

The Sequestest Sequest
By Kevin B. Chatham

Blurb: A young girl shares her greatest sequest before she goes off on her biggest adventure. But, is everything really all right in fairy land?

Dear Diary,

Today I have you tell you my biggest, most sequestest sequest and I know I promised that I would never tell anyone, but after tonight, it won't matter anymore.

The first thing that I have to tell you is there is a magic fairy land not far from where I live. It's not hard to find, but there is a magical doorway and you have to be very special to see it. And, of course you have to know the secret words. Oh, and you have to spin the right number of times. But, that's another sequest. And, in this fairyland, which is the most beautiful place on the whole earth, there live pixies who hide in the rocks and there's a singing tree that will dance with me, but only when I am wearing my magic crown and even then, only if I ask very, very politely and address it by its proper name, which is only known to very special people and there are many many other sequest places that I am not allowed to tell the stupid people, because that would ruin everything.

I've known about the fairy land for what must be a year, but it seems like much longer because I feel like I grow much older whenever I am there. So, while it may only seem like a day in the outside world, I am certain that months pass when I am there because I have too many adventures for just one day. And, it was on one of those adventures, when I was trying to save the Pond People from the vicious Rapschal who was eating all of their ruby carrots, that I first saw the Shaylee King.

It was on the most beautiful day in June. I had just finished racing with the Pollytoos, and I sat down to start telling stories to the Klum-Plump tree when I heard the most mysterious noises coming from the bushes just as the Klum-Pump tree had started to fall asleep.

So, I quickly put on the magic ring that makes me invisible and my magic crown that lets me find new friends in the fairy land and that's when I saw him hiding behind a bush.

At first I thought he was just a stupid grown-up man. And I almost got scared, because there normally aren't any grown up people in the fairyland. But then I remembered that princesses are very very brave and they never run away from anything. So, I pretended not to see that he was there even though I was secretly watching him very carefully, because I am clever that way.

And that's when the wonderful thing happened. As I watched him, he began to change and with my crown on and my fairy eyes I could see that he was really wearing a magical disguise. His face turned bright red, like a giant strawberry, and his eyes were bigger and wider than I had ever seen. And his mouth was making these weird noises that I couldn't understand but could tell that it must have been a magical language because I've never heard sounds like that come from a regular stupid grown-up person. And then it was like all the light of the sun and the moon combined and then he began to change more and he grew even taller until he was bigger than the trees and I could see his real face.

Not his stupid man face, but the one he kept hidden. And it was scary looking at first but then it was beautiful. It was the most beautiful face I had ever seen and I was so filled with happiness that I squealed, which was a stupid little girl thing to do. It is not the way a real princess behaves.

And when he heard me, he quickly tried to pull up his little tail and put his disguise back over his body and run away. But, because I am a very brave princess, I called out to him and told him that he didn't need to run away.

And he stopped and looked around. I don't think he knew I was there because I forgot that I had on my invisible ring. So, I quickly took it off and told him that it was ok and that he was safe because I was a princess and I wouldn't do anything to hurt him or scare him.

Then he slowly turned around and told me that he was the secret king of the fairy people and then he bowed so gracefully and I tried to do my most beautiful curtsy because I had never met any real kings or queens before. And then he told me that because I was obviously so special that I could call him by his real name and he moved up close to me and whispered in my ear so that none of the Rapscales or Bumberflies could hear and he said that was called the Shaylee King.

And his voice was very quiet, but inside me head it was loud and deep and you could tell when you looked into his eyes that he was most definitely a king. He said that he was very honored to meet someone who knew so much about the fairy land and that he had been looking for someone like me for a very very long time and that he was so excited to find me. And he said that now that we were finally together, we could make the fairy land the great and wonderful place that it used to be before all the stupid people came and ruined it.

But, first I had to pass a super-secret test to make sure that I really was powerful enough to fight for the fairy land. And it was a very scary. And I thought I was going to cry because I was so scared. But, he smiled at me and he told me that I was being so very brave that he was most certain that I was indeed a true princess of the fairy land. And then, he said that he was very happy to find someone as special as me. And, then, to celebrate, we played a game that I am not allowed to talk about for if I did, all of the singing trees in the fairy land would call me nasty names and I wouldn't be allowed to visit them. But, it was the most fun game I have ever played.

But, then it was getting late and I had to go back to the stupid outside world or else my parents were going to get worried. So, the Shaylee King said good bye and he bowed to me and it made me so happy that I squealed again, which I really must remember not to do any more.

But before he left, he told me that if I was really good and didn't tell anyone, then he would show me the magic song that could bring him back any time I wanted to see him but that if I did tell anyone then they would hunt down him and they would try to kill him so that they could steal his teeth because they are very very powerful and that's what people do to shaylee. And I told him that I promised the biggest promise I could ever make and that I wouldn't tell anyone, not even Mr. Bunkins who lives in the tree outside my bedroom window. And he said that, because princesses never break promises that they make to kings, he knew he could trust me with his very special secrets.

So, I had to be at a certain tree, I am not allowed to tell you which one, at a certain time of day, because the shadows have to be just right in order for the Shaylee King to open the door. And as soon as I am certain that I am all alone, I sing a special song that is the Invocation of the Shaylee King, and I do a very special dance, with even more spinning than is needed to open the fairy land in the first place. And when I did just that and had spun so many times that my head just nearly flew off of my body, the tree grew big and dark and the branches began to shake. And then, right out of the center of the tree a glowing door opened and the Shaylee King would walk right through it.

And he promised to come to meet me whenever he could and I went home and I was sad but so happy at the same time. And, I was so excited that I wanted to tell everyone about meeting the Shaylee King, but I knew that it would ruin everything so I tried to be a very smart princess and kept my secret deep inside me even though I thought I was going to explode.

And so, over the next few months, according to the outside world, of course, I would meet the Shaylee King in the fairy land, always at the secret times. And he showed me all these special songs and dances and special games that only the most royal princesses of the fairy land know. And every time I did them, I could feel the magic filling up my heart and it made my body tingle and glow and float and it was wonderful.

And he took me to all the secret places that were so secret that even the Pobo people and the Gungums didn't know about them. And some of them were so dark and scary that I almost cried sometimes. But, then the Shaylee King would tell me how brave I was and how proud he was of me and it almost made me float away. And we did so many wonderful things together and went on so many wonderful adventures that I feel like I could fill up this whole diary writing about them. But I am not allowed to do that and I don't have the time anyway.

Because, you see, yesterday the Shaylee King told me that the fairy land was in danger. He said that the Blue Giants, who can shoot fire from their fingertips and the Foobies, who have eyes so dark that it is like looking into a bottomless pit in the middle of the darkest night, had found him and that they were going to hunt him down to steal his teeth, just like he said they would. So, I had to help him. And in order to do that, we had to go to a very magical castle in a faraway kingdom. And that he was going to take us there in a giant flying fish and that once we were there, we could all live in the magic castle forever and play games for as long as we wanted and that I would become a real princess and all the people of the fairy land would love us.

I will be very sad to leave my family behind, but the Shaylee King needs my help and I am the only one who can help him and we simply must save the fairy land or there won't be any magic left in the world. And, now I must go. I have packed my two prettiest dresses, just like the Shaylee King told me to, and it is almost the secret time when the shadows are just right. So, I have to go find the King and begin my new life as the most secret princess of them all, forever and ever.