



## **The Warmonger and the King**

**A story written by Mark Worth, for *All the Street's a Stage*, 2019**

An evil warmonger, Harold, accompanied by his much nicer (and 1-minute younger) twin brother Henry, set sail on a warship to plunder, and claim a beautiful island as his own.

When the brothers arrived on the island, Harold, the Warmonger, claimed it as his own and declared that the island's much admired and adored princess, Adora, would also now be *his* new property. Little did Harold know that having seen the war ship arrive, the clever princess Adora had disguised herself as her recently deceased father, King of the Island. Full dressed as 'the King,' the princess made her way to meet the Warmonger.

Upon meeting the 'King', Harold demanded "The beauty of the island's Princess is spoken of across the land and I demand that you hand her over to me. For only someone of her beauty would fit my standing and status."

'The King' scratched his smooth but perfectly formed chin and scanned the room with his bright blue eyes. Suddenly she saw a man, Henry. He was not too dissimilar to the Warmonger stood in front of her, but this man's face was kinder and far more attractive. The Princess, hiding in plain sight, instantly fell in love with with this stranger and a plan formed in her mind.

"I will of course hand the island's princess over to you Harold, but on one condition"

"Anything" replied Harold.

'The King' smiled, showing a perfect set of teeth. "You can have her as your wife but only if that man over there stays to rule over the island."

The Warmonger followed the King's slender finger and saw that he was pointing at his younger brother. He hated his brother, because he was soft and weak, so thought this would be a perfect opportunity to get rid of him once and for all.

"Why that is my brother, Henry," he said with an evil grin. "I wouldn't be happy for him to take over your throne when you have run this island for so many years. I believe a better way would be if you were to rule together.... As a married couple!"

A silence hung over the room as the King slowly came to his feet and slowly spoke. "I see I have no other option than to accept."

The Warmonger laughed out loud, knowing that this great plan gave him the island's princess as a bride as well as punishing his 'weak and pathetic' younger brother. In a ceremony conducted by the evil, grinning Warmonger, Henry married 'the King.'

After the celebrations, where Harold and all his men drank and ate far too much, the Warmonger demanded his future bride be brought to him, for they were to travel back to his home land for a great celebration in front of his own loyal subjects.

"Alas, I cannot do that Brother in Law Harold, for I have already put your bride on a boat, set sail for your homeland" said the newly married king. "You do want your bride to look her best on your wedding day, don't you?" The king smiled.

"Thank you brother in law. You have made me very happy today. Not only have you married my brother, you have given me your princess's hand in marriage." With a wave and a hug, the Warmonger left the island, still laughing at the trick that he had played on his brother and the king. As Harold's boat sailed over the horizon, the 'King' revealed her true identity. The younger brother immediately fell in love with Adora, but his happiness did not last long.

"Adora, I am so happy to know that I have found you, my true love, here on this island paradise, but when my brother discovers that you have tricked him he will be mad!"

"Dearest Henry, having never met the princess during his time on the island, your brother has no idea what this island's princess looks like."

"But when no Princess arrives he will know."

"Oh, a Princess will arrive" said Adora, "however what your brother doesn't know is that my father had more than one princess in his life."

Henry's eyes lit up and a smile spread broadly across his face.

A few weeks passed and the Warmonger stood in church watching his bride walk down the aisle towards him. The ceremony commenced and they were pronounced man and wife.

"You may now kiss your bride."

Licking his lips in anticipation, Harold lifted his bride's veil to reveal a donkey, with a bridal labelled 'Princess!'

"NOOOOOOOO!"