
see a change in Aengus.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - ROYAL STABLES - MORNING

After 9 months Aengus hasn't had a drop of alcohol or had spoken to another local woman ever since seeing Caer. His health had slowly worsened as colour in his skin, hair and eyes has dulled. Aengus has been seen helping the local businesses and has been working in the royal stables tending to the horses.

Dagda walks into the stables and sees Aengus grooming one of the horses.

DAGDA  
Aengus?

Aengus momentarily stops grooming and kneels before Dagda. Dagda motions Aengus to rise and Aengus resumes grooming.

AENGUS  
Good morning Dagda.

Dagda nods his head.

DAGDA  
When did you arrive?

AENGUS  
I woke before the sun.

Dagda awkwardly nods his head and looks around the stables. Noticing how clean the stables are.

DAGDA  
I found her.

Aengus stops and slowly turns around to look at Dagda in the eyes.

DAGDA (CONT'D)  
I can take you to see her.

Aengus takes in a shaky breath.

EXT - A LAKE OUTSIDE OF SID - MID DAY

Dagda and Aengus wears dark clothes in order to blend in with the dense vegetation surrounding the lake. Dagda and Aengus crawl through thick grass and over a small mound and see a clear blue lake. There are a few girls in the water and they all have silver necklaces.

Aengus's eyes are scanning all the girls, looking frantically for one. He suddenly stops and points to a girl in a white dress sitting on the bank. Her hair is long and golden.

Dagda watches Aengus just stare at her.

DAGDA

Her name is Caer, she is the only  
daughter of Ethal Anbuail of Sid.

Aengus turns towards Dagda.

AENGUS

I want to hold her.

Aengus's eyes show sorrow. Dagda puts a comforting hand on Aengus's shoulder.

DAGDA

Not now.

Aengus sighs and crawls away.

AENGUS

Why bring me here?

Dagda follows Aengus.

DAGDA

To show you that she is here and that  
I will help you be with her.

Aengus suddenly stops, confused, and looks at Dagda.

AENGUS

Why?

Dagda pauses, glances back at Caer and turns back to Aengus.

DAGDA

Because now, I know how deeply you  
love her.

Aengus falls quiet for a moment. He sits upright and the grass and Dagda does the same.

AENGUS

So this is what love is?

Dagda quickly shakes his head.

DAGDA

No Aengus all that pain you are  
feeling is longing and loneliness.

Aengus looks up at the trees.

AENGUS

So then what is love.

DAGDA

The interaction you had with Caer when  
you two first met.

AENGUS

How would you know if that was love or  
loneliness.

Dagda looks tenderly at Aengus.

DAGDA

I know it was love because how you  
described it was how I would have  
described it if it was me and your  
mother.

AENGUS

What about Bodb Derg, Cermait and  
Aed's mother?

Dagda runs a hand through his hair and sighes.

DAGDA

Our relationship was more political  
than romantic. That is why I married  
your mother, because I couldn't live  
without her and wanted her by my side  
forever.

Aengus looks at the ground and smiles.

AENGUS

Then I do love Caer.

INT - CONNACHT - THRONE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Dagda travels to Connacht a city at a close distance to Sid. He walks into Connacht Throne room. King AILILL and Queen MAEVE are seated on their thrones. Dagda marches in and kneels. Maeve smiles.

MAEVE  
Rise friend.

Dagda smiles at her and Ailill

DAGDA  
You look well my friend and you too  
Ailill.

Ailill gives a respectful nod to Dagda.

AILILL  
What brings you here?

Dagda's smile slowly fades away.

DAGDA  
I have come to ask a favor.

Ailill and Maeve exchange confused looks.

MAEVE  
Forgive me friend, but you are a  
powerful man with a prosperous city  
what could you possibly ask of us?

DAGDA  
It is a military favor.

AILILL  
We will not be participating in war--

Maeve raises her hand and silences Ailill.

MAEVE  
What help do you need?

