

Wendy Wagner-Forreider

Lakeview Library – “It came from the lake”

Adult submission

16 July 2022

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“It came from the lake...”

She came from the lake, the townspeople said.

Magical things would happen to her when she wore a cap made of red.

With the red hat on her head, she could walk upon two limbs.

If she took the hat off, she could live underwater, and her legs became fins.

She was brought here a long time ago from a land far away,

By a young man in search of new lands to survey.

His name was Seamus, and he was from the Isle of Skye.

He gave her the name Azure, which was the color of her eyes.

She was born from Selkie people and had to live in the water,

And she was thought to bring good luck, which is why Seamus brought her.

He found her when he was a boy playing along the seashore.

She told him how she could change with a red hat that she wore.

She could only share her hat with one true friend,

Someone she trusted on whom she could depend.

Seamus pledged his devotion to his new friend with pride,

Her gave her a name and promised to never leave her side.

Azure wore the red hat when she needed to walk,

And her and Seamus would pass the time with stories and talk.

She shared tales of her life in forests of kelp,

And how she saved men from the perils of the sea with their cries of help.

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She was rewarded by the gods with a magical power,

The ability to walk, for which fins would not allow her.

She was presented with the hat that would make legs appear,

But she would always be a Selkie, so water always needed to be near.

Seamus sought new adventure once he was grown,

He remembered his promise that he wouldn't leave her alone.

So, they left the Isle Skye in search of a new place to reside,

And they found a town in Wisconsin in which they could hide.

Azure spent most of her time in her new freshwater sea,

And occasionally he'd put on her red cap and let her walk free.

She delighted in running through the grass and the sand,

But she longed for a life amongst the people on land.

Azure remembered what the gods said about her magic red cap,

She would forever be Selkie so life upon land would end in a trap.

Afraid her secret would be discovered, they avoided the town,

So, Seamus would bring her treats and treasures that he had found.

She didn't mind her days playing with the frogs and the fish,

But to have human friends was her ultimate wish.

She felt trapped and confused and watched the town from her lake,

Seamus felt her sorrow and wondered if bringing her here was a terrible mistake.

Azure wanted to be with the people of this bustling little town.

Seamus knew he needed to let her go and not hold her down.

Reluctantly he knew what he needed to do.

He thought she no longer needed him, so their lives together had to be through.

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Seamus left town in haste, not even saying goodbye.

He was sad and heartbroken, and he didn't want her to see him cry.

Before he left town he placed the red hat by the shore,

And he reflected fondly on the hat's powers and lore.

Azure found her hat the next morning there on the beach,

Seamus left it close enough to the water so it would be within reach.

She looked around for her friend, but he was nowhere at all.

So, she put the red cap on her head, grew her legs, and stood up tall.

Just up from the beach she saw a box with bow made of blue.

It was a gift from Seamus for this she knew.

Inside was a beautiful dress for which she could wear,

And a pair of shoes, some money, and a brush for her hair.

Thankfully Seamus taught her to do math and to read.

He knew these would be helpful things that one day she might need.

There was a note from Seamus about why he left.

Her desire to be independent had left him bereft.

His note said he'd miss her, but one day he'd return.

He thought being on her own would be a valuable lesson to learn.

This news made Azure sad, but alas she'd be on her own,

Seamus thought she was ready, so he left her alone.

Azure took delight in experiencing her new neighborhood.

She fit in like one of the townsfolk as much as she could.

She went into places like the library, a pizzeria, and a small café.

She found so much to do walking around during the day.

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But the nights were quite silent, and she had to return to the lake.

The gift of the hat gave her legs, but a human it did not her make.

If Azure didn't get back to her watery home every night,

Her legs would turn into fins leaving her stranded on land—a terrible plight.

Her fins wouldn't work if she was stuck upon ashore.

She would become weak and wane: her life would be no more.

So, every night she'd return to water keeping her red hat nearby,

And every morning she'd put it back on, living her Selkie life on the sly.

One morning she awoke and went to search for her hat,

But it was nowhere to be found, she had no idea where it could be at!

She swam frantically around in search of this hat full of magic.

If she could not find it, her lonely Selkie existence would become tragic.

Azure bobbed and hid behind the swans in the bay,

And she spotted a young boy from the town who was at play.

He was wearing her hat and he was bounding around,

Not knowing about the magic in this new thing he had found.

Without her hat she would be bound to the lake forever.

No more libraries and pizza, no more fun on the land whatsoever.

And her one friend was gone that could ensure of her joy,

Seamus had left and her hat was stolen by some innocent boy.

She was the only Selkie in this random little lake,

She missed her friend Seamus, and her heart began to ache.

No longer could she walk amongst the buildings and stores.

She spent her days in search of her hat's return along the lakes' shores.

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Maybe the little boy might return her red hat to its rightful place on the beach.  
She just hoped he'd leave it someplace so that she could reach.  
Seamus would have taken good care of her if she wasn't so full of admiration,  
And now he was gone, and she was doomed to a life of isolation.

Seamus never returned to the little random lake in the Midwest.  
He found a new life and thought for Azure it would be best.  
So, he never came back, but he thought of her often.  
He wondered if she was responsible and proceeding with caution.

Seamus knew from his own life that bad things could arise,  
He tried to protect Azure, but she wanted a life of her own to comprise.  
Azure was left with a powerful lesson to learn.  
Independence is important, but for true love you will yearn.

So, it's been said from the people that live on the random lake of Wisconsin,  
Azure still lives in the water and hides in the bay where the swans swim.  
It's believed if you're lonely and a red cap you can yield  
Then leave it on the shore within reach and you and Azure both will be healed.