

28 Plays Later – Challenge #20

I'd like you to write about dates. Blind dates, speed dates, pub dates, stood-up dates and 'my kids mustn't know I'm here' dates.

And for all you clever-clogs, if you're writing about the fruit, then dates on a date.

ALL I AM, ALL I HAVE

By

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Time: The night of the full moon, just before moonrise. Summer.

Place: A rocky outcropping or islet in the middle of the ocean.

At rise, Oskar, a thunder god, dressed like an ancient Scandinavian (think Viking, but softer) is standing on the rocks staring at the sea. When Oskar speaks it's in a vaguely Swedish accent, and his English is broken, choppy.

OSKAR: Harmony.... Harmony....

Harmony's head surfaces from a pool of water. She is a mermaid.

HARMONY: Oskar... I'm glad you called, but I feel bad. You're needed at home. Your people need you to make it rain.

OSKAR: I had to see you. Difficult in summer. Not enough moisture to make clouds solid.

HARMONY: Well, I'm here now. (smiles) How long do we have?

OSKAR: Not long. When moon rises, I must go.

HARMONY (reaching for the rocks, then falling back): I can't lift myself out of the water, here. The rocks are too sharp.

OSKAR: Is not matter. (he takes off his fur cloak and spreads it on the rocks) Come now.

Harmony pulls herself out of the water and onto the cloak-covered rocks. Oscar sits behind her, his legs on either side of her tail. He wraps his arms around her, and she leans back to rest against his chest.

HARMONY: I'd have picked a better place if I'd known you could spare the time. Usually you warn me you're coming; you send a storm.

OSKAR: Yes, but no storm tonight. Is... date, not... tryst. Also, this place is where I want.

HARMONY: You chose it on purpose?

OSKAR: Is best place on earth to watch the moon and stars come.

HARMONY: I had it on good authority that *I* was your 'moon and stars.'

OSKAR (simple, honest): No. You are breath and blood to me.

HARMONY(touched): Breath and blood? Really.

OSKAR (stroking her hair): Really. There is song... may I?

HARMONY: You know I love it when you sing to me.

OSKAR (singing): Allt jag är, allt jag har,
till mitt sista andetag.
Ska jag älska dig med
hjärtats alla slag.
Allt jag ber, allt jag vill,
att få vakna tätt intill.
Att få älska dig i alla mina dar,

med allt jag har.

HARMONY (translating slowly): All I am, all I have... to my last breath...

OSKAR (singing, in English this time): All I am, all I have,
until my last breath.
Should I love you
the heart of all kinds.
All I pray, all I want,
to wake up close by.
To love you in all my days,
with all I have.

HARMONY: Oh... Oskar.

Harmony turns her head in an attempt to kiss Oskar, but he stops her with a gentle touch.

OSKAR: Kiss later, now watch.

As the two of them watch, the moon rises from the sea and rises to a point directly above them. Stars are already twinkling there. The moonlight makes the rocks glitter like a second sky full of stars.

HARMONY: Ohhhh! It's amazing.

OSKAR: Full moon, clear skies, stars above and below because we are together, but when we are parted all is dark again. Must remember this.

HARMONY: I could never forget this... Or you.

Clouds come to obscure the moon, and an arc of lightning illuminates their faces.

OSKAR (sighing): No time. Never enough time.

HARMONY: It won't be summer forever. When fall comes, and the air is cooler, we can be together longer.

OSKAR: I wish I were time god instead of thunder god.

HARMONY (laughing): But I'd miss your stormy presence, and your wonderful rumbling voice.
(softer) When you're holding me, I can feel your songs inside me.

OSKAR: When I hold you, the sea is inside *me*.

Harmony tries for another kiss. This time she succeeds. She turns in his arms, and places kisses on his face, his chest.

OSKAR (gently, stopping her): No time, Harmony. No time.

HARMONY (with surety): But I'll see you again.

OSKAR: Next full moon. Is date. Go now, I watch you swim home.

Harmony slides back into the water, and disappears. Oskar collects his cloak, holding it close, smelling her aquatic scent on his furs. Then he wraps it around his shoulders. There is a crash of thunder, a flash of lightning.

HARMONY (offstage, singing)

Allt jag är, allt jag har,

till mitt sista andetag.

Ska jag älska dig med

hjärtats alla slag.

Allt jag ber, allt jag vill,

att få vakna tätt intill.

Att få älska dig i alla mina dar,

med allt jag har.

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