DAGDA  
My youngest, Aengus, has fallen  
lovesick for Caer of Sid.

Maeve nods, understandingly.

MAEVE

You want our help to pressure him into willingly let her be with your son.

DAGDA

And possibly prevent him from lashing out in the future.

MAEVE

I understand my friend. You are wise to seek help from us.

She looks lovingly at Ailill and turns back to Dagda.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

We offer our help.

INT - CONNACHT - THRONE ROOM - MORNING

A MESSENGER arrives in the throne room. He stand up straight.

MESSENGER

Your Majesty, this message is offensive to you. Do you still want to hear it?

MAEVE

Proceed.

MESSENGER

Ethal Anbuail says that he will never allow his daughter to be with any son of Dagda.

The room falls silent.

AILILL

Did you tell him that if he refused the army of Connacht and The Golden City will march to his city?

The swallows nervously and nods. Ailill rolls his eyes.

AILILL

I thought we weren't going to war?

MAEVE

Sometimes we have to.

Ailill stands up and looks at Dagda.

AILILL

Is this what you wanted, innocent  
blood to be spilled all in order for  
your son to have a woman?

Maeve falls silent and waits for Dagda's response. Dagda  
takes in a confident breath and steps forward proudly.

DAGDA

If you are asking me if I would shed  
blood to ensure the happiness of my  
son? After he endured such a heart-  
ache that he has lost life in his  
skin, hair and eyes, then yes. I would  
slaughter whoever I have to, to make  
that happen.

Dagda stares at Ailill defiantly. Ailill glances at Maeve.  
Maeve motions Ailill to sit down. Ailill frowns, but sits  
back down.

MAEVE

My friend we don't want war.

DAGDA

If my son dies from being lovesick  
there will be a war. The only  
difference is that with you we will  
win.

Silence falls in the room. Maeve expression softens.

MAEVE

We don't have children of our own,  
yet, so we are unable to understand.

Maeve gently takes hold of Ailill's hand. She smiles and  
Ailill kisses her hand.

AILILL

Whatever you choose, my love.

Maeve smiles and turns back to Dagda.

MAEVE

We will help you and march with you  
into Sid.

Ailill nods his head.

EXT - SID - AFTERNOON

Just outside Sid's walls Dagda and Maeve march forwards with their two armies following behind them. They stop just outside the gates. Maeve motions a messenger on a horse and the messenger enters the gates.

MAEVE

I have made it very clear that this is his final warning to negotiate with us or be stormed.

Dagda frowns and looks seriously towards Sid.

DAGDA

I don't think he will listen. He would rather have people die than step down to anyone.

MAEVE

I have dealt with proud men before.

DAGDA

Oh really? How did that go?

Maeve smiled.

MAEVE

I seized his city and married him.

Dagda laughs.

DAGDA

You are still very amusing.

MAEVE

I'm always amusing.

Dagda notices movement. He motions Maeve to watch as the messenger approaches. The messenger approaches, however he didn't look hopeful.

MAEVE

What has he decided?

MESSENGER

Your majesty, he... he has refused.

Maeve clenches her fists. She turns to Dagda, now concerned.

DAGDA

I still want to do this.

Maeve sighs but gives a stong nod. She turns to face the troops.

MAEVE

My warriors! Ethal Anbuail has refused the peaceful path! Now we shall show him out strength so that he may never go against our reign!

The two armies rhythmically hit their shields and arms. Maeve raises her sword and charges into battle with Dagda by her side. They storm through the city walls and battle with Sid's army.

Dagda slices at the enemy and maneuvers the horse to keep others at bay before slicing at them next.

DAGDA

I'm going to push inside.

Maeve slices three enemies and moves towards Dagda.

MAEVE

I will join you, my friend.

INT - SID'S CASTLE - AFTERNOON

Dagda and Maeve storm into the castle with some troops following. Guards appear and try and stop the troops. Maeve mercilessly fights them off. Dagda is surprised.

DAGDA

I thought you didn't want war?

Maeve chuckles.

MAEVE

I don't like killing people for no reason, however I do enjoy a good battle.

DAGDA

That is a contradiction.

MAEVE

A queen who likes war wouldn't be on a throne.



Dagda laughs and continues to fight off the guards, and pushes forward. Maeve pushes forward with Dagda.

INT - SID'S THRONE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Dagda and Maeve make it through the throne room with two troops behind them. ETHAL ANBUAIL is on this throne, enraged. Six guards are standing around the throne to protect him.

ETHAL ANBUAIL

Are you satisfied with all this blood  
shed?

Maeve steps forward, she raises her sword towards Ethal Anbuail in a threatening way.

MAEVE

We gave you plenty of chances to  
prevent this outcome.

Ethal Anbuail stands up.

ETHAL ANBUAIL

War was never meant to be an outcome.

MAEVE

But yet, it was.

Dagda steps forward.

DAGDA

Allow Caer to be with Aengus.

Ethal Anbuail scoffs.

ETHAL ANBUAIL

I will never peacefully allow my  
daughter to be with your youngest  
brat.

Dagda stares down at Ethal Anbuail.

DAGDA

He is no longer a young brat.

Ethal Anbuail laughs and sits down.

ETHAL ANBUAIL

You expect me to believe that?

DAGDA

When he is slowly dying each day  
without her, yes.

ETHAL ANBUAIL

That is not my problem.

Dagda clenches his fists and threateningly steps forward.

DAGDA

Ethal Anbuail! It is fate. Allow this  
and let there be peace.

Ethal Anbuail bites at his nails nervously.

ETHAL ANBUAIL

I can't let that happen.

DAGDA

Why?

ETHAL ANBUAIL

Because she has power of her own, her  
human year is about to end and I don't  
have the power to make her stay and be  
with Aengus.

Dagda is shocked.

DAGDA

What do you mean?

Ethal Anbuail looks at Dagda understandingly.

ETHAL ANBUAIL

If it is fated for my Caer to be with  
Aengus then you will have to wait  
another year--

Dagda's expression falls to worry.

DAGDA

My son might not have a year.

ETHAL ANBUAIL

The you must hurry to the lake, south  
from here. She will soon take the form  
of a swan and leave these lands for a  
year.

Dagda bolts towards the throne room doors.

DAGDA

Maeve ensure a peace treaty is signed!

Dagda leaves.

EXT - THE GOLDEN CITY - AFTERNOON

Dagda charges into the city on horse back. He sees two GUARDS and gallops up to them.

DAGDA

Where is Aengus.

GUARD

Your majesty, he has been in the stables since--

DAGDA

Thank you.

Dagda gallops into the royal stables. Dismounts and bolts inside.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - ROYAL STABLES - AFTERNOON

Aengus is startled as Dagda rushes in and grabs him by the arm. Aengus cries out in pain and Dagda lets go, looking increasingly worried.

DAGDA

Aengus we must go to the lake now. She will disappear in the late hours and return after a year.

Aengus is stunned by the sudden information. Aengus quickly struggles to jump onto the back of one of the nearest horses.

AENGUS

Lets go.

Dagda doesn't waste time and bolts out the stable doors with Aengus following.

EXT - THE GOLDEN CITY - AFTERNOON

Dagda immediately mounts his horse and gallops out the city. Aengus, riding bare-back struggles to hold himself steady, but keeps pace behind Dagda.

DAGDA

We must hurry to the lake.

Aengs watches in awe as Dagda gallops through the city.

AENGUS

You really did it.

DAGDA

Did what?

AENGUS

Find her.

Dagda gives an awkward chuckle.

DAGDA

I actually knew the whole time, just  
wanted to see if you were serious  
about her.

Aengus expression falls abruptly, but gives a small smile,  
shacking his head.

EXT - A LAKE OUTSIDE OF SID - LATE AFTERNOON

Dagda and Aengus arrive at the lake. Aengus quickly dismounts  
and rushes to the bank. There is a large group of swans with  
silver necklaces. Aengus looks around frantically over the  
lake. He suddenly freezes staring at one swan. Aengus jumps  
forward almost stepping into the lake.

AENGUS

Caer!

Caer, in the form of a swan, turns in the water. She slowly  
swims towards him. Aengus watches in anticipation as Caer  
stops a few feet away from him. She looks at him  
inquisitively.

CAER

Funny boy?

Aengus licks his lips nervously. Slowly colour returns to his  
skin, hair and eyes.

AENGUS

Yes. Please step out of the water,  
Caer.

Caer looks back at the other swans then at Aengus.

CAER

On the condition you will allow me to

return to the water when I wish.

AENGUS

Whenever you wish, I promise.

Caer looks at the water and very slowly steps out of the water. She shakes her feathers and looks up at Aengus.

CAER

You probably weren't expecting to see me like this?

Aengus smiles. He leans down and places his forehead against hers.

AENGUS

Could be worse.

CAER

How so?

AENGUS

You could have been just a figment of my imagination.

Aengus's eyes are full of colour as he looks down into Caer's eyes.

CAER

Maybe I am, you never know.

AENGUS

Oh, you have developed a sense of humor now?

Caer laughs.

CAER

A funny girl needs a funny boy.

Aengus's eyes light up.

AENGUS

You need me?

Caer pauses for a moment and looks deeply into Aengus's eyes.

CAER

Do you need me?

AENGUS

I have been needing you ever since we met.

Caer giggles and turns away from him, waddling along the bank.

CAER

You are coming on a bit strong there.

Aengus follows beside her.

AENGUS

Don't you feel it?

CAER

Feel what?

AENGUS

This feeling between us. I'm drawn to you, I feel like I'm slowly dying without you.

Caer stares at Aengus for a moment and looks out towards the lake.

CAER

I don't know how to respond to that.

AENGUS

You don't have to.

He looks at her desperately.

AENGUS (CONT'D)

Just please tell me you feel the same.

Caer sighs and turns back towards Aengus.

CAER

I wish you came sooner. I have to leave soon and I can't stay. I'm incapable of doing so.

She looks at her wings and back at Aengus pleadingly.

CAER (CONT'D)

I refuse to stay with you like this. You can't marry a bird--

AENGUS

Watch me.

Caer gives a light chuckle.

CAER

I won't let that happen. When I return  
I will marry you.

Aengus gasps and kneels to Caer.

AENGUS

You will marry me?

CAER

I don't see other boys lining up to  
marry a duck.

Aengus laughs with Caer.

AENGUS

Any man would be happy to marry a  
beautiful swan like you.

Caer smiles.

AENGUS (CONT'D)

Please walk with me.

Caer laughs, wadeling in front of Aengus.

CAER

I don't walk ,I waddle.

Aengus smiles and walks beside her.

EXT - A LAKE OUTSIDE OF SID - EVENING

Aengus and Caer are walking along the bank of the lake. Caer and Aengus are laughing. Suddenly one of the swans calls. Caer's smile fades. She sighs and turns towards Aengus who, too, has lost his smile.

CAER

I have to go. It is time for us to  
fly.

AENGUS

So you will really only return next  
year.

Caer nods her head.

CAER  
Will you be okay?

Aengus shakes his head.

AENGUS  
I will try to be.

CAER  
Don't die when I'm gone.

Caer gives a weak smile and Aengus only looks at her with growing grief in his eyes.

CAER  
Please don't look at me like that.

AENGUS  
I can't help it. I have fallen so  
deeply in love with you.

Caer doesn't respond. She slowly steps into the water. Aengus only watches her swim along the bank.

CAER  
I guess this is goodbye then.

AENGUS  
I guess.

Aengus looks at the other swans waiting for Caer. Caer looks at Aengus.

CAER  
Goodbye, Aengus Young.

Aengus looks at Caer as she turns and swims towards the other swans. He watches, but he suddenly stands up and jumps into the water.

CAER  
Aengus, what are you doing?

The water reaches up to his knees and he is struggling as he moves towards Caer.

AENGUS  
I can't wait. I've waited for you for  
three years, I don't think I have the



strength to wait for another.

Caer watches in amazement as Aengus swims towards her.

CAER

What is the plan now?

Aengus swims around Caer. Caer can't take her eyes off him.

AENGUS

I guess I have to follow you.

Caer shakes her head in confusion.

CAER

Follow me where?

Aengus looks into the sky. He smiles and allows himself to sink to the bottom of the lake. Caer watches the water waiting for Aengus to return.

CAER

Aengus? Aengus?

Caer paces above the water worried. She glances at the other swans. The other swans are concerned.

Suddenly a black swan bursts through the surface of the water. Caer and the other swans are startled. The black swan shakes off the water and swims directly to Caer.

CAER

Aengus?

The black swan smiles.

AENGUS

In the feathered flesh.

Caer circles Aengus in awe.

CAER

How did you do that?

Aengus nuzzles into Caer's long neck.

AENGUS

The god of love can grant the deepest wish of lover's.

Caer stares into Aengu's eyes.

CAER

You chose to give up your life here to  
be with me.

Aengus smiles.

AENGUS

Without a second thought.

The other swans start making noises. Caer looks at them and  
turns back towards Aengus. She smiles brightly.

CAER

Ready to take flight?

AENGUS

I don't know how to fly I've been a  
swan for only a few minutes.

Caer laughs with Aengus. She turns and extends her wings.  
Aengus does the same.

CAER

Lets go.

Caer takes flight and Aengus takes flight after her then the  
other swans join them after. They ascend into the sky. Caer  
circles Aengus with ease.

CAER (CONT'D)

Please sing me a happy song now.

Aengus looks at her lovingly.

AENGUS

Anything for you.

Aengus begins to sing. The other swans watch and listen. Caer  
flies close to Aengus, occasionally resting her head lovingly  
on Aengus's neck as they fly. Aengus sings as they fly over  
The Golden City. Aengus smiles.

INT - THE GOLDEN CITY - CORRIDOR - EVENING

Boann and Brigit are leaning on the banister. Brigit looks up  
and sees a flock of swans flying over. Suddenly Boann and  
Brigit hear the song and look up.

BRIGIT

That's Aengus.

Boann begins to cry. She wipes away her tears as she struggles to look at the swans.

BOANN

He's happy. My boy is happy.

Brigit throws a comforting arm over Boann as they watch the swans fly over the city.

EXT - THE GOLDEN CITY - CASTLES PRIVATE BAR - EVENING

Lugus finishes off his beer and sees the swans. Suddenly he hears the song too. He bursts into laughter and raises his beer to the sky.

LUGUS

She was the one for you my friend!

He quickly downs his beer laughing and waving at the passing swans.

INT - SID'S THRONE ROOM - EVENING

Ethal Anbuaill looks outside his window. Watching guards clean up the devastation of the earlier battle. He sighs and looks at the sky.

ETHAL ANBUAILL

As long as you're happy Caer.

He turns and sits back into his throne. The room is empty and he is alone.

INT - CONNACHT - THRONE ROOM - MORNING

Maeve and Ailill sit patiently in their thrones. Suddenly Dagda marches in with a tender smile. Maeve stands smiling.

MAEVE

And, what of the young couple?

Dagda smile.

DAGDA

They just flew over The Golden City. I believe Aengus and Caer will live out their loves in endless happiness.

MAEVE

He sound a lot like a younger you.

Maeve smiles and Dagda laughs.

DAGDA

He really turned out exactly like me.

FADE TO BLACK.

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